

Metropolitan Regions, Planning and Governance

Karsten Zimmermann · Daniel Galland ·
John Harrison
Editors

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 Springer

Editors

Karsten Zimmermann
Technical University of Dortmund
Dortmund, Germany

Daniel Galland
Norwegian University of Life Sciences
Ås, Norway

John Harrison
Loughborough University
Loughborough, UK

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Preface

In this book, the findings of the three-year working phase of an international working group (IAK) on ‘planning and governing the metropolis’ are made available by researchers from eight countries. On the initiative of Karsten Zimmermann, the *Akademie für Raumforschung und Planung* (ARL—Academy for Spatial Research and Planning) launched this group in 2016 through a call for membership. The group was supported by Evelyn Gustedt as Head of the scientific unit ‘European and International Spatial Development Issues’ at the headquarters of the ARL, which is based in Hanover (Germany).

The establishment of working groups at European, national and regional level on current issues of spatial development and spatial planning in all conceivable facets reflects the core task of the ARL. The aim is to bring together people from science and practice, and from different disciplines linked to the respective topic to shed light on academic or planning issues from different perspectives and to profit from the various competences of the participants.

In order to facilitate joint discussions, the ARL finances the work of the contributors by allowing six joint sessions in different locations over a period of approximately 3 years. In addition, some of the costs for the publication process, in international groups in particular for translations and linguistic correction, are granted. In that regard, the findings presented are generally not basic research. Instead, the joint discussions are based on synergy effects with the research or planning activities carried out in the course of the main duties of the contributors. The joint discussions add value to the topic.

For this book, researchers from Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Spain, Turkey and the UK have succeeded in bringing together their expertise from different backgrounds. In addition to representatives of spatial planning, city planners, sociologists, geographers and other disciplines were part of the IAK. Nonetheless, the goal of the group was to present a consistent volume despite all the differences between national system contexts and different conditions of spatial or metropolitan development as the background of each contributor.

European or international research groups in spatial planning and spatial development are practiced at understanding problems. Indeed, problems are by no means unusual, and according to many years of experience in the ARL they are even the rule. The more the ARL and the contributors strive for a consistent text as a product of joint work, the more essential are intensive discussions between participants, both in the writing teams of the individual chapters and especially in formulating the research framework and the concluding statements. Here, this has succeeded in an excellent manner.

Hanover, Germany
May 2019

Evelyn Gustedt

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Editors and Contributors

About the Editors

Karsten Zimmermann is Professor for European Planning Cultures at the Faculty of Spatial Planning, Technical University of Dortmund, Germany. His recent publications have focused on comparing planning systems, planning theory, metropolitan governance and the transformation of post-industrial regions. He is also co-editor of the special issue *Metropolitan Governance in Europe* (Raumforschung und Raumordnung 2017).

Daniel Galland is Associate Professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) and Chair of the Excellence in Education Board of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP). His research interests are in planning theory, spatial planning reorientations and international comparative planning. His recent publications build on international experience within diverse scholarly planning environments across Europe and North America. He is also co-editor of the special issues *Planning Regional Futures* (Regional Studies 2020) and *A 'Field' Under Construction: The State of Planning in Latin America and the Southern Turn in Planning* (disP-The Planning Review 2018).

John Harrison is Reader in Human Geography at Loughborough University, UK, and Associate Director of the Globalization and World Cities (GaWC) Research Network. He is an urban–regional geographer interested in how large urban and regional spaces are conceptualized and mobilized politically. His recent publications have focused on global urban and regional governance. He is also co-editor of *Planning and Governance of Cities in Globalization* (Routledge 2013), *Megaregions: Globalization's New Urban Form?* (Edward Elgar 2015), *Doing Global Urban Research* (Sage 2018) and *Handbook on the Geographies of Regions and Territories* (Edward Elgar 2018).

Contributors

Christophe Demazière is Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Tours, France. He has been involved in several transnational comparative research programmes, on small- and medium-sized towns, strategic spatial planning and metropolitan governance. He is co-editor of *Creative Approaches to Planning and Local Development* (Routledge 2017) and *The Right to the City. Dialogues in Urban and Regional Planning* (Routledge 2018).

Valeria Fedeli is Associate Professor at the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies at Politecnico di Milano, Italy, as well as vice-director of the Ph.D. Programme in Urban Planning, Design and Policy. She is currently President of the European Urban Research Association (EURA). She has a long-standing research experience on the topics of strategic planning, metropolitan governance and processes of regional urbanisation, urban policies in Europe and EU urban policy. She is co-editor of *Post-Metropolitan Territories: Looking for a New Urbanity* (Routledge 2017).

Patricia Feiertag is Postdoctoral Researcher in the Faculty of Spatial Planning at Dortmund Technical University, Germany. She is a spatial planner interested in comparative planning studies, metropolitan planning and governance, knowledge and policy advice as well as maps as communicative tool and representation of spatial imaginaries and has among other topics carried out comparative research about national spatial vision maps in EU countries and about metropolitan reforms in France.

Carola Fricke is Postdoctoral Researcher and Lecturer in Human Geography at the Institute of Environmental Social Sciences and Geography, University of Freiburg, Germany. Her research interests are in the comparative analyses of spatial and regional policies in Europe focusing on city-regional and cross-border cooperation. Her recent publications focus on the construction of metropolitan regions as political concepts and spatial scales. She is author of *European Dimension of Metropolitan Policies: Policy Learning and Reframing of Metropolitan Regions* (Springer 2020).

Peter Schmitt is Associate Professor in Human Geography at Stockholm University, Sweden, where he acts as Director of the International Masters Programme in Urban and Regional Planning. His research interests are governance practices and policy analysis related to spatial planning, comparison of planning systems, EU cohesion policies and transnational territorial cooperation, and strategic planning in metropolitan regions. He is the co-editor of *Territorial Governance across Europe* (Routledge 2016) and the special issue *Unpacking Spatial Planning as the Governance of Place* (disP-The Planning Review 2018).

Mark Tewdwr-Jones is Professor of Town Planning, Director of Newcastle City Futures and ‘Cities Lead’ at Newcastle University, UK. He is an authority on urban planning, land use, cities, futures and community participation in places. He was UK Government Advisor on land use and housing issues, a member of the UK Chief Scientist’s Foresight Future of Cities and Land Use Futures projects, and advisor to OECD. He is an author of 15 books and over 70 international journal papers, has given over 300 speeches worldwide and held distinguished posts at Berkeley California, Hong Kong, New South Wales, Western Sydney, Shanghai, Guadalajara, Nijmegen, Pretoria, Dublin and Malta.

Mariona Tomàs is Professor in Political Science and member of the Research Group on Local Studies at the University of Barcelona. Her research focuses on metropolitan governance and urban politics. She has published several articles in journals such as the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Urban Studies*, *Journal of Urban Affairs* and *Local Government Studies*. She has also published three books, several book chapters and has participated in European and international research projects.

Savaş Zafer Şahin is an Associate Professor and Department Head in Political Science and Public Administration at Atılım University, Turkey. He is a city and regional planner interested in how existing and emerging settlements are perceived, conceptualised and redefined under the restructuring of state and planning systems. His recent publications have focused on the relationship between rescaling, local government reform and urban planning in Turkey. He is also the co-editor of the Turkish urban planning journal *Planlama*.