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KEY CONCEPTS IN PLANNING, by Gavin Parker and Joe Doak. London: Sage, 2012.

Planning is a process that is being contemplated in every sphere of human activity. There are many approaches to planning, and choosing one approach over another depends on one's field of interest or the specific issue. For instance, in the case of planning a financing of a mortgage, we will use a systematic economy-biased approach. But when it comes to cities and regions, the right approach may be obscured. There are so many variables that are involved in city life that make the choice, if there is such, almost impossible. This book may help students and interns that are studying or doing their first practical ventures in regional planning, as well as the experienced business entrepreneur. Reading the book may remind the professional readers that planning deals with the seemingly easy question "How should we live?" This is one of the definitions that I love to use whenever I speak of planning. It is apparently simple, but it unfolds the complexity of the sphere and it shows that planning has many linkages to our life.

This book is part of a series called Key Concepts in Human Geography. The organized logic of concepts rather than rules or guidelines, or even a title of 'The comprehensive manual of planning' is, as I find it, invigorating and enabling. It enables the reader to grasp and combine theory and practice. The boundaries between these two in the planning domain appear to have been widening over the past decades, with the domination of the modernist paradigm and its tools, whereas there are two prototypes of research and information in planning and research and theories of planning. Sorenson wrote in frankness "Most professions concerned with the administration of human affairs...are sustained by a conceptually powerful and widely accepted endogenous body of theory. Planning, it appears is not. Planning-related theories abound, but few originate within the profession...planning may have no systematic theoretical base at all by which its goals and methods can be justified" (Sorenson, 1982, 184). Therefore, by writing on concept, which is in my view half-

way to theory, we (students, interns, professors and experienced practitioners) can live in peace with this problem and understand key elements that are affected by planning, and are planning tools as well.

Furthermore, Parker and Doak are aiming this book at the 21st Century planner, that as they claim "needs to be able to conceptualize the process, justifications and conditions of operations that surround them". Such planners, they say, "need to be able to understand and 'place' (and lay) knowledge of others and then proceed towards open and clear deliberation and decision making". Therefore, the term concepts and the formation of a set of key concepts for the 21st Century planner seem to be best suited for this comprehensive mission.

As the first concept, the authors choose to contend with the concept of 'plan and planning' (Chapter 2). This may be a risky step, as the authors stated that they put themselves in jeopardy to "write a book within a book". However, this chapter and the introduction act together as the manual for the book. This chapter leads to the point and takes the reader into the very clear and solid structure of the book that enables it to articulate some refreshing points of view about the enormous volume of data and information that is available today. Every concept in the book begins with a box with key-words that will be discussed in some way or another in the chapter. Then a brief introduction presents the reader with the concept and ties it to the continuum of the other concepts. The essence of each chapter is devoted to broadening the scope of the concept and the chapter, and closes with conclusions that try to summarize the discussion and (some very useful) suggestions for further reading.

What is most appreciated in this book, and in the conceptual perception it brings, lay in the fact that it may shed some light on the dark side of planning. Planning is perceived as a noble, even promethean act. Each concept is reminding the reader, and also mentions what may go wrong in the way we think of this concept.

Parker and Doak have chosen 18 concepts that portray the full range of the planning practice. Rather than a variety of concepts or random choices, the authors try to successfully establish a solid structure that allows one to get the pillars of the planning profession that planners should be taking into account, when they sit to plan. They touch on concepts that are basic, essential and critical in the planning sphere, such as system and complexity, rights and property rights and impacts and externalities, interests and public interest. But they also deal with concepts that are less frequently discussed, such as implantation, competitiveness and amenity (in the sense of the question of the "appropriate life"). The concept of networks (chapter 4), is also considered in my view a refreshing understanding – planners and planning are part of the actors dynamics that shape regions and cities. The authors also pinpoint sustainability (chapter 3) as one of the concepts, and again I find myself agreeing with their choice.

We may ask why these concepts are included and others (if any) were omitted? In this case again I believe that the selection made is well suited for the purpose of this book. This book aims to remind planners that they act and work for society, there-

fore as the authors state "we contend that all of the concepts are inherently 'social' in their formation and deployment", is clearly recognizable in the book.

The rich, broad and up to date references also include a list of useful websites, as well as one more useful design (and a book which deals with planning should depict this feature): the position of the page numbers in the middle of the margins along the pages make it much easier to browse through this book.

If I had to point out a weakness in the book, it would be hard: perhaps the fact that many examples and concepts derive from the town and country planning system in the United Kingdom, which is one of the urban and regional systems that historically has shaped cities and regions in our world. This might turn the book to less universal; however, the organized principal of concepts as has been mentioned, easily overcomes this bias and obstacles, and makes many comprehensive insights on regional planning today. This is a very good book, and will give guidance not only for "upper-level undergraduate and postgraduate students in planning" as the series editor writes on the book's cover, but also to the planners that are doing planning and wish to remember exactly why they do planning.

References

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TRANSLOCAL GEOGRAPHIES: SPACES, PLACES, CONNECTIONS, by Katherine Brickell and Ayonna Datta (2011) (Eds.) Farnham, England: Ashgate Publishing.

Recent years have seen a surge of interest surrounding the notion of translocality. Often understood as social spaces that link individuals, networks and communities at a distance, translocality has been a particularly valuable concept in the migration literature, where it has been used to theorize migrants' cross-border, place-based identities. In contrast to the so-called de-territorialized identities celebrated by the transnational approach, translocality was seen by many as 'grounded' identities anchored in the geographic realities of two (or more) nation-states. But, while most research on translocality was embedded in the national scale, analyzing for example migrant networks and economic exchanges, relatively little has been written about the local-local relations in which it is contextualized.

This empirical gap is the motivation behind the current edited volume and the purported need to understand translocality in spaces, places and scales beyond the