

Preface

This volume's central theme is city-regions and their changing space economies in the Global South. These are regions that are witnessing new scales of urbanisation, which are integrated by global economic relationships, by transportation infrastructures and, increasingly, by new information and communications technologies. These regions also witness many spheres of government and governance structures. These features shape these regions immensely. Specifically, the volume focuses on the Gauteng City-Region (GCR), the largest agglomeration in a country and on a continent bedevilled by myriad development challenges. This largest agglomeration contributes a third to the South African national economy and a tenth to Africa's gross domestic product (GDP). The volume is timely in many respects. It explores and discusses key development processes, which, while not exhaustive, contribute substantially to informing policy debates around the GCR. The findings also offer potential learning experiences for policy development in other city-regions, especially in the Global South. Across the various chapters, readers, including planners and policy makers in governments, undergraduate and graduate students and scholars in economic geography, economists of various sub-fields of specialisation, are invited to explore:

- Theoretical, conceptual, empirical and methodological issues about the space economy in Gauteng and its surroundings;
- Economic geography debates relating to economic regions/city-regions;
- Discourses on interrogating several internal and external drivers of change in the context of global economic dynamics; and
- Necessary lessons regarding which economic drivers the GCR should focus on going forward.

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