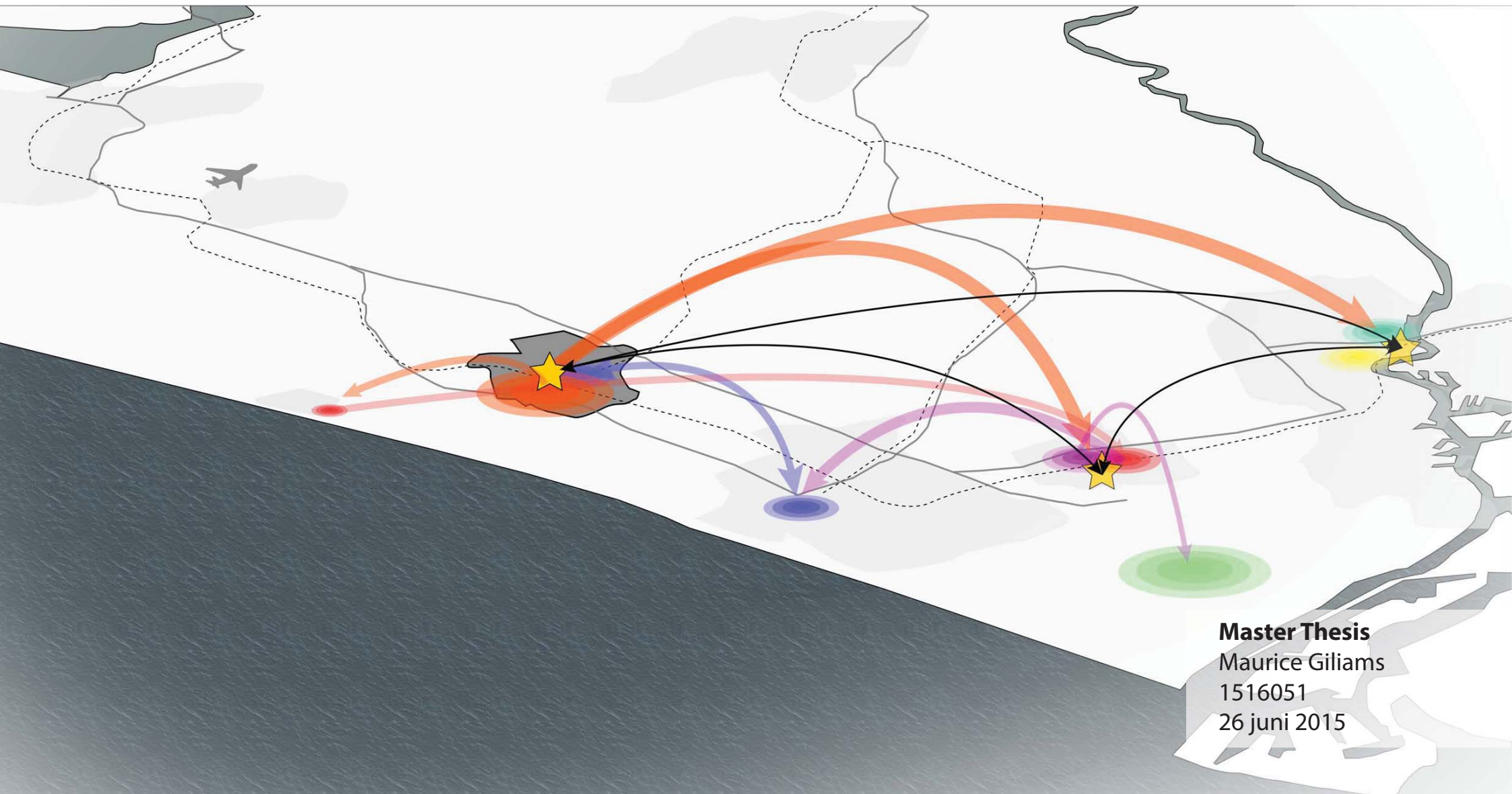


# Leiden, pearl of the knowledge axis

Developing a masterplan for the Bio Science Park in Leiden to strengthen the knowledge axis in the south wing

## Reflection



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## Reflection

### Approach

The method used for the design of a main life-science innovative cluster was doing research about knowledge locations and how to stimulate innovation. These theories have been researched for the specific location at the same time. The goal was that the theoretical framework should be the basis for the analysis of the location. Only this didn't give a good enough understanding what was needed at the location. For that the area needed to be divided into sub areas. For these sub areas points of action were stated. These point of action were important to understand where the project was going to. These points of action tell how the area works nowadays and together with the vision, which tells how it should work in the near future, it was made clear what was needed into the area. For that new theory about campuses was used and together with a clear case study of the High Tech Campus it was clear how this could be achieved. For the location a stepwise description of which interventions were needed, where it could be placed and finally how it fits in the location was made. This stepwise method worked well because no rash decisions were made. At the end the project was zoomed out to the knowledge axis scale. The future effects for the knowledge axis were described which are more a hypothesis.

### Process

After P2 it was clear that the theoretical framework had to be expanded. More theory about facilitating interaction was needed and therefore the research period was also expanded. Also it was clear for me that the project area was more focusing on the scale of the science park instead of the scale of the city as a whole. I was a bit struggling with making the step from analysis to the design part. But making a vision which stated what the future goal of the area would be helped me very much. After that it was clear for me what was needed in order

to meet this goal. At the end, it is quite a pity that this step was made later in the project. This made the design period a bit short for P4. After P4 the design could be elaborated a bit further. This last step was crucial for the graduation project. The interventions were better linked to the described action points. Also the elaboration became more reflective instead of descriptive. The interventions that were made are better reflected to the researched theory. At the end I can say that I'm satisfied with the result. One of the goals for the project was to make an attractive, visually good looking masterplan and in my opinion I achieved this goal. I think that the interventions are well thought through and based on the used literature.

### The relationship between research and design

During the project a lot of research has been done. The research forms the basis for the project. At the beginning of the graduation year a lot of reading of scientific papers is done. These papers gave a clear understanding of what knowledge locations and what the foundations of a knowledge city are. This theoretical research was the starting point for the analysis. At the end the research by analysis showed what where was needed in the project area. Research remained an important part of the design phase as well. Each design intervention was fed back to theory and theory helped me to make these design interventions. There was a constant relation between both the research and design. Especially the research by case study helped me to make specific design interventions. An example of how research and design were combined in the process is:

Bathelt et al. (2004) stated that innovation can be achieved by interaction and local buzz. A goal for the design was to facilitate this interaction. In the design phase new theory by den Heijer (2011) was needed to make an actual design intervention. In the case of this project the pavilion or the espresso bar, two retail facilities which should provide more interaction on the location.

**The relationship between the theme of the graduation lab and the subject/ case study chosen by the student within this framework (location/object)**

The basis for my graduation topic is the fact that the province of South Holland wants to become a better competitive region in Europe. Therefore they stated in governmental documents (the Economische Agenda Zuidvleugel) three economic pillars, the knowledge axis is one of them. The knowledge axis exist of multiple knowledge locations around universities in the south wing of the Randstad. These locations are connected with each other by transport but also by relations. The cities have all their own specialisation and are complementary to each other. Knowledge generated in Delft can be used in another knowledge location. My project location, the Leiden Bio Science Park, is one of the top locations in the knowledge axis. The main goal is to improve this knowledge location and make it the main player in the life science sector. This should strengthen the knowledge axis and therefore the competitive position of the south wing. At the end of the project is described what the improvement of the Leiden Bio Science Park eventually could mean for the knowledge axis.

This research theme investigates the role of spatial planning and design in managing regions, especially the Randstad where my location is a part of.

**The relationship between the methodical line of approach of the graduation lab and the method chosen by the student in this framework**

The project is part of the research theme of regional governance, planning and design. The scale for the research theme focuses on the regional scale. It includes governance decisions on different scale levels. For this graduation project, the governance decisions made by the province are the starting

point. The project itself is focusing on a specific area in the knowledge axis, an economic pillar stated by the province. At the end a reflection of the effects on the regional scale is made.

**The relationship between the project and the wider social context**

The province of South Holland wants to strengthen the economy by using the knowledge axis pillar. As said before Leiden is one of these cities in the knowledge axis and wants to be an international oriented knowledge city. Leiden focuses on life science and health. The government stated that the sector life science and health is part of the top sector policy. Therefore the development of Leiden as a better knowledge city in the knowledge axis is relevant because it is of national economic interest.

The design interventions I made should attract more life-science companies to the Bio Science Park. This will attract more knowledge workers to the area as well. This can be also knowledge workers from abroad. Not only high educated knowledge workers will benefit from this but also other educated people. It is stated that high educated jobs also provide jobs for lower educated people. Also students will be more attracted to the area. By adding new student housing the shortage of student housing in Leiden can be reduced. This will also make the area more lively which stimulated contact between different people. Therefore the improvement to a more lively campus will be beneficial for the city of Leiden.