As described also by Alterman et al. (2012) an affordable housing policy, a neighboring idea, is a package of regulative or financial tools which aim at market intervention in order to decrease housing prices (renting as well as buying). The reasons for implementing such a policy can vary and may include such elements as: to enable vital/needed workers to stay in close to their workplace; to prevent the poor from concentrating in a particular area; and to help the poor. Regardless of the targeted population or the reason for affordable/social housing, in order to deal with social housing/affordable housing, governmental management is a crucial aspect as is the creation of unified and transparent processes. This book, which elucidates the situation of social housing in France, using the 'insider-outsider' theory, can serve as an important platform for stimulating discussion about similar issues in other countries.

REFERENCES

Alterman, R., Silverman, E, Fialkoff, H. (2012) *Affordable Housing*, Haifa (Israel): The Technion Press. (in Hebrew)

Rachel Katoshevski–Cavari
Ben Gurion University of the Negev

DISCOURSE DYNAMICS IN PARTICIPATORY PLANNING: OPENING THE BUREAUCRACY TO STRANGERS, by Diana MacCallum. Farnham, UK: Ashgate Publishing, 2009.

The idea of participatory planning has been around since the dawn of modern planning and it is now embedded into academic thinking and daily practice in the field of urban and regional planning. The recent decades have reinforced the use of participatory planning: massive globalization processes gave rise to active civil society and brought about the institutionalization of the participants—the public; the 'communicative turn' in planning highlighted the role played by urban and governmental institutions involved in planning; since the early 2000s, the growing popularity of strategic planning reinforced the centrality of participatory decision-making and the need for public involvement in planning. Traditionally introduced as means of opening professional decision-making processes to lay people and enabling the democratization of planning, public participation has turned into necessary tool for bureaucrats wishing to produce a viable plan and carry on a feasible planning policy.

Diana MacCallum's book takes the discussion on participatory planning a step forward. Manifesting an impressive knowledge in the history and theory of public participation in planning and acknowledging the practical wisdom of associating bureaucrats and professionals with stakeholders, the book joins a growing number

of researches that inquire into the dynamics of public participation and seek for a better understanding of this practice. Particularly, MacCallum is motivated to challenge the somewhat ideal image of participatory processes as pacifying deep conflicts and to disenchant the hidden promise of bureaucracy breaking down the walls and reaching consensus by means of sincere and open discourse with the people. MacCallum admits that her interest in examining the undercurrents operating in participatory planning processes is linked to her personal experience in public participation, both as a stakeholder and a bureaucrat. Above all, these personal experiences strengthened her view of public participation being a complex and unresolved ritual, the opening to a prolonged, sometimes muddled adventure rather than a safe and paved road to harmony. MacCallum's interest therefore rests in searching the essence of inevitable tensions embedded in participatory encounters—and then following the method of reframing and even resolving some of them.

Two public participation events provide the book's research material, both taken from community-based committees dealing with planning disputes in regional (non-metropolitan) areas in Australia. As MacCallum rightfully notes that, despite the uniqueness of the Australian planning framework, the discourses, ideas and methods exemplified in the cases studied are representative of participatory processes taking place in a broader context, mainly in the USA, UK, Canada and Europe. Hence, the issues, behaviors and problems reflected through the Australian cases are characteristic of planning processes elsewhere and appear to be relevant to most scholars in the field of planning.

In line with MacCallum's point of view, the book centers on exploring the dynamics of building-up tensions on one hand and coming to resolution on the other hand. The book is structured in seven chapters, with the first two chapters providing the introductory and methodological frame to the discussion and the last chapter concluding and summarizing the book. At the heart of the book stand four chapters telling the stories of the examined participatory committees. The first two chapters focus on the upsurge of tensions in each committee and the other two chapters describe events of untying conflicts and advancing resolution. The 'stories' provide full, vivid and multifaceted picture of the cases combined with a thorough analysis of the dynamics and its meaning. Altogether the book is conveniently structured and interestingly addresses the relevant issues, deepening into the various aspects of participatory planning.

The underlying message of the book relates to the encounter of various 'planning cultures', represented by individuals and institutions having defined orientation and discursive practices. The book portrays the details of the various 'cultures' through participants' behavior and values: how do they conceive planning, what are their expectation of economic development and change processes, and what are their views of governing, leadership, disagreement and decision-making in the planning process. MacCallum's creative application of CDA (critical discourse analysis) shows that the co-existence of cultures of planning is, in a way, the source of inevitable tension.

Specifically, 'other' cultures, expressed by individuals' view of the planning process and the built environment, are immediately seen foreign and strange. Participants react to 'strange' behaviors of some members, thus revealing the stresses with their conventions and with the framing of issues and plans. Usually, the instinctive as well as calculated reaction to strangeness is closing up openness. MacCallum points at a wide array of behaviors, from linguistic choices to strategies of argumentation and bargaining, expressing participants' tendency to introvert and retreat from active participation. Similarly, her analysis manifests that acknowledging the cultural-gap is an essential step towards resolution as it is for creating a productive atmosphere in participatory sessions.

Nevertheless, MacCallum's book do not pretend to provide a closed set of tools let alone a procedure for resolving tensions and disentangling conflicts in participatory planning. Moreover, the book clearly shows that to some extent, unresolved tensions are an inevitable part of participatory planning and cannot be escaped. This is a shaking argument, especially since the scholarly discourse of the 1990s, affected by Habermasian ideas of deliberative processes, created an expectation for participatory planning ending with relatively stable consensuses. Unfortunately, MacCallum's book is not interested in theorizing these findings and discussing possible impacts on planning and on protecting the public interest. To my view, this is an interesting point that still needs to be discussed. On the other hand, interesting CDA tools offered in the book can help researchers analyzing the impact of cultural gaps and a-symmetric power distribution on the dynamics of the participatory process. I therefore expect the book to be useful to scholars dealing with public participation, planning discourse analysis and dynamics of plan-making, and to students in the field.

<div style="text-align: right">

Nurit Alfasi
Ben Gurion University of the Negev

</div>

FOREIGN DIRECT INVTESMENT AND URBAN GROWTH IN CHINA, by Lei Wang. Farnham, UK: Ashgate Publishing Ltd., 2011.

The transformation of the Chinese economy that resulted from Deng Xiao-ping's 1978 Four Modernizations Program has not only resulted in unprecedented growth of the overall Chinese economy and per capita income, but also a radically changed urban landscape. No longer are Chinese cityscapes drab imitations of Soviet-style cities based on poured cement construction. Instead they feature sky-scrapers, large modern condominium apartment complexes, malls, subways, freeways, and recreational facilities reminiscent of vibrant economic centers found throughout the world. Wang's thin volume, consisting of 137 pages including an index and bibliog-