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Teaching, Learning & Researching **Spatial Planning**

Edited by Roberto Rocco, Gregory Bracken,
Caroline Newton & Marcin Dąbrowski

Teaching, Learning & Researching Spatial Planning

TOOLS, CONCEPTS AND IDEAS TAUGHT AT THE SECTION OF SPATIAL PLANNING AND STRATEGY OF THE
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Foreword

ROBERTO ROCCO, GREGORY BRACKEN, CAROLINE NEWTON & MARCIN DĄBROWSKI

The complexity and interconnectedness of the urban challenges of today demand integrated and innovative approaches to the planning and design of sustainable, fair, and inclusive cities and regions. This, in turn, requires us to challenge and rethink current planning practice and education. Future generations of planners and designers need knowledge and skills to deal with that complexity by integrating insights from across different disciplines, from urban and regional design, environmental technology, geomatics, and urban studies to history and other branches of the social sciences. Furthermore, they also need to have a strong understanding of the values, ethical challenges, and dilemmas intrinsic to planning practice. These insights, methods, and frameworks provide a foundation for envisioning a future in which justice and sustainability play central roles. Contemporary planners need effective tools for developing shared spatial visions in communicative democratic exercises, to design strategies to achieve those visions, and create action plans for their implementation.

Communication plays a central role in multi-stakeholder environments, especially when power and knowledge are unevenly distributed, as is the case in cities. It is generally understood that the fields of planning and design require a value-oriented stance that seeks to promote pluralism (both epistemological and political) and shape public debate and practice. Planning is seen as a process in which visioning and strategy creation for (and with) diverse stakeholders is carried out. Therefore, blueprint planning is skewed in favour of participatory and deliberative planning.

Conveying ideas and shaping the future are two of the capabilities of planning and design. With the help of design, we can better ground planning in

existing spatial conditions and maximise the potentials of a given space. Design adds imagination and creativity to planning practice and opens up opportunities for experimenting with stakeholder participation and (visually) communicating solutions to complex urban challenges.

This book provides an authoritative collection of perspectives on theories, urban challenges, and methods of research and education in planning, from a diversity of perspectives and disciplines. It builds upon the integrative 'Delft approach' to Urbanism, which draws on knowledge and research from design, the social and physical sciences, and engineering. At the Department of Urbanism of TU Delft, students and staff engage in cross-disciplinary and comparative studies to better understand the inherent connections between spatial planning, spatial design, landscape design, environmental technology, urban data science and urban studies.

It is our hope that the various chapters in this book will resonate with the call for a more pluralist and adaptive approach to planning and design, one that is in constant evolution in response to changing needs, circumstances, and perspectives.

Part 1: Concepts and Theories

This book consists of nineteen chapters. For the sake of convenience, we have divided them into three parts, although, as you will see, there is a certain amount of overlap between them. We begin with Part 1, which has seven chapters that discuss concepts and theories. This is followed by five chapters in Part 2 which examine current issues of urban development and planning, while the third and final part, also with seven chapters, looks at

methods and teaching. These contributions represent a snapshot, as it were, of our research and teaching activities at the section of Spatial Planning and Strategy at TU Delft. This book will be updated in years to come as new research avenues open up, and new researchers join our team (and also when this volume's contributors want to share how their own work has developed and expanded in response to evolving societal challenges).

Part 1 begins by presenting crucial concepts and theories in planning and its connected disciplines. The aim is to create a common knowledge base. The first chapter is Roberto Rocco's 'Spatial Justice', which defines this concept and unpacks its implications for spatial planning, and planners' roles. It addresses spatial justice as an important aspect of sustainability and contends that one of the socio-political institutions supporting sustainability is spatial planning. It then examines the role of planning as a tool for public deliberation and identifies participatory planning as a viable tool for achieving spatial justice.

Chapter 2, 'Beyond Territorialism? Why there is no European spatial planning and what to do about it', is by Andreas Faludi and shows how problematic a concept 'territorialism' is, particularly for the European Union, where, he argues, borders are not watertight, therefore states should not plan as if they were.

The next chapter, by Rodrigo Viseu Cardoso, is called 'Theses on Metropolisation: Ten discussion points for research and education'. This defines metropolisation as the transformation of fragmented urbanised areas into coherent and consolidated urban regions. This definition takes into account the effects of long-term and intertwined processes of spatial, functional, institutional, and symbolic integration and the chapter outlines ten open-ended discussion points to inspire debate and further exploration.

Chapter 4, 'Multi-Level and Multi-Actor Governance: Why it matters for spatial planning' by Marcin Dąbrowski, sheds light on the vertical (multi-level) and horizontal (multi-actor) aspects of governance, which he sees as crucial for integrating planning

with other policy agendas and for engaging citizens in decision-making processes for the co-creation of planning visions.

Staying with citizen engagement in decision-making processes, Reinout Kleinhans and Enzo Falco's 'Digital Participation in Urban Planning: A promising tool or technocratic obstacle to citizen engagement?' examines digital participatory platforms (DPPs) – a specific type of web-based technology often adopted by governments for citizen engagement in urban planning. Their chapter points out that simply establishing these platforms is not enough, and they highlight five fundamental challenges to their effectiveness, showing that technology is not the main issue, it is the way in which the DPPs are embedded in wider participation approaches that is key to their success.

Eva Purkarthofer's Chapter 6, 'Agency in Planning: (Future) planners as key actors in the strive for sustainable urban development', continues this examination of agency in planning, this time through the lens of sustainable urban development. This 'ubiquitous objective in spatial planning' leads to concrete actions that vary greatly and her chapter examines how agency can contribute to a better understanding of the challenges facing actors in planning today.

The final chapter in Part 1 is by Carola Hein. '(Re)-positioning Spatial Planning History and Historiography' shows how governing bodies have historically used planning tools to advance the interests of select groups, which echoes the concerns of Roberto Rocco's opening chapter on spatial justice. Hein argues that students of spatial planning need to be aware of the background to planning systems, and their global interrelationships, in order to assess the impact these histories have on current and future planning practice.

Part 2: Current Issues

Whereas Part 1 is intended to create a benchmark that will allow readers to dive into current challenges for planning, Part 2 addresses specific current issues, beginning with 'Four Clusters of Thought on Flood Resilience and Climate Adaptation: The state of the art and new directions for spatial planning' by Meng Meng, Marcin Dąbrowski, and Dominic Stead. This shows how planning as an instrumental-technical intervention is mainly used to improve physical environments. However, the implementation of these interventions is often challenging, as can be seen from the authors' review of recent developments in flood resilience and climate adaptation. They identify the four clusters of thought of the title (which are mainly European and American) and call for an enlargement of the scope of planning research to enable us to identify future directions for study.

Chapter 9, by Wilbert den Hoed, is called 'Urban Mobility in Planning: An exclusionary or a uniting force? Conceptualising urban mobility for the planning discipline'. This chapter also highlights the desire to improve the social and environmental qualities of cities, this time through mobility systems. Den Hoed points out that mobility and transport planning have often worked in a disconnected way. His chapter sheds a light on this dichotomy by using new conceptualisations of urban mobility to argue that urban space is better when city planning – rather than transport planning – is at the heart of design.

The next chapter, 'Spatial Planning Policy Tools: A conceptual model', is by Dominic Stead and outlines a conceptual model for the policy tools used in spatial planning. He classifies these using Christopher Hood's NATO model (nodality, authority, treasure, and organisation) and differentiates between substantive and procedural functions. He further distinguishes these from tools used in plan-making (and reviewing), development control, and plan enforcement, since these activities use different tools.

Merten Neefs' chapter, 'Metropolitan Landscape: Definition, mapping, and governance', also examines tools at the planner's disposal. His chapter revisits the definition of metropolitan landscape and discusses one specific tool used to develop it: Community of Practice, reflecting on its qualities and challenges.

The final chapter in Part 2 is Guus van Steenbergen's 'Regional Network Governance in Spatial Planning: Constructing a framework to analyse the influence of regional authorities in metropolitan areas'. This points to an increasing recognition of the importance of the region in spatial planning. He shows how national challenges, like climate adaptation and energy transition, arise from the local level and come together at the regional, yet the region is neither spatially nor administratively bounded. The key focus of his chapter is to examine how regional authorities in the Netherlands influence spatial planning in metropolitan areas. He does this by proposing an analytical framework, and also provides a three-step approach for analysing policy practices at the regional level.

Part 3: Methods and Teaching

Part 3 deals with teaching, particularly the way in which planning can take into account the complexity of the present while simultaneously making it possible to take steps toward desirable and possible futures. It does this by introducing a broad selection of methods, beginning with Gregory Bracken's 'Teaching Theories of Urbanism' which introduces the various theories of urbanism courses taught at the Urbanism Department of the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment. He also emphasises the importance of urban theory for an increasingly urbanised twenty-first century.

Chapter 14, by Wil Zonneveld, is called 'Visual Storytelling: Assessing the power of maps in planning'. This chapter discusses the abundant use of visualisation in spatial planning, and, echoing Guus van Steenbergen's chapter at the end of Part 2, is particularly concerned with planning at the region-

al level and beyond, where maps form the dominant mode of visualisation. Zonneveld discusses the techniques map-makers use, and, also in an overlap with Part 2, provides tools for interpreting and assessing them by looking beyond visual style.

Chapter 15 is by Akkelies van Nes. 'Space Syntax in Spatial Planning: A short introduction to its methods, theory development, and application in practice' explains the use of space syntax in spatial planning and gives an overview of the different ways of carrying out spatial analyses in the built environment, underscoring its use in evaluating urban design and planning proposals.

The next chapter, 'Regression Analysis: Quantitative exploration of interactions between the built environment and spatial behaviour' by Arie Romein and Susanne van Rijn, is also quite technical, in that it introduces regression analysis as part of quantitative statistical analysis for empirical research, the outcomes of which can also be extremely useful for urban design and planning.

Chapter 16, 'Planning as Critically Engaged Practice: Consequences for studio education' is by Caroline Newton and emphasises that spatial planning and urban design are not merely technical disciplines but that everyday use of space must be incorporated into any plan or design because of the way they impact people's daily lives. This underscores the importance of seeing planning as an engaged practice, something which is related to Habitat III goals and (more specifically) those of the New Urban Agenda, both of which are committed to enabling sustainable urban development and the creation of integrated and just societies for the future. This chapter also shows the importance of incorporating socio-spatial complexity and the concept of 'the right to the city' into planning education, particularly the design studio, meaning that the focus of the studio will no longer be on what is, but on what is 'yet to be'.

The penultimate chapter in the volume remains with design teaching. Lei Qu's 'Vision and Strategy Making: Teaching spatial planning in design education in a situated learning environment' introduces a pedagogical approach for guiding vision and

strategy-making in design studios, showing the use of bridging research, planning, and design by highlighting one particular master's course on design as an example, this shows how its evidence-based/scientific methods can also be explorative, with a search for more plausible and desirable future scenarios, and this is in line with the role of regional design in practice, particularly in the context of collaborative planning.

Finally, we end with Diego Sepúlveda-Carmona's chapter 'Dimensions of Socio-Environmental Approaches as a Platform for Local Development Under Climate Change: Theoretical and practical considerations of transdisciplinarity' which examines the governance of urban processes in the face of variability (for example, climate change). The urgency for responses and actions to extreme weather events transfers additional complexity to less developed societies. This chapter proposes linking climate adaptation processes to the outlining of strategies for local development, and presents a case study to establish a framework for possible interventions for local development strategies.

Concluding note

As you will see, this book is useful for both seasoned professionals and novices wishing to get a head start in learning the fundamentals of planning – this includes teachers and students in the field – but the chapters have all been written with a broader audience in mind as well. Basically, anyone concerned with issues of planning, design, and management of the built environment will find a wealth of ideas and resources for engaging with our most pressing urban and regional challenges.