

# Harnessing the hinterland: understanding the role of rural and small town New Zealand as a powerhouse of our economy, and how they are contributing to rebuilding community

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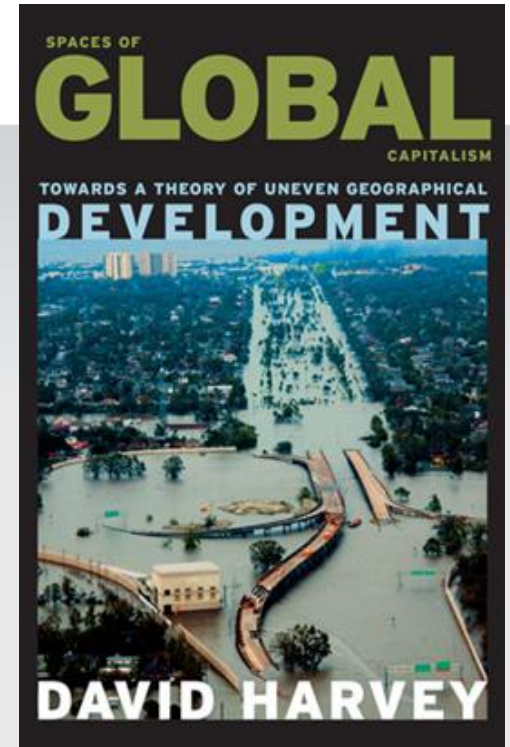
## **Research Foci:**

- A-Understanding the socio-economic trends in rural districts and small town New Zealand
- B-Understanding the implications of these trends
- C-Understanding local response to these trends
- D-Understanding policy and research implications

National  
**SCIENCE**  
Challenges

BUILDING BETTER  
HOMES, TOWNS  
AND CITIES

Ko ngā wā kāinga hei  
whakamāhorahora



# The Literature

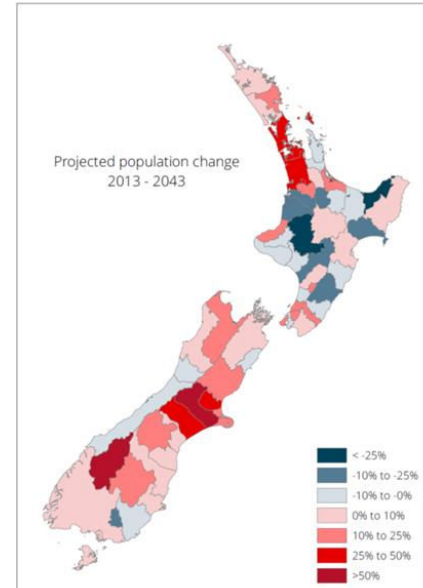
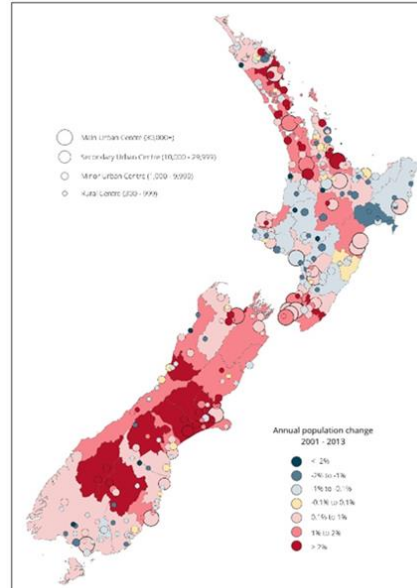
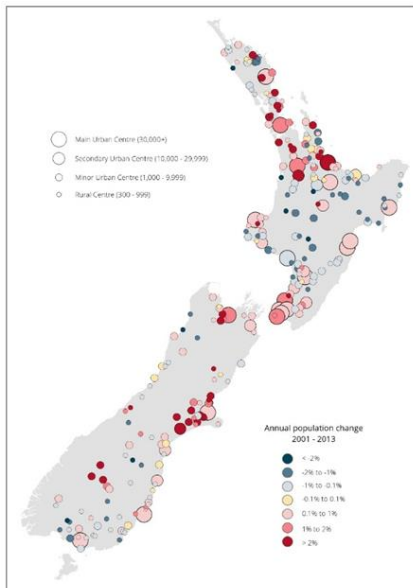
## A) International:

- Demographic trends – growing & shrinking towns & rural areas
- Economic & social restructuring – process & local response
- Themes – post production, multi-functionalism, path dependency, rediscovery of ‘place’

## B) New Zealand:

- History of rural and small town change & implications
  - Rural as more-than-agricultural, place vs. sector focus
  - Treaty settlement process
  - Increased mobility
  - Role of women in rural economy

## C) Population trends



# Case study research

- West Coast
  - Hokitika
  - Greymouth
  - Blackball
  - Reefton
- Otago-Clutha-Southland
  - Lawrence
  - Clyde
  - Kaitangata
  - Gore
  - Alexandra
  - Cromwell
- Taranaki



Wednesday, 1 March 2017

## Rental 'crisis' in Cromwell

By Pam Jones

1090 12

Regions > Central Otago



As well as Cromwell (pictured), rental accommodation shortages were becoming more severe in Alexandra and were already bad in Wanaka, Central Otago Budgeting Services says. Photo: Stephen Jaquetry.

### THE PROPOSAL

#### House and Land Package from, \$230,000\*

Kaitangata and District Promotions Inc:

#### Introduction:

This is a small group of motivated citizens who meet regularly with a focus on promoting and developing the town. Even though the committee is small in number they have other community people they can call on for different projects. They are involved in fundraising for projects in the town and have supported the BMX and Skate park developments. Clutha District Council are represented at their meetings and the group has a positive relationship with the Council who are very supportive of their community projects.

Kaitangata and District Promotions Inc have teamed up with local businesses to provide an affordable Home and Land Package, based in the rural town of Kaitangata, in the Clutha District.

With assistance from Big River Homes, Bank of New Zealand, Downie Stewart Lawyers, and the Clutha District Council, building a home in Kaitangata has never been so easy!



# Preliminary findings

- On-going tension between resource-based economy and post-productivist development
  - Insider / outsider dimension
  - Path dependency
- Infrastructure and service provision a challenge
  - Aging demographics, declining populations, access to health care, social services
  - Rates-based funding models a constraint for service provision
  - Population-based funding models not sufficient for rural services
- Rural gentrification and affordable housing
  - Property-led development is leading to revitalization, but also increased prices / rents
  - AirBnB, amenity migrants, etc.
- Tourism and tourism pressure increasing, but uneven benefits in places and across regions
- Diverse local initiatives exist and are responding, but impact is uneven and uncertain
- Regional development – impact on small towns?
  - PGF has potential to overshadow already-existing local efforts, redirect local agency towards other priorities
- Need for stronger partnerships and engagement among council, community and iwi
  - Capacity to participate