Social and spatial disparities in cities – the flip side of urban productivity growth

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Labour market seems to be guilty

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- productivity in the 10 biggest German cities 30 % higher than in all other NUTS 3-units

⇨ good or bad news?

- unemployment rate 2001/2014 in Germany: - 2.7 % p.a.
  in the ten biggest cities: - 0.5 % p.a.
- unemployed foreigners 01/14 in Germany: + 1.0 % p.a.
  in the ten biggest cities: + 1.5 % p.a.
- long term unemployed 01/14 in Germany: - 1.3 % p.a.
  in the ten biggest cities: + 0.1 % p.a.

⇨ higher productivity = no labour market effect

Also less jobs for less educated employees, more jobs for more educated ones in ten biggest cities!

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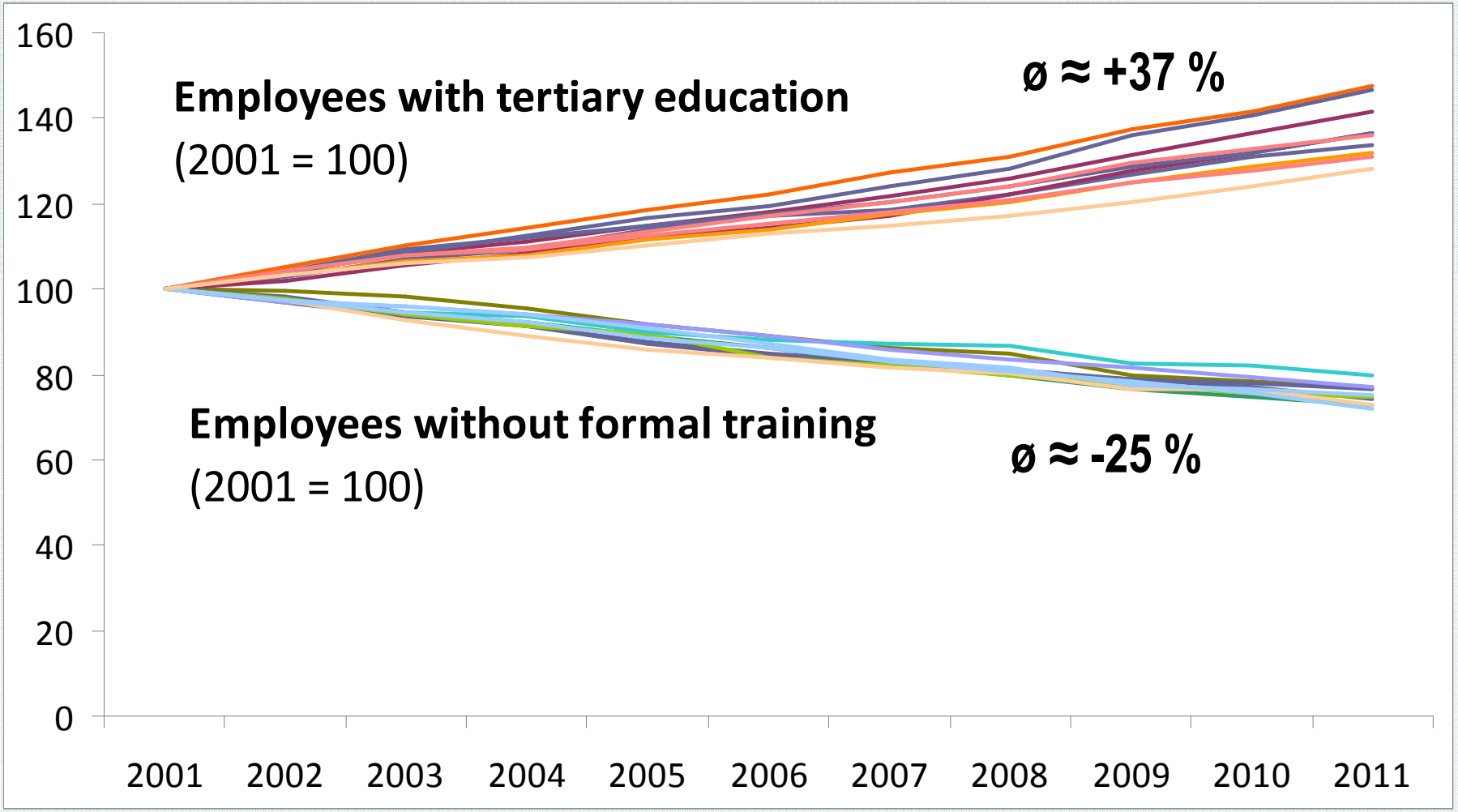

- Certainly effect on urban social/spatial structure
- Hypothesis hard to test due to weak empirical basis
- Necessity to abandon pure deductive research design

Data restrictions

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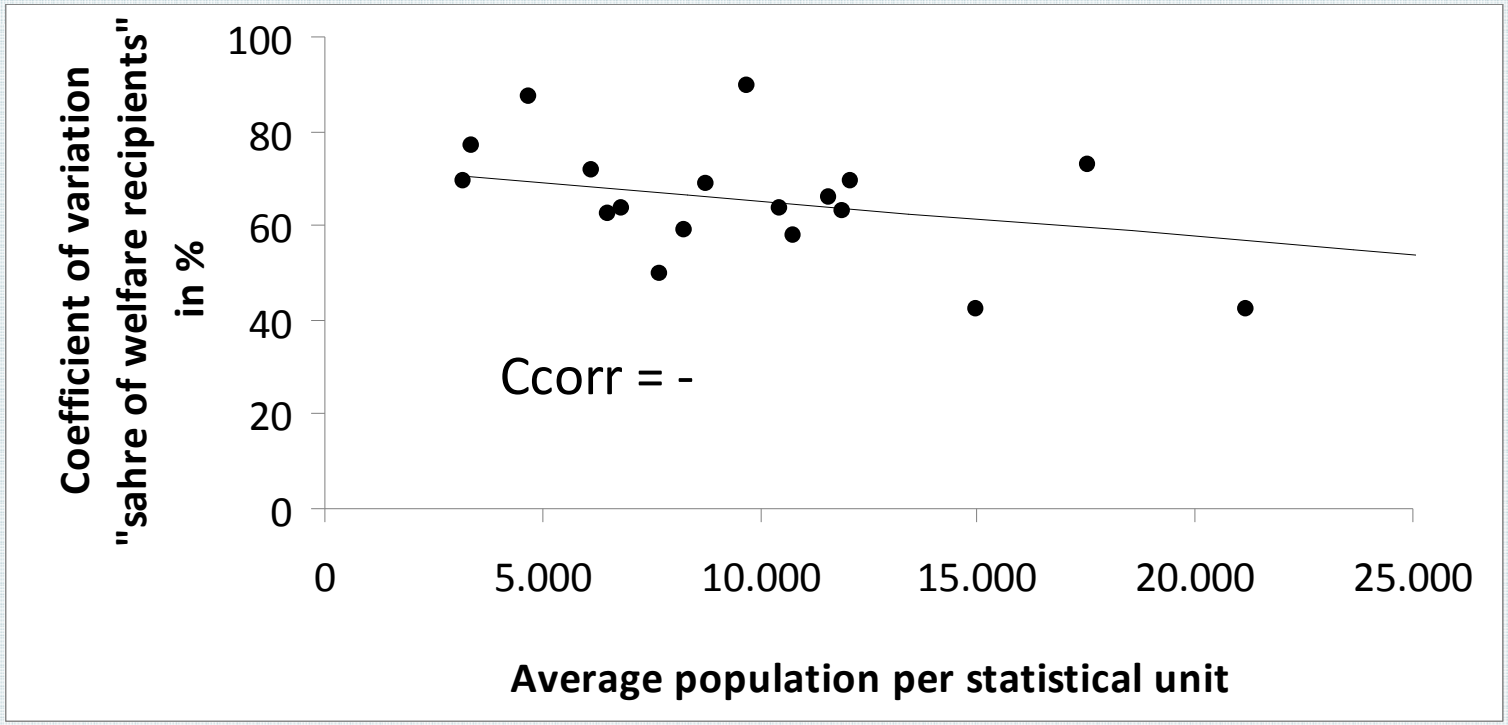
- smaller units = less indicators
- no harmonization for statistics on urban quarters – “city picking”
- different and rather short time series in cities and dates of publication – hard to compare
- different sizes of urban quarters – partly incomparable, e.g. coefficients of variation



real + statistical effect (MAUP)

Date restrictions continued

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- no alternative sources in urban statistical yearbook (by law)
- mobility/fluctuation can be high in small units – social or spatial statements + ecological fallacy?

e.g. Cologne-Altstadt 2013/2014:
Growth from 17,700 to 17,896 inhabitants, but 3,415 moved in,
215 births, 3,902 moved out, 155 deaths = fluctuation of 19 %.
But who are the 6.5/6.1 % welfare recipients?

- NUTS 3 statistics (qualification level): no data for 2012/2013, new classification since 2014 – disrupted time series, testing of hypothesis difficult

Multiple and interconnected problems in quarters with higher share of welfare recipients

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- high ranges, e.g. in Hamburg 0.2 %-27 %, Cologne 1 %-33 %, Frankfort/Main 2 %-26 %

- less average income (Hamburg, C_{corr} = - 0.639)
- higher excessive indebtedness (Duisburg, C_{corr} = 0.929)
- less voter participation in elections (Cologne, C_{corr} = - 0.879)

⇨ Multiple problems (and only few can be quantified)

Future problems – what about the children in quarters with many welfare recipients?

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In Hamburg: 10 % of the population depend on social welfare, but 21 % of the children under 15 years

- more children with overweight (Bottrop, C_{corr} = 0.608)
- less children with all proposed medical examinations (Duisburg, C_{corr} = - 0.812)
- more children with body coordination disorder (Bottrop, C_{corr} = 0.618)
- more children with speech disorder (Bottrop, C_{corr} = 0.843)
- less children going to grammar school (Duisburg, C_{corr} = - 0.688)

Example of Essen – already disadvantaged quarters become more disadvantaged

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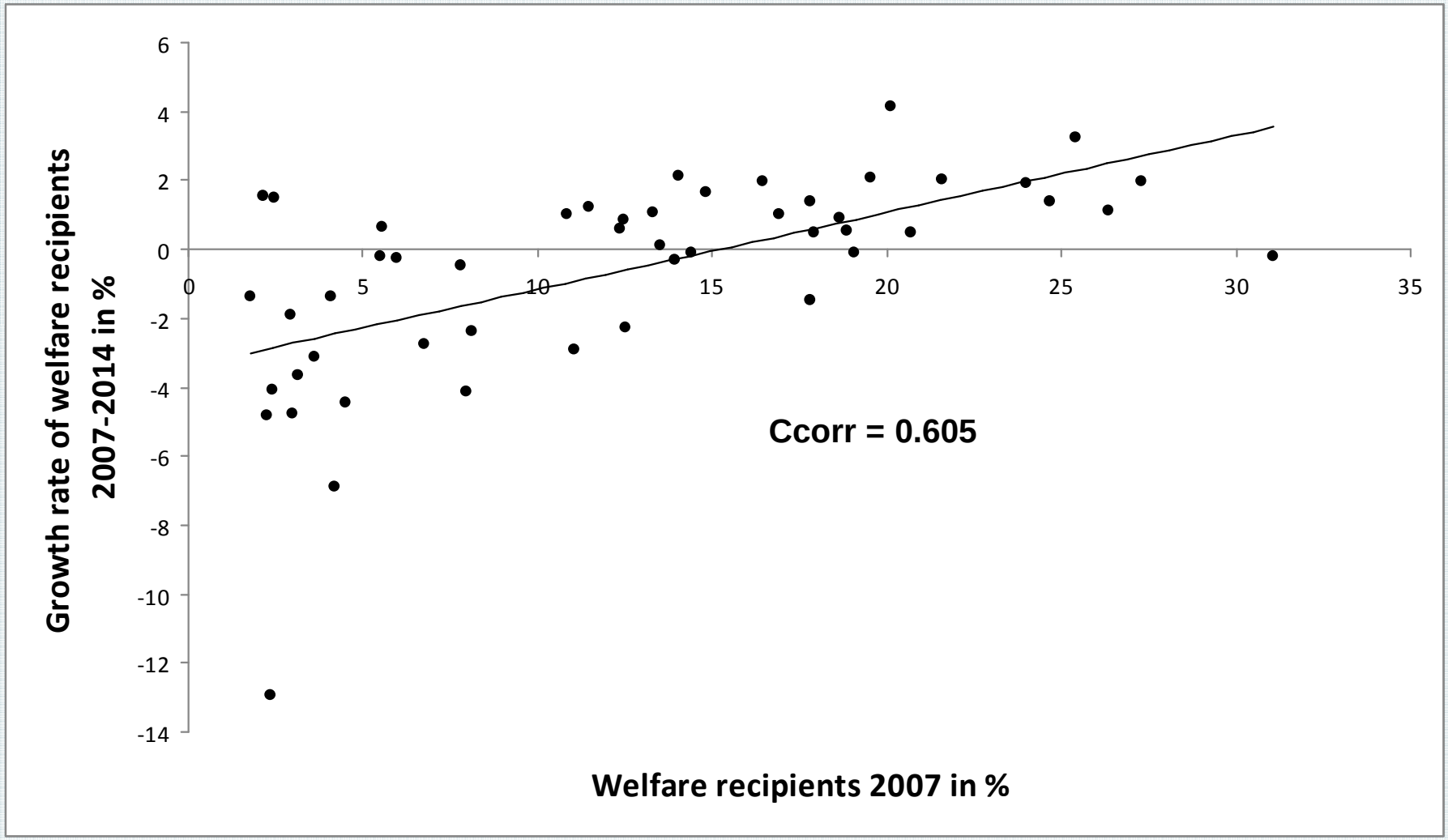

A further example with alternative data – does urban policy favour better-off quarters? Again the example of Essen

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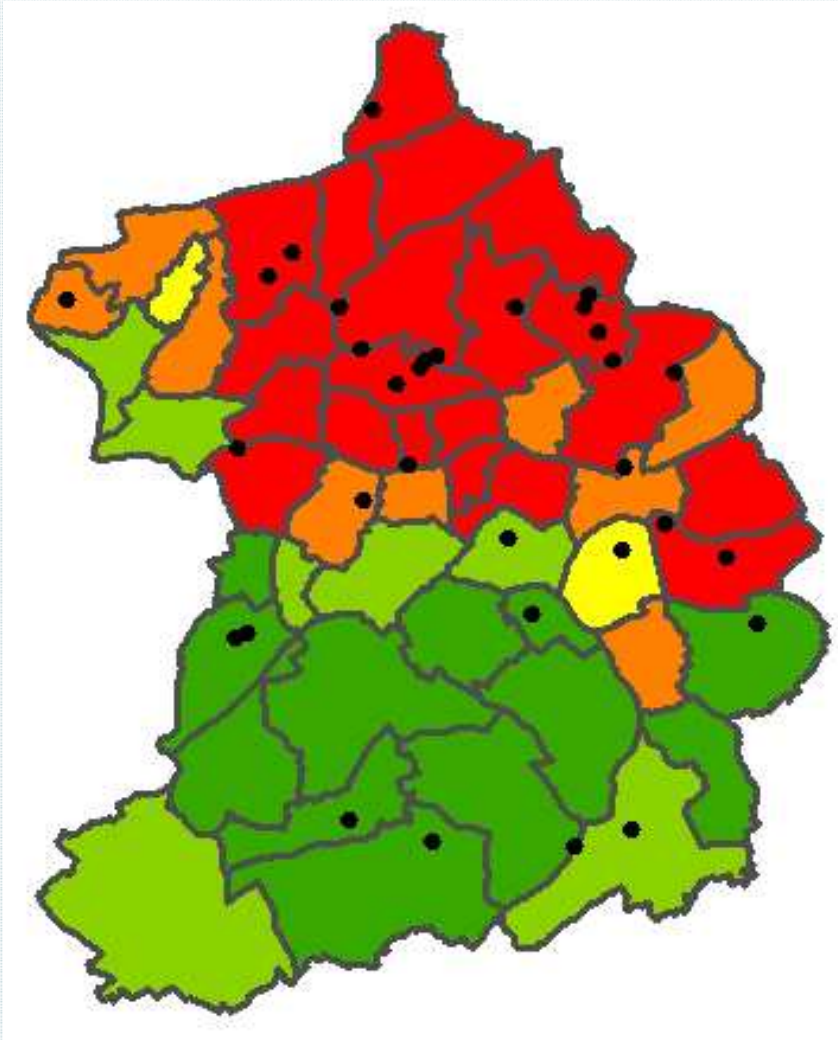
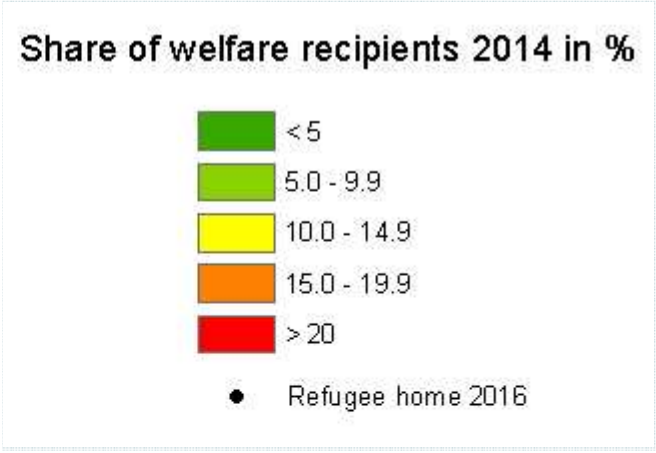


- clear division between better and disadvantaged quarters
- locations of refugee homes hardly in better areas
- policy-induced disparity
- example of inclusion of non-official data for urban monitoring



Conclusions

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- Social/spatial disparities in cities are a problem
- It will be a bigger problem in the future
- Monitoring is only partly possible, but further data sources have to be taken into account
- Taking the labour market more into account (especially urban policy)
- Not only praising urban productivity – also looking at the flip side