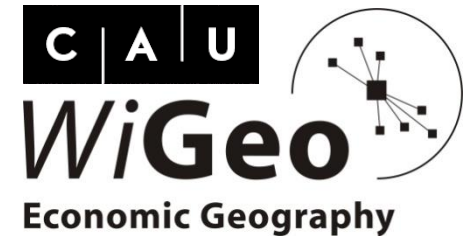


Contribution to  
**Regional resilience and the space-  
economy**

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&  
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Three critical issues related to regional resilience:

- (1) Too strong focus on recovery from sudden shocks
- (2) Conceptual fuzziness
- (3) False dualisms

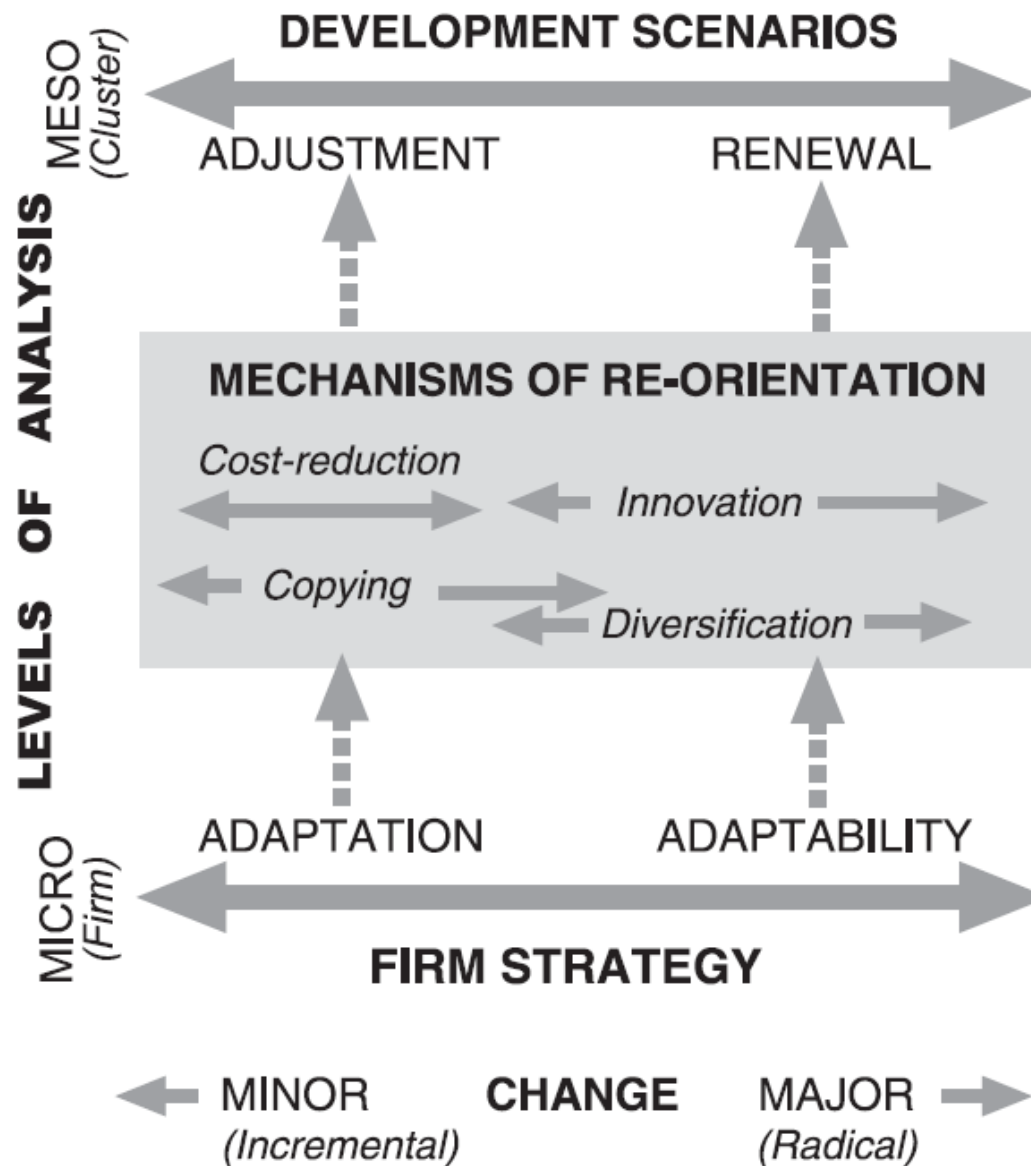


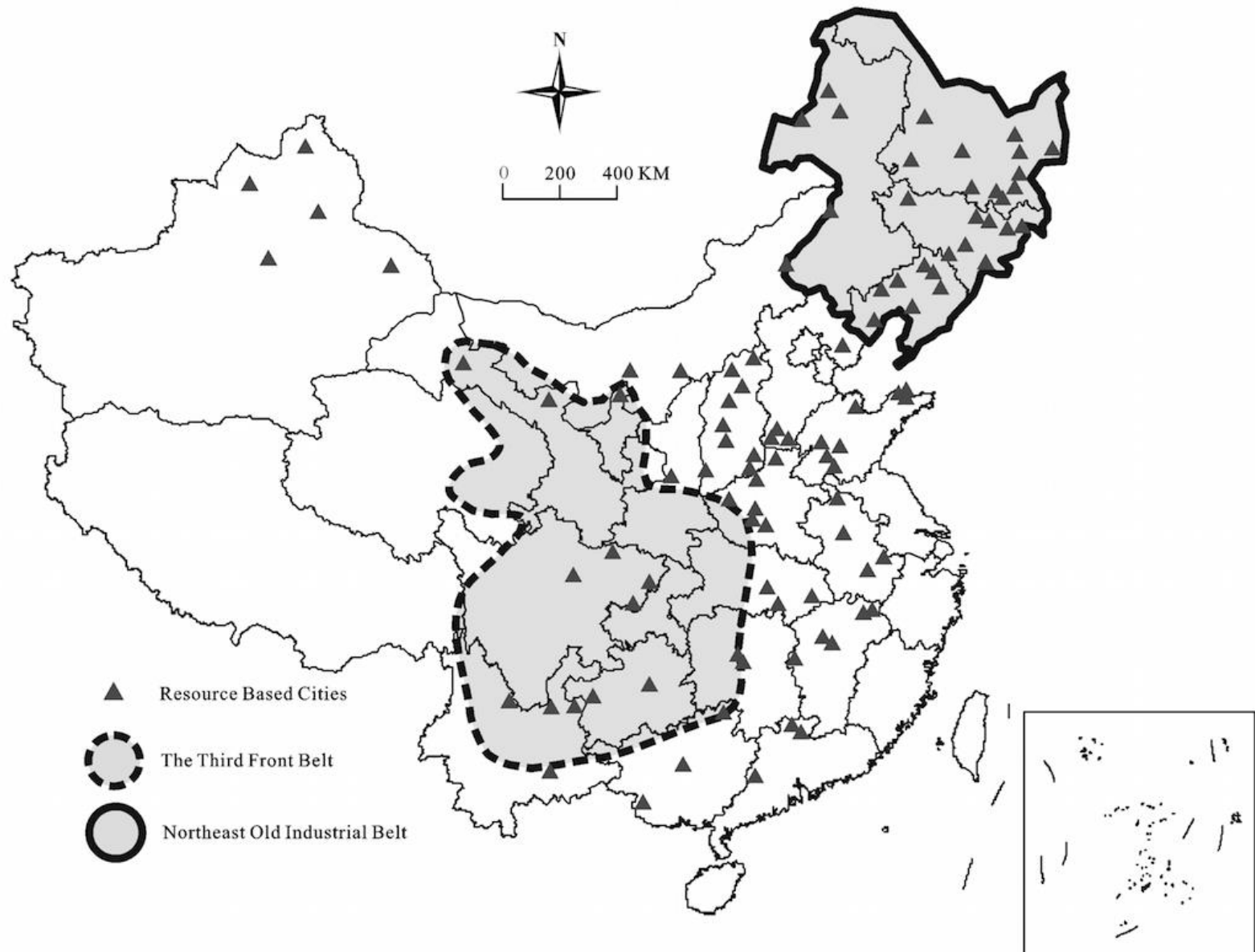
Figure 1 The dynamics of re-orientation in mature clusters

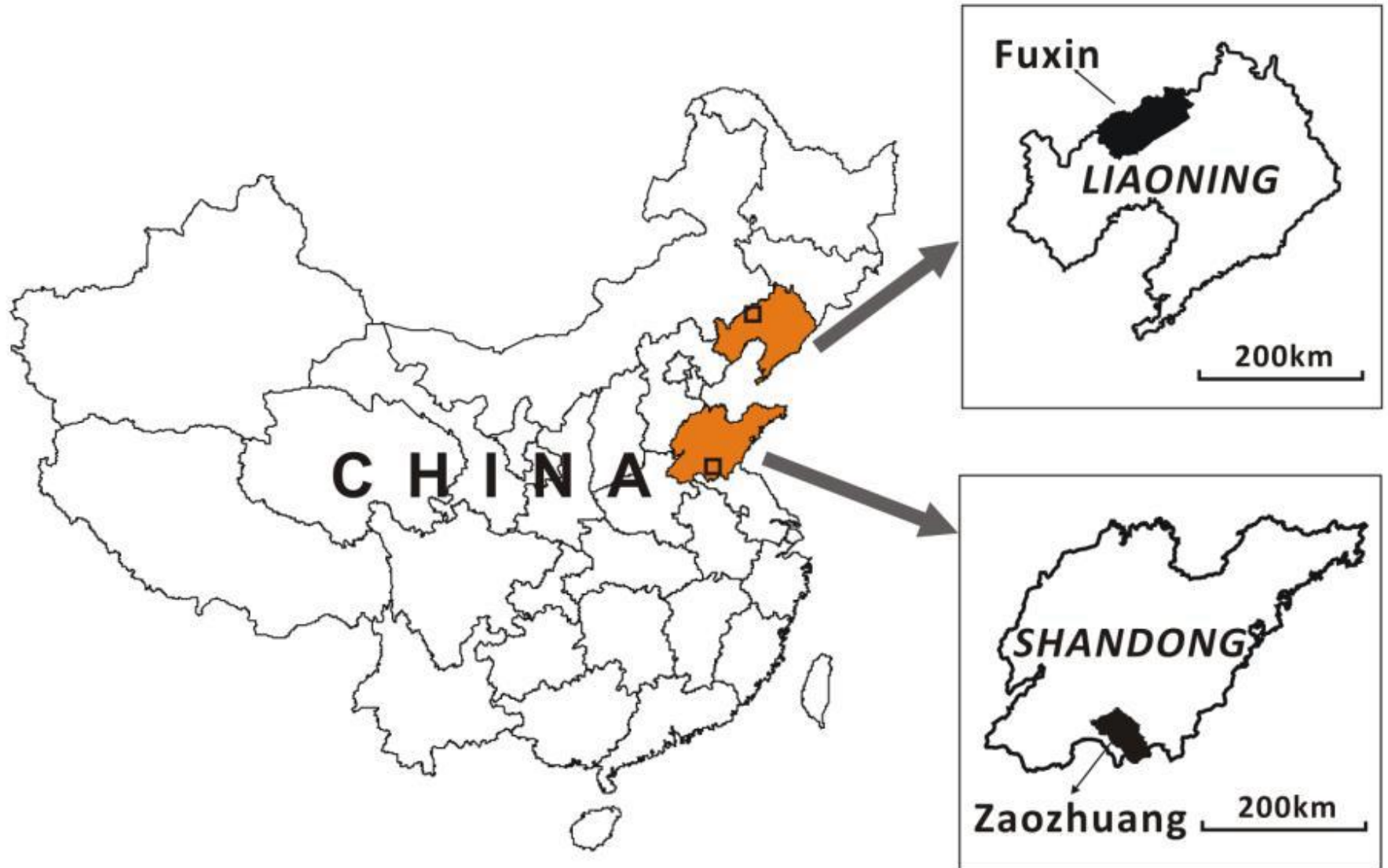
*Adaptation* is an on-going and never-ending process, by which a regional economic system responds to challenges and disturbances. It refers to the current function/performance of maintaining

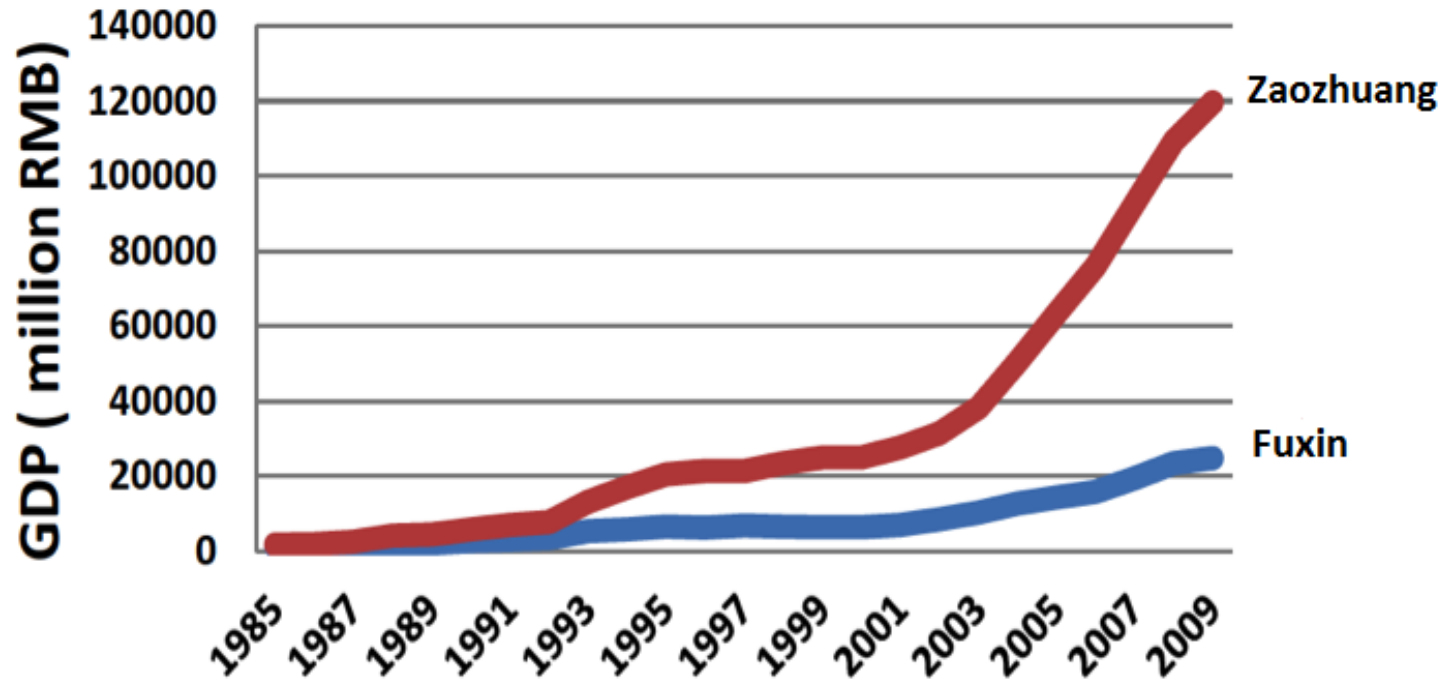
*Adaptability* is the ability to create/introduce new actors, institutions and resources in a regional economy, which involves an action of innovation, path creation and change. It is a result of adaptation in which some actors purposively adapt to environments by searching for alternative modes of doing things, rather than only maintaining the (pre) existing functions and structures.

## Five types of relationships between adaptation and adaptability

- (1) against each other
- (2) run in parallel
- (3) adaptation enables adaptability
- (4) adaptability stimulates adaptation
- (5) mutually complementary

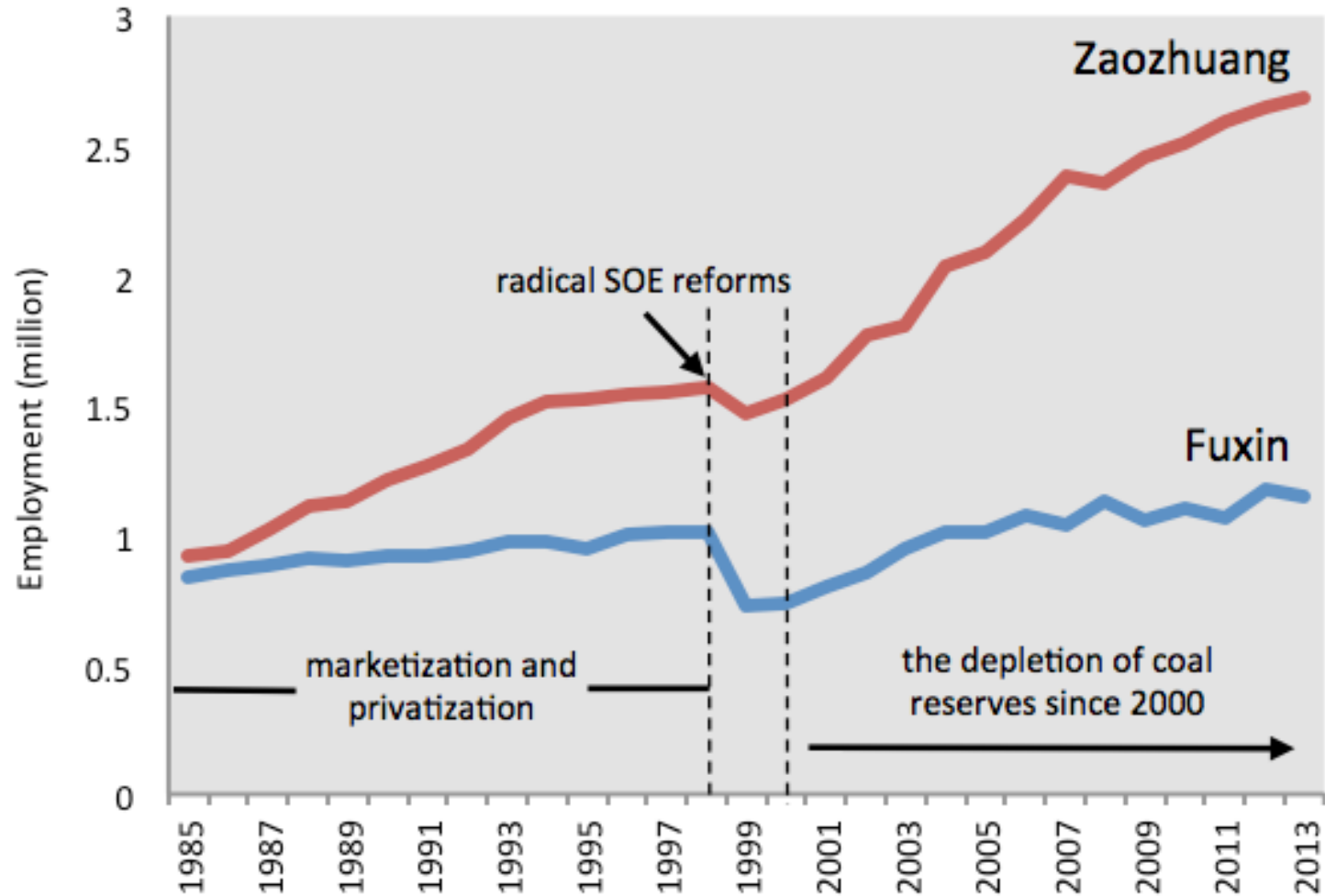




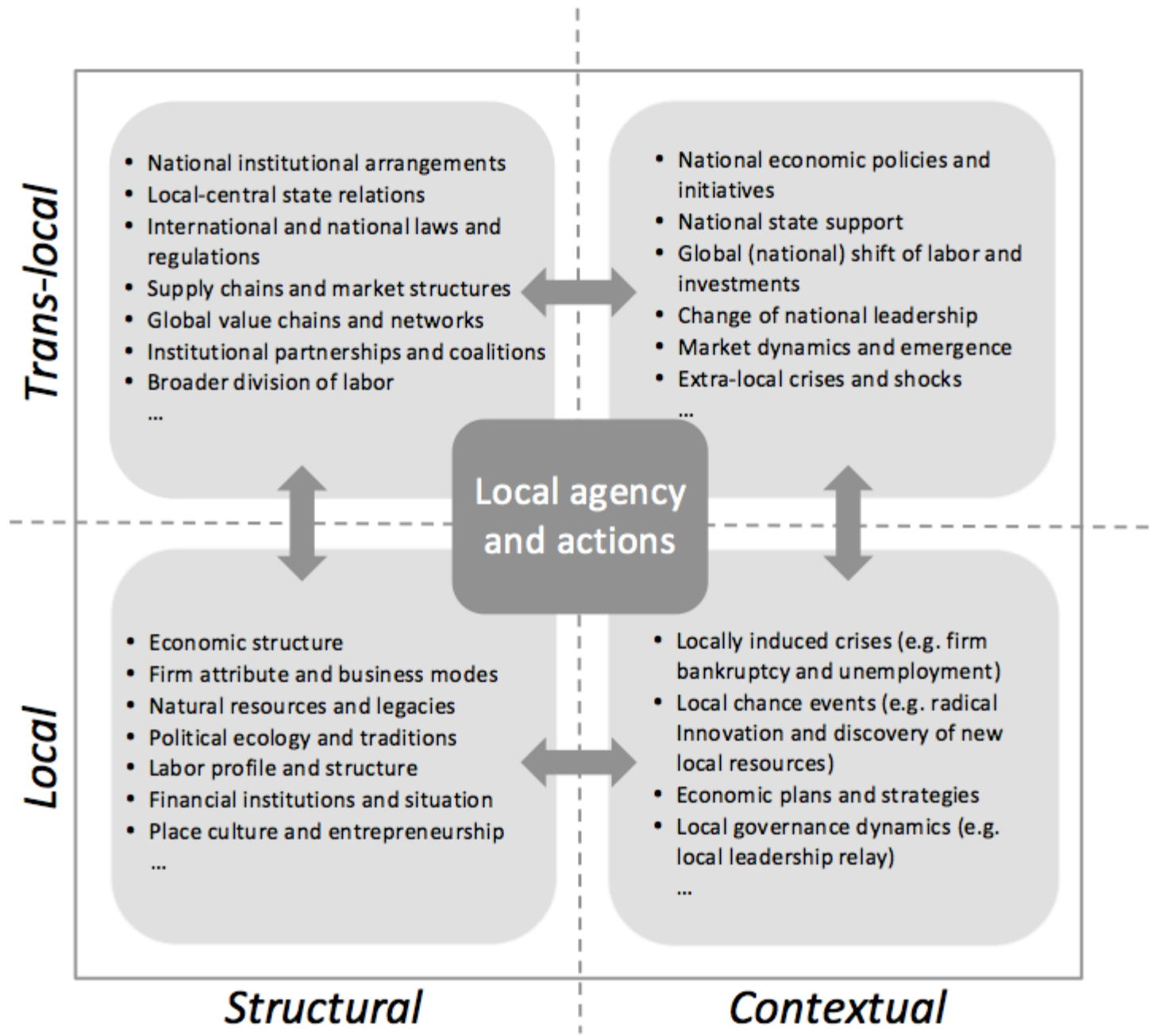


Source: China City Statistical Yearbook (1985-2010)





Source: Shandong and Liaoning Statistical Yearbook (1986-2014)



regional economic resilience is about local agency and its actions of consistently responding to and appropriately adapting to multi-scalar structural and contextual factors

there are complex relations between adaptation and adaptability, rather than a simple dualism between either adaptation or adaptability

our conceptual framework highlights the role of local agency in constituting particular adaptation and adaptability relationships explaining uneven resilience

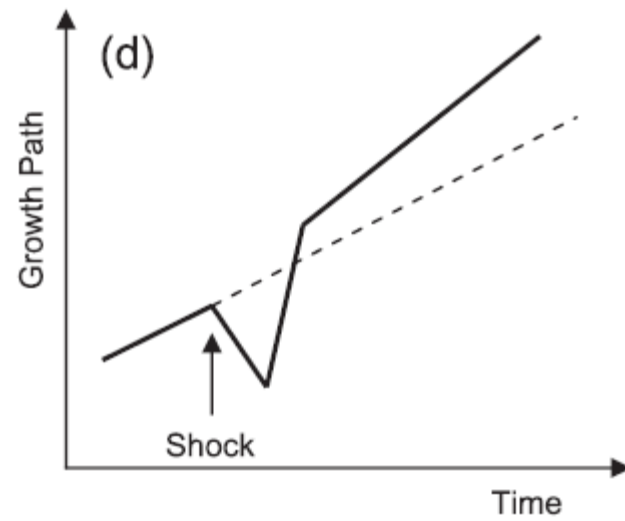
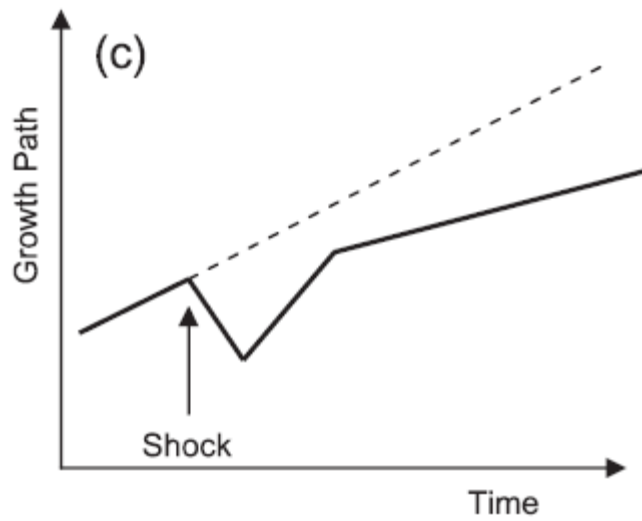
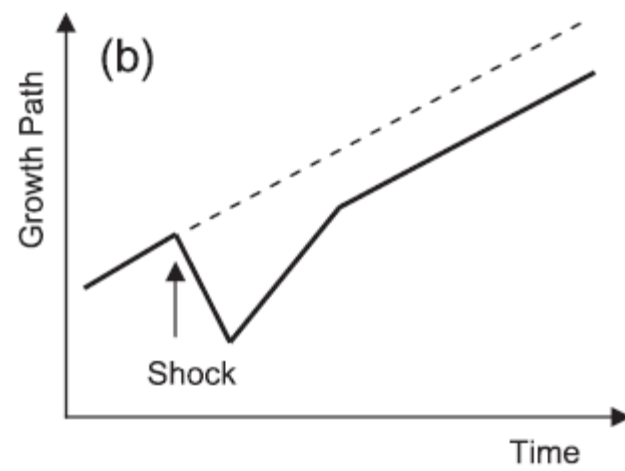
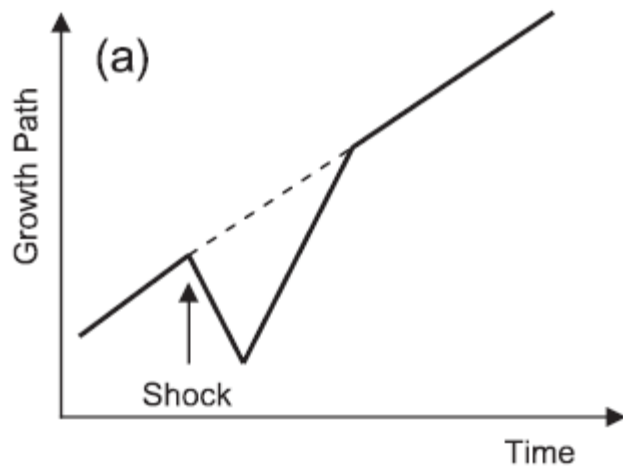


## 2. Regional resilience

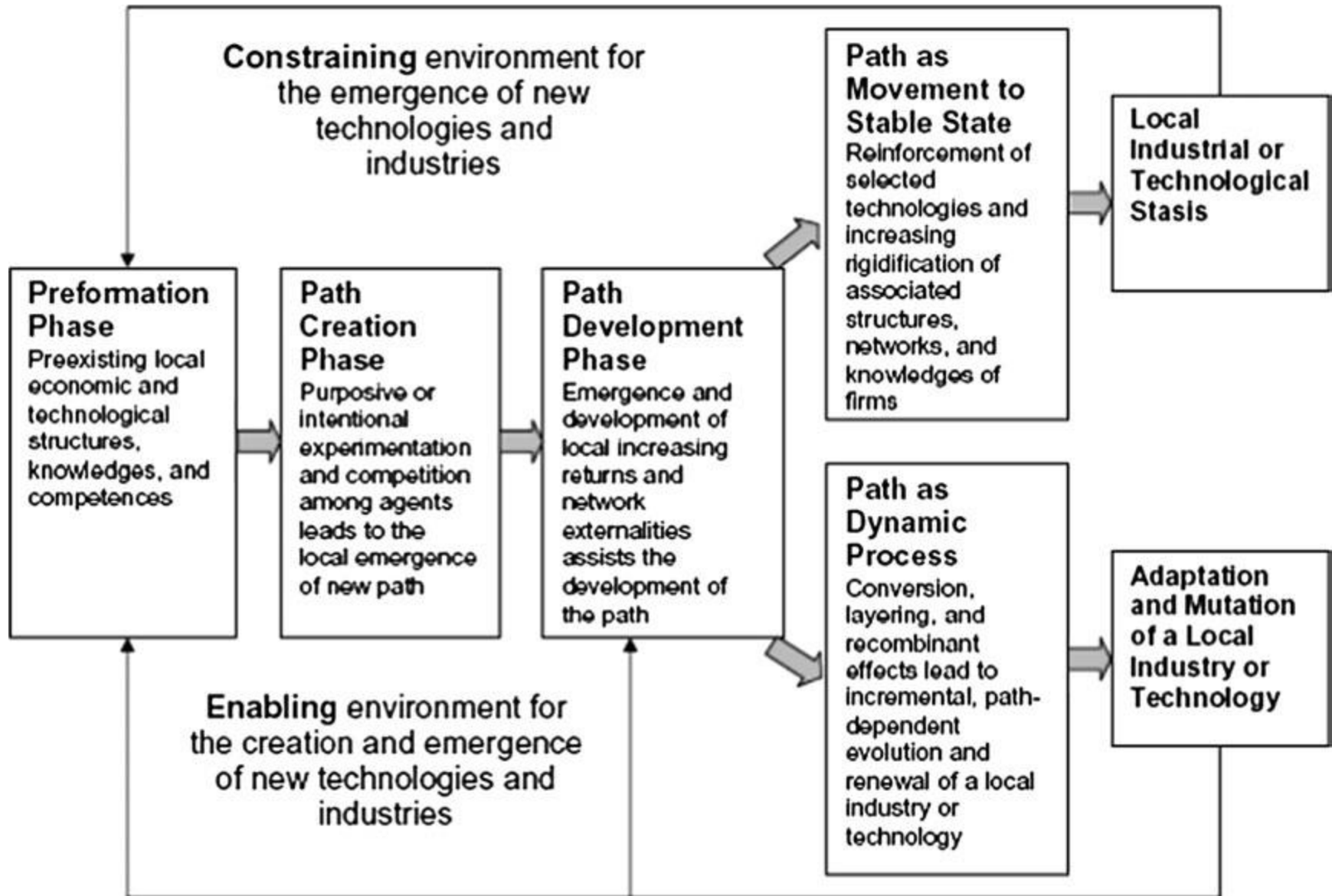
Recent attempts to transfer the metaphor of resilience from psychology, ecology and disaster studies

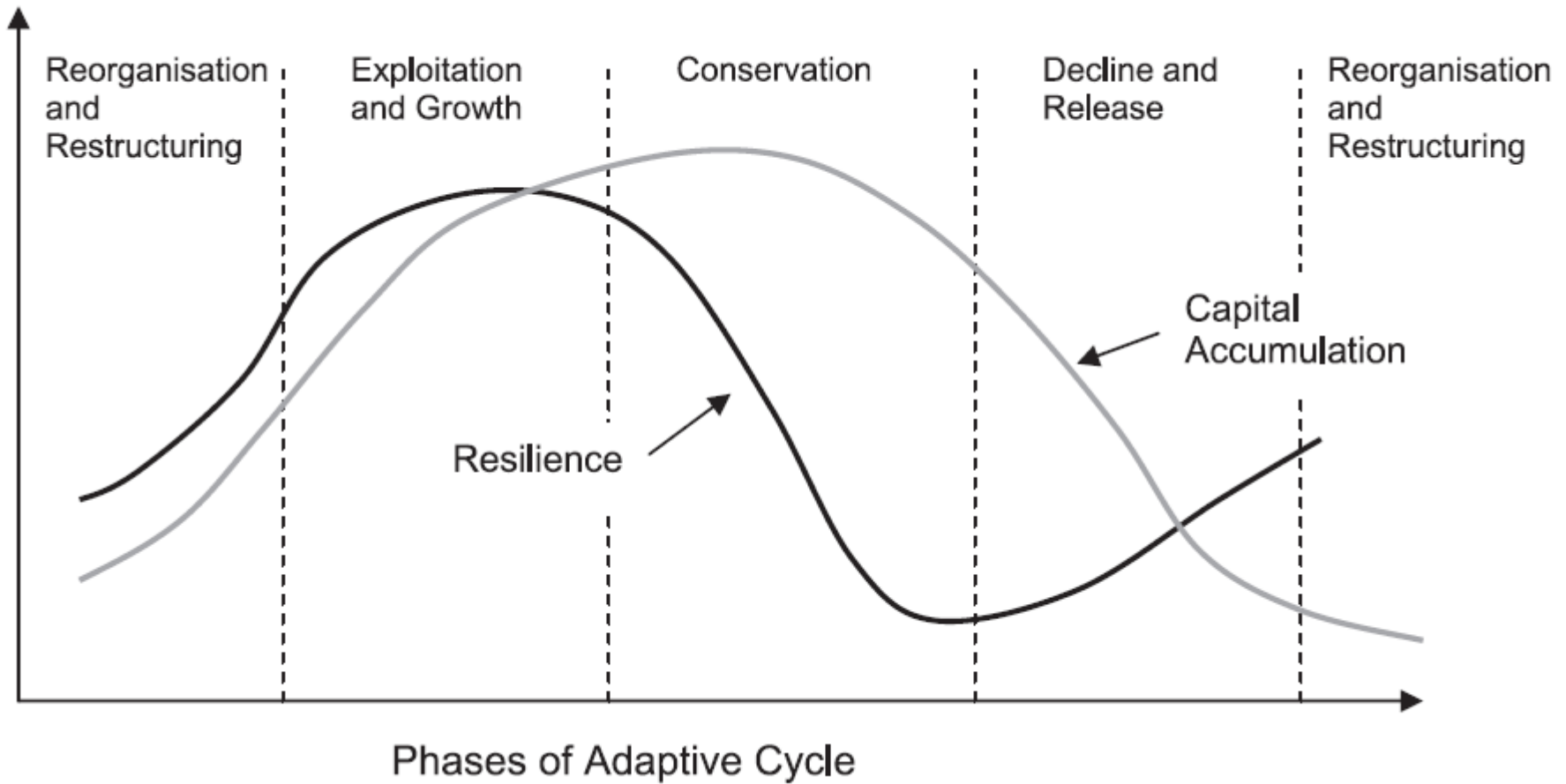
Four common dimensions:

- i. Systemic approach (internal and external factors)
- ii. Path-dependent elements
- iii. Long-term view
- iv. Return to normal (equilibrium)



Source: Simmie & Martin 2010





Source: Simmie & Martin 2010



## **4. Can regional resilience explain differences in regional economic adaptability? A critique**

Some overlapping interests with some evolutionary concepts, such as related variety and co-evolution

However, three main shortcomings:

- i. Focus on equilibrium and multi-equilibrium
- ii. Neglect of state and policy at several spatial levels and emphasis on decentralised structures as source of system adaptability
- iii. Neglect of culture and social factors affecting adaptability

Role of state and policy at several spatial levels  
illustrated by empirical studies on regional economic  
adaptability in two textile industry clusters:

Westmünsterland, Germany

Daegu, South Korea



## 5. Conclusions

Resilience framework seems to stress recovering of existing industrial structures (adjustment) rather than promotion of adaption and renewal

Particularly neglect of state and policy at several spatial levels is deeply problematic

Little value added to existing, capable evolutionary concepts

“Why it is that some regional economies become locked into development paths that lose dynamism, whilst other regional economies seem able to avoid this danger?”  
(Martin & Sunley 2006, 395)

What's in a word? Adjust, adapt, renew, transform