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Drivers of Agglomeration Effects in Retailing – the Shopping Mall Tenant’s Perspective

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Abstract

Retail and service enterprises seek benefits and synergies from locating their stores within retail agglomerations, such as shopping streets and malls. The aim of this paper is to identify the main drivers of such synergetic or ‘agglomeration effects’ for tenants. A literature review reveals four sets of drivers that are related to the location, the tenant mix, the marketing and the management of an agglomeration. Based on a survey of 217 managers representing stores that are located in five regional and four supra-regional shopping malls, we demonstrate that location related drivers including geographical location, accessibility and parking conditions have a significant higher impact on agglomeration effects in terms of the economic success of tenants. The results were consistent amongst different types of tenants differentiated by store size, customer footfall, industry affiliation and perceived role within the respective mall (as footfall taker or generator within the network).

Keywords: Retail Agglomeration, Place Marketing, Shopping Centre, Centre Management

Biographies

Christoph Teller is a senior lecturer in marketing in the Institute for Retail Studies, Stirling Management School, University of Stirling. His research interests are in the area of store (format) and agglomeration (format) choice/patronage, retail logistics and web-based research methodologies.

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Introduction

A set of stores that offer goods and services to consumers and that are located and operated in close proximity to each other are denoted as retail agglomerations (Teller, 2008). The number of created retail agglomerations – such as shopping malls or any other kind of shopping centres – have increased substantially in the last few decades. Currently the number of shopping centres in Europe is approximately 5,700 whereas a further 80 centres are planned to be built by 2014 (schemes on hold are not included) (Anonymous, 2009a/b). More than 20% of all retail sales are generated and the same share of all retail employees work in such created store clusters (ICSC, 2009). Arguably, one of the main success factors of shopping centres is the centralised control of synergetic effects between agglomeration tenants from the planning to the operations stage in the form of a centre management (Howard, 1997). Compared to shopping centres, evolved agglomeration formats - in particular regional shopping streets and inner-city retail clusters - constantly lose market share (for an overview see *e.g.* Teller, 2008; Anonymous, 2009b). This is because of the lack of cooperation between tenants in terms of marketing and the absence of an agglomeration management in order to increase agglomeration effects (Warnaby *et al.*, 2002; Bennison *et al.*, 2005).

Traditionally, created agglomerations in particular shopping malls, have been in the focus of researchers from the disciplinary fields of geography, retailing and marketing (for an overview see *e.g.* Dennis *et al.*, 2005; Guy, 2007; Teller & Reutterer, 2008). Although interest in evolved formats - especially in the context of the growing competition with their created counterparts - has increased in recent years the question of how to influence the major benefits from locating retail businesses in close proximity to one another (*i.e.* agglomeration

effects) remains widely neglected. Specifically, in the extant literature the generic nature of agglomerations - independent of their formats - and the rationale for this spatial gravitation of agglomerations from a tenant's point of view has received surprisingly little attention in literature.

Nelson (1958) was one of the first authors to focus on agglomeration effects. He refers to the 'cumulative attraction' store clusters and thus emphasised the advantages of spatial retail networks in contrast to scattered retail locations. Ghosh (1986), Oppewal & Holyoake (2004) and Arentze *et al.* (2005) have examined agglomeration effects from the consumer's point of view and provide empirical evidence in terms of the superior importance of retail agglomerations for consumers' planning and undertaking of multi-purpose shopping trips. In contrast to that, Howard (1997) discussed the relationships of tenants in the form of conflicts and collaboration within shopping malls as a result of agglomeration effects. Similarly Prendergast (1998) tries to give an answer why retailers locate their outlets in shopping malls but can only give partial (empirical) insights into the importance and the drivers of agglomeration effects from a tenant's point of view. The most recent work on synergies between tenants of retail agglomerations is provided by Teller *et al.* (2008) who distinguish between different sub-dimensions of agglomeration effects that create benefits for consumers in shopping streets and shopping malls, empirically evaluating the relevance of these dimensions for hedonic and utilitarian shopper types. It can be concluded that the existing literature only provides partial insights into what actually drives agglomeration effects.

Nevertheless, the understanding of how stores interplay within business networks like agglomerations and how agglomeration effects can be utilised is of crucial importance for tenants and agglomeration management in retail markets where the intra- and inter-format competition has increased. To know what drives agglomeration effects most enables

management to focus on and to prioritise those aspects and areas of agglomerations that have the greatest impact on the attractiveness for existing and potential consumers and tenants (Teller *et al.*, 2008). The main drivers of agglomeration effects can thus be seen as sources for competitive advantages of agglomerations and thus the success of their tenants.

As a consequence, the aim of this paper is to identify the drivers of agglomeration effects and subsequently how agglomeration management can positively influence these synergies in order to increase the benefit of its tenants and customers respectively. By doing so we emphasise the tenant's view point because: (1) they represent the interface between agglomeration patrons and management and thus have an in-depth knowledge about 'their' retail agglomerations in general and the drivers of agglomeration effects in particular; (2) they can be seen as the key to the attractiveness and the success of an agglomeration (*e.g.* Teller & Reutterer, 2008). The main contributions of this paper are to increase the understanding about what makes - and could make - retail agglomerations successful for retail and service organisations as a location for their stores and attractive for consumers as a shopping destination respectively. Thereby we endeavour to complement the consumer focused discussion of retail agglomerations with the supply-side view.

The paper is structured as follows: after these introductory comments, we characterise retail agglomerations as business networks generating synergetic effects for their tenants. Generic drivers of agglomeration effects are identified and propositions assuming the superior importance of each driver are set up. We then characterise the methodology of an empirical study designed to test our propositions. The results are consequently presented and discussed with respect to existing literature and practical implications. A limitation and outlook section concludes the paper.

Agglomeration effects and their drivers

Retail agglomerations are business networks bound to a certain location. As such, stores, *i.e.* spatial representations of retail or service organisations, represent nodes and the relationships between these nodes correspond to threads (Hakansson & Ford, 2002). This network view stresses the importance of not considering the relationship between stores independent and isolated from each other. The relationships - as a result of the close proximity to each other - tie together nodes in retail agglomerations (Ghosh, 1986). The association of tenants can be described by being both cooperative and competitive (Howard, 1997). On one hand, tenants compete for the same (prospective) consumers and, on the other, they cooperate when using the same infrastructure, *e.g.* traffic system, parking facilities, signage, infrastructural services - *i.e.* traffic management, parking space control, cleaning, security service - and ultimately the footfall not necessarily generated by themselves (Howard, 1997).

This “co-opetition” (Brandenburger & Nalebuff, 1996) between stores accounts for the most generic feature of such store networks and the rationale why organisations build such networks. As a result retail agglomerations form ‘quasi-organisations’ (Ford *et al.*, 1998). As such created retail agglomeration formats are centrally managed and marketed as single organisational entities (Teller & Elms, 2010) whereas evolved agglomerations are branded and marketed by the involved retail and services businesses collaboratively with the aim of being perceived as single entities (Bennison *et al.*, 2005).

Retail and service enterprises aim to benefit from so-called synergetic or “agglomeration effects” (Oppewal & Holyoake, 2004) by being part of the network. Such effects either evolve naturally or – in addition – are generated and influenced deliberately by the nodes themselves or a separate managing or controlling unit that is part of the network (Teller *et al.*, 2008). The

aim of agglomeration managers, marketers and the organisations within the network is to influence agglomeration effects and thus the economic success of the stores and the agglomeration as a whole. Consequently, they influence agglomeration effects positively for consumers too (Arentze *et al.*, 2005). Agglomeration effects can be defined as the benefits for tenants from being part of the network compared to being outside the network, *e.g.* those located in solitary locations. With regards to consumers, agglomeration effects are those benefits derived from using agglomerations as a (single) destination to satisfy a set of different wants and needs. Thus, every attribute of an agglomeration, and every measure taken by the organisations and the management that influences agglomeration effects, can be understood as a possible effect driver. This view would exclude all measures that are intended to increase the benefit of a single organisation exclusively. Nevertheless, due to the network characteristics of retail agglomerations even these measures and attributes of single stores can have an indirect effect on other tenants as well as the agglomeration as a whole. Different research streams dealing with retail agglomerations explicitly or implicitly consider drivers. From agglomeration related literature four sets of drivers can be identified:

(a) *Location related drivers*: Literature on retail planning and agglomeration patronage behaviour focuses on the drivers related to the location of retail agglomerations. This includes the geographical position of agglomerations and connection to the road network and/or public transportation system (Guy, 2007), the accessibility for consumers (Arentze & Timmermans, 2001) and suppliers (Crainic *et al.*, 2009), the availability of parking lots and costs of parking (Van der Waerden *et al.*, 1998) and car-park routing systems and signage (Guy, 2007). These drivers are linked with the ‘rationalisation effect’ proposed by Teller *et al.* (2008) in terms of facilitating the shopping endeavours or logistics for consumers.

(b) *Tenants related drivers*: Publications focusing on consumer behaviour in retail agglomerations emphasise the importance of tenant related drivers of agglomeration effects. These drivers account for the mix and attractiveness of retail stores (Chebat *et al.*, 2010), the mix of bars, restaurants and other catering tenants (Reimers & Clulow, 2004), the mix of entertainment facilities and service stores (Bloch *et al.*, 1994). According to Teller *et al.* (2008) the “accumulation effect” and “enrichment effect” are affected by such drivers. The first effect denotes benefits for consumers who can carry out multi-purpose shopping trips due to the combined retail offer in agglomeration. The latter describes benefits generated by the augmentation of consumers’ shopping trips in terms of the non-retail offer of an agglomeration which enables recreation, entertainment and social interaction with other people.

(c) *Agglomeration marketing related drivers*: The place marketing literature deals with this third set of drivers. It focuses on the cooperation of tenants when marketing a place to place user groups such as consumers, tourists and residents (Teller *et al.*, 2010). Agglomeration tenants follow a supra-store marketing concept or agree on the application of marketing instruments in order to increase the attractiveness of the agglomeration as a shopping destination. The following drivers in terms of joint marketing activities fall under this category: joint communication efforts (Bennison *et al.*, 2005), events in the agglomeration (Sands *et al.*, 2009), measures to improve the agglomeration’s atmosphere (Chebat *et al.*, 2010) and the agglomeration’s image (public relations) (Bennison *et al.*, 2005), price promotions (Bennison *et al.*, 2005), architecture, interior and decoration of the mall (Dennis *et al.*, 2005; Turley & Chebat, 2002), centralised marketing effort in general (Teller, 2008), market research efforts (Teller & Elms, 2009), overall image and publicity of the agglomeration (Finn & Louviere, 1996; Bennison *et al.*, 2005).

(d) *Agglomeration management related drivers*: The last set of drivers is related to the management of an agglomeration as a ‘quasi organisation’ by a centralised management unit – usually represented by the owner of the agglomeration property. These drivers are very specific for created retail agglomerations. The institutionalised management can be legitimised by contractual relationships with each tenant that empowers it to plan, coordinate, execute and control measures that increase the attractiveness for consumers and consequently the success for agglomeration and its tenants (Teller and Elms, 2009). This set of drivers includes measures or services provided by the central agglomeration management such as consistent opening hours (Baker, 2002), cleaning and security services (Severin *et al.*, 2001; Bloch *et al.*, 1994), public toilets (Baker *et al.*, 2002), recreational areas for customers (Baker *et al.*, 2002), central information counters (Reimers & Clulow, 2004), signage within the mall and orientation system (Teller & Reutterer, 2008), maintenance and improvement of the building structure (Hackett & Foxall, 1994), consistent appearance of stores (Howard, 1997), arrangement of stores within the agglomeration (Wakefield & Baker, 1998) and branding of the agglomeration (Dennis *et al.*, 2005).

All four sets of drivers discussed above build upon each other. The location and tenant related drivers can be seen as generic for every kind of agglomeration format and are subject to the strategic planning decisions of agglomeration managers. The marketing and management related drivers can be understood as being of a higher order in the sense that they influence agglomeration effects by facilitating and optimising the agglomerations operations on a supra-tenant level.

Propositions

The existence and strength of agglomeration effects are difficult to measure and the literature does not explicitly provide an approach to measure them. Authors focusing on agglomeration customers measure synergetic effects in agglomerations implicitly by evaluating the perception of agglomeration attributes, satisfaction, behavioural intentions or shopping behaviour (*e.g.* Oppewal & Holyoake, 2004; Teller *et al.*, 2008). A positive perception or behaviour in favour of an agglomeration relative to other retail locations can serve as indicators of the strength of agglomeration effects. Thus, tenants evaluate agglomeration effects by their economic success - *i.e.* sales and profit - that emerge because they are a part of the business network. Based on these thoughts we propose effects between the aforementioned set of drivers and the success of agglomeration tenants. The impact of each driver set on the economic success thus represents a measure to identify the most determinant factor of agglomeration effects.

The location related drivers have traditionally been the focus of retail and agglomeration researchers and been understood as crucial for the success of store based retailing in general (*e.g.* Reilly, 1931; Bellenger, 1977; Dennis *et al.*, 2005). We therefore derive our first proposition:

P₁: Location related drivers affect the success of agglomeration tenants significantly more than other drivers.

Teller & Reutterer (2008) and Teller & Elms (2010) present empirical evidence that the retail tenant mix is the major antecedent of agglomeration attractiveness from a consumer's point of view. In addition to that, the 'non-retail tenant mix' is seen as an additional driver by Reimers & Clulow (2004, 2009). Consequently, we follow the notions of Nelson (1958) regarding the

‘cumulative attraction’ of and Teller *et al.*’s (2008) discussion on the ‘accumulation effect’ in retail agglomerations and set up the following proposition:

P₂: Tenant related drivers affect the success of agglomeration tenants significantly more than other drivers.

Howard (1997), Warnaby *et al.* (2002), Warnaby & Medway (2004) and Bennison *et al.* (2005) and Teller and Elms (2010), identify the collaborative application of (place-) marketing instruments and concepts by agglomeration tenants as a core driver of the attractiveness of a place and consequently the success of its tenants. We therefore propose:

P₃: The agglomeration marketing related drivers affect the success of agglomeration tenants significantly more than other drivers.

Whyatt (2004) and Teller (2008) consider the presence of an institutionalised management in an agglomeration as a crucial success factors within the competition of agglomeration formats. The argument is that a complex business network such as a retail agglomeration can be managed and marketed much more effectively and efficiently by a specialised and empowered central unit. Thus, the next proposition is:

P₄: The agglomeration management related drivers affect the success of agglomeration tenants significantly more than other drivers.

According to Berman & Evans (2010) tenants can play different roles within agglomerations. Depending on the size of the mall and the tenants in terms of space, customer frequency or industry affiliation, they can be seen as anchor stores attracting a considerable share of an agglomeration’s customers or parasite stores that just profit from the footfall generated by

other tenants. Due to their specific roles and characteristics within such spatial business networks, anchor tenants see different factors driving their success than parasites stores (Howard, 1997). As a consequence we derive our final proposition:

P₅: Mall and tenant characteristics have a significant (moderating) impact on the relative importance of drivers for the success of agglomeration tenants (as proposed in P₁-P₄).

Empirical study

To investigate the relative impact of all identified agglomeration effect drivers we focused on shopping malls that have an institutionalised centre management. Store managers or store owners that are engaged in the daily retail or service business were selected as the informants and were consequently seen as those who have the most knowledge about and the best access to the required information about the proposed drivers. We drew a judgement sample of five regional shopping malls consisting of 17 to 47 stores and four supra-regional malls including 72-134 stores. In line with Teller (2008) we see supra-regional malls as being significantly bigger in size and offering more variety and assortment. They include more anchor tenants (>2) and wider catchment area (>30 km) compared to regional malls. All malls represented in the sample are managed consistently by the biggest shopping centre owner in their respective central European retail market.

We conducted a web-based survey using self-administered and standardised questionnaires. The 570 targeted informants were pre-notified by the centre managers and the authors by mail and e-mail. During the survey period of two months two reminder letters and e-mails were sent out. Finally, we received 217 usable questionnaires which corresponded to a response rate of 38%. By comparing all the tenants in the malls (*i.e.* population) with tenants

represented by our respondents (*i.e.* sample) we could not identify a significant bias in terms of size or industry affiliation ($\chi^2_{(1)} < 3.841$; $p > .5$).

The stores represented by our respondents can be characterised as follows: Four out of five are retail stores and 34.5% of the included stores have a sales volume greater than EUR 600,000 per annum. Half of the stores are bigger than 120 m² and have a footfall of 66 customers per day or more.

Results

Factor analysis

The respondents were confronted with 35 items operationalising the identified drivers of agglomeration effects as discussed above. They were asked to evaluate to what extent the drivers affect the success of their store within the agglomeration in terms of sales and profit. This was answered using a seven point rating scale (0, absolutely not important for the success of my business/store; 6, absolutely important for the success of my business/store).

In order to confirm the factor structure behind and to summarise the information contained in the items we conducted a principal component analysis (Hair *et al.*, 2009). Although we distinguish between higher and lower order factors we find no evidence in literature that the derived factors should be treated as being (highly) correlated. We therefore used orthogonal factor rotation – more specifically varimax rotation. Compared to other rotation methods varimax facilitates a simple interpretation of factors by subsuming a smaller number of items under each factor (Hair *et al.*, 2009).

The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measured the adequacy of the sample for the analysis (KMO, .893; 'great'). On an item level, the KMO-values were greater than 0.753 and therefore above the recommended threshold of 0.5. The correlation between the items was sufficiently large for a principal component analysis (Bartlett's test of sphericity $\chi^2_{(595)}$, 5,218.18; $p < .001$). In a first analysis attempt eight factors showed an eigenvalue greater than 1 (Kaiser's criterion). This set of factors explained 69.59% of the variance. The scree plot showed a clear point of inflexion after factor six (eigenvalue > 1.1). Since the other two factors provide only marginal further explanation of variance the number of factors for the final analysis was retained at six. Almost all items show communalities higher than 0.5 (Hair *et al.*, 2009). The only exceptions are items x_{110} , x_{111} , x_{26} and x_{27} with communalities slightly below the recommended cut-off value ($\sim .45$; see appendix). Thus, we consider all our items as providing an acceptable level of explanation. Further all factor loadings prove to be significant. We therefore do not omit any of the 35 items from the analysis. The factor loadings after rotation can be seen from Table 1.

Table 1: Extraction of factors

Item	Factors		Rotated factor loading			
	Agglomeration marketing (ξ_1)	(Infra-) Structural characteristics (ξ_2)	Facility management (ξ_3)	Tenant mix (ξ_4)	Supply conditions (ξ_5)	Agglomeration management (ξ_6)
Joint events in the mall (x_{11})	.769					
Joint measures to improve the mall's image (PR) (x_{12})	.756					
Market research information (from centre mgmt) (x_{13})	.745					
Joint communication efforts (x_{14})	.744					
Overall publicity of the mall (x_{15})	.627					
Overall mall image (x_{16})	.623					
Interior and decoration of the mall (x_{17})	.583					
Joint price promotions (x_{18})	.549					
Centralised marketing of the mall (x_{19})	.539					
Joint measures to improve the mall's atmosphere (x_{110})	.518					
Architecture of the mall (x_{111})	.400					
Accessibility for customers (x_{21})		.841				
Number of parking spaces (x_{22})		.727				
Connection to the road network and/or public transport (x_{23})		.696				
No/low costs for customer parking (x_{24})		.651				
Geographical position of the mall (x_{25})		.593				
Consistent opening hours (x_{26})		.472				
Car-park routing system and signage (x_{27})		.392				
Cleaning services (x_{31})			.783			
Security services (x_{32})			.648			
Public toilets (x_{33})			.635			
Signage within the mall/orientation system (x_{34})			.628			
Maintenance/improvement of building structure (x_{35})			.550			
Recreational areas for customers (x_{36})			.522			
Arrangement of stores (x_{37})			.436			
Mix of bars, restaurants and other catering tenants (x_{41})				.864		
Mix of entertainment facilities and service stores (x_{42})				.776		
Mix of retail stores (x_{43})				.739		
Availability of attractive stores (x_{44})				.537		
Delivery conditions for suppliers (x_{51})					.869	
Accessibility of stores for suppliers (x_{52})					.868	
Consistent appearance of stores (x_{61})						.647
Branding of the mall (x_{62})						.559
Centralised management of the mall (x_{63})						.491
Central information counters(x_{64})						.471
Explained variance (%; rotated sum of loadings):	16.57	12.42	11.23	8.46	7.87	6.86
Cronbach α	.909	.810	.850	.848	.930	.717

The first of the six factors reflects the ‘agglomeration marketing’ related drivers (ξ_1) and comprises a set of eleven marketing measures. The second factor represents ‘(infra) structural characteristics’ (ξ_2) of the shopping malls, including seven attributes that belong to ‘location related drivers’. Surprisingly, the item ‘consistent opening hours’ is also subsumed under this factor and may therefore be understood as a measure of temporal accessibility compared to the other six measures for spatial accessibility. The next seven items are agglomeration management related and establish the factor ‘facility management’ (ξ_3). This includes centrally managed activities like cleaning, maintenance and security services, and the provision of public toilets or signage. Factor four comprises four items that are denoted as ‘tenant mix’ related drivers (ξ_4). Items describing the accessibility of the malls from the supplier’s point of view are included in the factor ‘supply conditions’ (ξ_5) of the agglomeration. The final and sixth factor ‘agglomeration management’ (ξ_6) subsumes all management and branding related items. In total we see that both the agglomeration location and the management related drivers are represented by two factors each. The tenants and the agglomeration marketing related drivers are reflected in one factor exclusively.

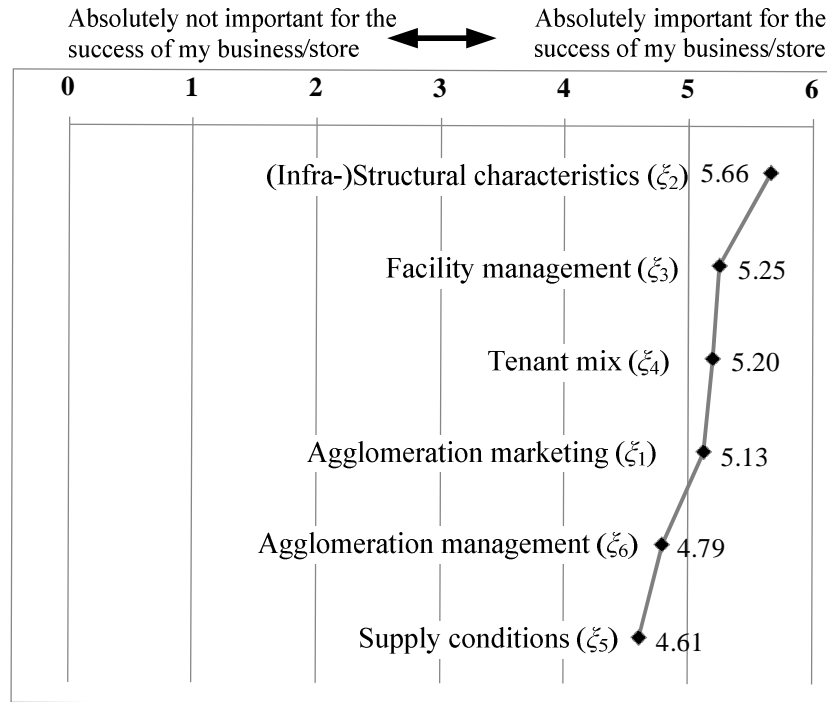
Calculation and comparison of impact index values

To test our proposition, the impact of each factor in the form of an impact index value was calculated. This index value represents a weighted means that takes the various impacts of items towards each factor into consideration. Based on the notions of Johnson & Gustaffson (2000) the factor score coefficients that were used in the principal component analysis served as weights after being divided by the standard deviation of each item. This was done in order to undo the standardisation and translate the weights back to their original scale. Based on the mean values μ_{x_n} and the weights i_{x_n} of each item x_n the impact index values (II) for factor ξ_m can be calculated as follows:

$$\Pi_{\xi_i} = \frac{l_{x1} * \mu_{x1} + l_{x2} * \mu_{x2} + \dots + l_{xn} * \mu_{xn}}{l_{x1} + l_{x2} + \dots + l_{xn}}$$

The actual values can be seen in the Appendix. Figure 1 provides a visual and Table 2 a statistical comparison (paired sample *t*-test) of the six impact index values.

Figure 1: Impact index values



This shows that the second factor (infra-) structural characteristics (ξ_2) has a significantly higher impact index value compared to all the other factors. The second highest values were identified for the factors facility management (ξ_3), tenant mix (ξ_4) and agglomeration marketing (ξ_1) which are either not significantly different from each other or the significant difference is not substantial ($r < .1$). Nevertheless, this set of factors shows significantly higher values compared to those of the factors agglomeration management (ξ_6) and supply conditions (ξ_5). This difference is slightly significant and the effect is not large and thus does not represent a substantial finding. Based on these results we can confirm proposition P₁ and conclude that (infra-) structural characteristics and thus location related factors – apart from

supply related drivers - contribute most to the success of agglomeration tenants within the malls investigated in this study. As a consequence, we cannot confirm propositions P₂ to P₄.

Table 2: Bivariate comparison of impact index values

	ζ_1	ζ_2	ζ_3	ζ_4	ζ_5	ζ_6
ζ_1	-					
ζ_2	$t_{(216)}, -10.84^{***}$ $r, .59$	-				
ζ_3	$t_{(216)}, -2.70^{**}$ $r, .18$	$t_{(216)}, 8.97^{***}$ $r, .52$	-			
ζ_4	$t_{(216)}, -1.18^{ns}$ $r, .08$	$t_{(216)}, 7.60^{***}$ $r, .45$	$t_{(216)}, .89^{ns}$ $r, .06$	-		
ζ_5	$t_{(216)}, 5.03^{***}$ $r, .32$	$t_{(216)}, 10.66^{***}$ $r, .59$	$t_{(216)}, 6.38^{***}$ $r, .40$	$t_{(216)}, 5.16^{***}$ $r, .33$	-	
ζ_6	$t_{(216)}, 5.90^{***}$ $r, .37$	$t_{(216)}, 14.25^{***}$ $r, .69$	$t_{(216)}, 7.58^{***}$ $r, .46$	$t_{(216)}, 5.69^{***}$ $r, .36$	$t_{(216)}, -1.99^*$ $r, .13$	-
Caption: paired-samples t -test; *, $p < .05$; **, $p < .01$; ***, $p < .001$; ns, $p > .05$; t , $t_{(df)}$ -value (degrees of freedom in brackets); r , effect size;						

Moderating effects

Being aware that our respondents represent reasonably heterogeneous set of tenants we compared the impact index values between subgroups. The potential moderators and the group splits are as follows:

- *Mall size*: Tenants in smaller malls (17 to 47 stores; $n, 100$) vs. tenants in bigger malls (72 to 134 stores; $n, 117$)

- *Industry affiliation*: Retail tenants ($n, 165$) vs. non-retail tenants ($n, 45$)

- *Store size*: smaller tenants (floor space $< 250 \text{ m}^2$; $n, 143$) vs. bigger tenants (floor space $> 249 \text{ m}^2$; $n, 51$)

- *Footfall*: tenants with lower footfall (< 200 customers/day; $n, 118$) vs. tenants with higher footfall (> 199 customers/day; $n, 51$)

- *Perceived role within the mall*: footfall taker (n, 65) vs. partial footfall generator (n, 152)

By applying independent *t*-tests we identified no significant difference ($p > .05$) between any of the group splits. As a result we see that none of the above variables have a moderating effect on the impact index values. Consequently, proposition P₅ cannot be confirmed.

Discussion

The impact index values for the six factors operationalising the four sets of agglomeration effect drivers are considerably high (>4.1). Thus all indicators and consequently factors are seen to play a substantial role in influencing the success of the tenants. Consequently, we see as a major result that retail agglomerations - in these study shopping malls - generate agglomeration effects from their tenants' point of view. Since most of the agglomeration marketing and management drivers are very specific for the agglomeration format under investigation this overall result also explains the reasons for the increasing preference of retail and service organisations for shopping malls as locations for their stores (Teller & Elms, 2009). Furthermore, this provides insights into why the number of malls is steadily increasing and their market share is rising compared to other agglomeration formats.

Nevertheless, when comparing the impact index values the results clearly show the significant and substantial importance of (infra-) structural characteristics of a shopping mall – such as the geographical location, the accessibility and parking conditions – as the main drivers of the success of the surveyed tenants. This finding can be confirmed for tenants in different mall types, of different size, with different customer footfall and different roles in the malls (parasite vs. anchors). Consequently, we can confirm the notions of *e.g.* van der Waerden *et al.* (1998), Oppewal & Holyoake (2004) and Arentze *et al.* (2005) from the tenant's perspective.

The facility management within the mall including cleaning, security, maintenance services and the provision of public toilets and recreational areas for consumers turned out to be the second most important driver. This finding is in line with Reimers & Clulow's (2004, 2009) opinion of the superior importance of the convenience related attributes in shopping malls for consumers. Nevertheless, both core drivers prove to be of no importance in the work of Teller and colleagues (Teller *et al.*, 2008; Teller & Reutterer, 2008; Teller & Elms, 2010), whose findings are based on the results consumer surveys in various agglomeration format settings. Since evolved retail agglomerations mostly lack the provision of such services this can be seen as a competitive disadvantage of shopping streets and inner-city retail clusters in order to attract tenants compared to created agglomeration formats.

The third most important driver proves to be the retail and non-retail tenant mix and thus indicates the importance of the 'cumulative attraction' of agglomerations for the success of their tenants (Nelson, 1958). This confirms the empirical finding from Teller's work but in this study confirmed from the tenant's point of view. Like the location of agglomerations, the correct and attractive mix of tenants is therefore considered as a decisive factor in the competition of retail agglomerations independent of format.

According to Warnaby *et al.* (2002), Bennison *et al.* (2005) and Teller *et al.* (2010) the agglomeration marketing efforts of tenants and a central agglomeration management – such as the application of communication, pricing or visual merchandising instruments – are key in increasing the success of tenants. Nevertheless, our results show that the collaborative place marketing endeavours are rated significantly lower than the first three sets of factors.

Another major finding is that an (institutionalised) agglomeration management is not considered as a major antecedent for the tenants' success. Thus, our study does not confirm

the notions of, for example, Howard (1997). This proves to be interesting because the extant agglomeration literature considers a centralised and powerful management of an agglomeration in general, and a shopping mall in particular, is seen to be key for the success of an agglomeration and their tenants respectively (*e.g.* Teller and Elms, 2009). Furthermore, the supply conditions show significantly lower impact index values than all the other four. This disconfirms the findings of Crainic *et al.* (2009) and consequently indicates that the respondents do not see logistics costs and services attached to making the products available within the agglomerations as relevant for their success.

Managerial implications

From the management point of view our findings clearly show that retail agglomeration should be comprehended as being more than the sum of its parts, i.e. tenants. In other terms the success of an agglomeration and each tenant is closely tied together. By interpreting the item weights (i_{xn}) and the mean values (μ_{xn}) of the ratings per item we can identify those drivers which should be targeted by the agglomeration management or the tenants in order to maximise the agglomeration effects, the success and competitiveness of the agglomeration and its tenants.

The agglomeration management should primarily emphasise the provision of the most appropriate environment for both tenants and consumers. Above all this includes the facilitation of an easy accessibility and the optimisation of parking facilities. Furthermore facility management issues – in particular cleaning and security services – should be a key concern. Besides that, it is crucial to optimise the right mix of retail and non-retail tenants and consequently increasing the co-opetition between them. The misconception about anchor tenants being the main and only driver of the success and thus representing a host to smaller

tenants being parasites of agglomerations has to be resolved. Agglomeration management should therefore take into account the different roles of tenants within the network, *e.g.* in terms of tenants building up consumer traffic, reinforcing the brand of the agglomeration, providing a service to consumers, generating excitement for consumers or representing a core destination for consumers.

From a tenant's point of view, our findings suggest applying stronger 'network thinking' rather than 'silo or free rider thinking'. In terms of the most influencing drivers that can be controlled by tenants it turns out to be crucial to adapt and participate into cooperative marketing efforts since they are considered to result into benefits for the agglomeration as a whole and consequently the tenants. In particular, the organisation of joint events, joint public relations and advertising efforts should be prioritised. For small and medium size enterprises - in most cases the majority of tenants - where marketing expertise is not highly developed, cooperative marketing through the agglomeration makes it possible to promote single and multiple stores efficiently and effectively.

Limitations and future research agenda

It should be mentioned that the empirical setting of this study is inevitably reflective of a European shopping mall environment. Consequently the results may not be generalisable, *e.g.* in a North American agglomeration context. The deliberate choice of the most important created agglomeration format – *i.e.* shopping mall – can be seen as another limitation. As a consequence the research design could be replicated in other geographical and agglomeration format settings such as other types of shopping centres but also high streets or town centres. This would reveal for example the potential of (urban) place marketing efforts for the success of evolved agglomerations from the tenant's point of view.

Due to the focus of this paper the drivers of agglomeration effects were analysed and discussed mainly on an aggregated level. Nevertheless, the importance of each item within the determinant factors could be investigated and discussed in more depth. This would allow a more detailed view on what drives the success of tenants in the shopping malls investigated.

The discussion section has revealed contradictions in terms of the role of the two most important factors for tenants compared to consumers. In a next step tenants could be asked to evaluate ‘their’ agglomerations from the consumer’s point of view. This will allow a richer insight into whether the literature suffers from a ‘convenience myopia’ (Teller, 2008) in terms of agglomerations - *i.e.* an exaggerated consideration of service elements included in the facility management factor.

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Appendix

Item	Communalities	Factor score weight (β_{xn})	Standard deviation (σ_{xn})	Item weight (i_{xn})	Mean value (μ_{xn})	Impact index value ($\Pi_{\zeta m}$)
x_{11}	.611	0.27	1.19	0.23	5.10	5.13
x_{12}	.755	0.20	1.04	0.19	5.30	
x_{13}	.669	0.22	1.46	0.15	4.65	
x_{14}	.707	0.22	1.12	0.20	5.06	
x_{15}	.655	0.14	0.79	0.18	5.59	
x_{16}	.754	0.11	0.81	0.13	5.54	
x_{17}	.581	0.12	1.12	0.11	5.19	
x_{18}	.646	0.16	1.45	0.11	4.35	
x_{19}	.690	0.06	1.11	0.06	5.19	
x_{110}	.468	0.11	1.14	0.09	5.24	
x_{111}	.425	0.09	1.17	0.08	4.97	
x_{21}	.766	0.30	0.57	0.52	5.77	5.66
x_{22}	.594	0.25	0.76	0.33	5.62	
x_{23}	.627	0.22	0.75	0.29	5.65	
x_{24}	.500	0.23	0.57	0.40	5.82	
x_{25}	.568	0.17	0.83	0.21	5.53	
x_{26}	.400	0.17	1.31	0.13	5.29	
x_{27}	.434	0.07	1.02	0.07	5.29	
x_{31}	.693	0.37	0.82	0.45	5.59	5.25
x_{32}	.658	0.27	1.14	0.23	5.10	
x_{33}	.664	0.24	1.07	0.22	5.27	
x_{34}	.633	0.23	1.04	0.22	5.22	
x_{35}	.514	0.24	1.35	0.18	4.93	
x_{36}	.563	0.18	1.30	0.14	4.84	
x_{37}	.524	0.11	1.00	0.11	5.27	
x_{41}	.778	0.44	1.19	0.37	5.15	5.20
x_{42}	.745	0.36	1.41	0.26	4.72	
x_{43}	.755	0.32	1.01	0.32	5.42	
x_{44}	.696	0.19	0.91	0.21	5.52	
x_{51}	.855	0.37	1.60	0.23	4.53	4.61
x_{52}	.827	0.38	1.61	0.23	4.68	
x_{61}	.625	0.38	1.68	0.22	3.98	4.79
x_{62}	.601	0.28	1.23	0.23	5.03	
x_{63}	.638	0.21	1.14	0.19	5.16	
x_{64}	.616	0.19	1.09	0.18	5.12	