
Reviews

Territory, identity, and spatial planning: spatial governance in a fragmented nation edited by M Tewdwr-Jones, P Allmendinger; Routledge, London, 2006; £100.00 cloth, £38.99 paper (US \$165.00, \$70.95) ISBN 9780415360340, 9780415360357

In this edited collection Mark Tewdwr-Jones and Phillip Allmendinger seek to highlight the centrality of planning to the success of New Labour's regional strategy. In recent years processes of devolution have been coupled with a resurgence of interest in expanding regional governmental apparatus. As Tewdwr-Jones and Allmendinger suggest, these processes have served to reconfigure both territories and identities. In this book they aim to illustrate and analyse the major rescalings of spatial planning and development that are taking place, rapidly and unevenly, across the UK. The scope of the book is deliberately broad, drawing together twenty-two chapters from thirty-three authors across a range of disciplines with the aim of fostering further interdisciplinary study.

Arguably, this book has been a long time coming. Labour has now been in power for over a decade, and although previous studies have examined the relationship between devolution and identity, for example, there has to date been little engagement with the mechanisms through which processes of state rescaling take place. Tewdwr-Jones and Allmendinger attempt to redress this. The book is divided into four parts: "Territory, identity and spatial planning", "Studies of territorial and spatial planning", "Institutions of governance and substantive policy roles", and, "Complexities and interdependencies in spatial governance".

Part 1 provides the reader with grounding in the themes of territorialisation, identity, and spatial planning that recur throughout the book. In the opening chapter Tewdwr-Jones and Allmendinger analyse the ideological underpinnings of Tony Blair's project. They identify spatial planning as one way to fuse the contradictory desires of the government to address the diverse needs of multiple identities in different cities and regions, whilst retaining administrative autonomy. Michael Keating provides the reader with a valuable sense of historical context, with an insightful analysis of national identity in relation to processes of devolution and regionalism in the UK. In a later chapter Patsy Healey provides a stimulating interrogation of the New Labour rhetoric of integrated planning, which it posits as a tool to link up diverse governance initiatives and aid progression from a focus on traditional or regulatory planning.

Part 2 consists of a series of case studies designed to give the reader an insight into some of the new forms of spatial planning strategy being pursued by devolved governments and other regional administrations. The overarching theme here appears to be one of political tension and administrative fracture. Thus, Iain Deas examines the conflict implicit in using strategic land-use planning to foster a reterritorialisation of the North West of England. Discord between the agendas of regional institutions is symptomatic, as Deas argues, of a national policy based on "what is essentially a competitive regionalism" (page 101). Likewise, Peter Hall provides an account of the turbulent journey towards devolution in London that was finally achieved in 2000 with the creation of the London Assembly and the election of a politically semiautonomous mayor, Ken Livingstone.

In part 3 contributors demonstrate the ways that decentralised institutions develop policies to meet the needs of their regions. The key message seems to be that devolved regions and decentralised institutions are still unable to act independently of central government; letting go is perhaps easier said than done. For example, Mark Baker and Cecilia Wong compare different approaches to housing land allocation policy in nine English regions. They claim that despite New Labour's attempts to move towards regional housing provision (for example, through the revised Planning Policy Guidance, PPG3), failures in the regional devolution agenda, coupled with concerns over rising house prices and restricted housing supply, have led to increased levels of intervention by central government. In a similar vein Phillip Cooke and Nick Clifton suggest that the "weak and poorly defined powers" of the Welsh Assembly have

resulted in defensive and unimaginative policy and limited the ability of the region to bring about an upswing in its own economy.

Part 4 sees a return to issues of territory, identity, and spatial planning, and discussion of the complexities of intergovernmental and interscalar relations raised by processes of decentralisation. Thus, Mike Raco addresses the subtleties and contradictions integral to processes of devolution, and illustrates the flaws inherent in conceptualising regions as spaces of shared interest and identities. Instead he notes that regional empowerment is highly selective and, paradoxically, is likely to reinforce the powers of state government. Similarly, Gordon MacLeod and Martin Jones call for a topological approach to the analysis of space, politics, and territory, emphasising the networked practices of performing devolution and reflecting the multiple ways that people occupy and use space.

This ambitious book draws together an impressive array of academics and researchers beyond the chapters highlighted in this review, and provides a sound overview of the challenges thrown up by what are often rapid, uneven, and contested processes of devolution and decentralisation. However, its wide scope does, in places, lead to a fragmented structure and narrative that can be a little disjointed. Also, insufficient weight, is, I feel, given to the problems that can result from processes of spatial planning. For instance, although Labour considers spatial strategy as key to delivering on a range of policy issues, ranging from environmental sustainability to urban regeneration, there is limited recognition or discussion in the book that spatial planning can, potentially, divide and disempower communities.

Overall, the book makes a valuable contribution to the literature relating to practices of state rescaling, and I would recommend it to those interested in furthering their understanding of the ways that processes of devolution and decentralisation are shaping the UK today.

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Accessible housing: quality, disability and design by R Imrie; Routledge, London, 2005, 264 pages, £81.99 cloth, £39.99 paper (US \$144.95, \$69.95) ISBN 9780415318914, 9780415318921

House builders have a lot to answer for in selling visions of ideal homes and domestic lifestyles; in an industry so obsessed with real estate and market values, it is not surprising that a scratch beneath the surface reveals a less than benign attitude to customers who are often defined by their 'difference'. As Rob Imrie cogently argues, disabled people are one group of people for whom this is the case, and yet the attitudes of the house building industry towards disability and promoting accessible housing have rarely been examined. This book fills a vital gap in shedding light on a heretofore unexplored area—a house building industry which up until recently appears largely to have escaped academic scrutiny in the context of provision for disabled people.

Accessible Housing is the product of a research project undertaken predominantly in England and Wales, which explored how far the speculative house building industry and other building professionals were attentive to disabled people's access needs, and the effectiveness of building regulations in securing accessible homes. In the book Imrie intertwines theoretical and empirical material, discussing with a critical yet accessible style. The book is divided into three parts, and in the first section, "Concepts and contexts", Imrie sets the scene by arguing that, in order to understand the inaccessible design of much new (and existing) private housing, we have to consider not only societal understandings of disability, but also the historical emergence of the speculative house building industry, as well as the meanings attached to housing and the 'home'. A key strength of the conceptual analysis in the book lies in its conjoining of ideas from the arenas of disability studies, housing studies, and social theory. By drawing on theories of the body, for example, he suggests that the narrow functionality underpinning much housing design has led to a decorporealisation of the home, which negates how interactions between the (impaired) body and domestic environment have consequences for people's broader physical well-being, social well-being, and self-identity.

In the second part, "Securing accessible homes", Imrie draws primarily on empirical material from the research, and in four consecutive chapters explores disabled people's experiences of the domestic environment, the attitudes of house builders towards accessible design,

the regulation of accessible housing (particularly through the role of building control officers and their interpretation of Part M—access to and use of buildings—of the building regulations), and the place of disabled people themselves in influencing the development of accessible housing. These chapters provide a very engaging read (although be prepared for some shocking comments from builders!), drawing on interview material with key actors, comparative case studies, and images which highlight very visibly some of the difficulties of inaccessible design. Indeed, the only chapter which felt slightly out of step with the others in this section was chapter 4, regarding disabled people's experiences of domestic design. The chapter contains compelling accounts from disabled people regarding their experiences of inaccessible housing design, but the participants interviewed appeared to be living in a range of housing types, and not just new-build or private housing, which are the main focus of the book. Less was said about how the research participants came to be living in those particular homes, or whether they were able to live there independently; as part I of the book highlights, for many disabled people, even getting to a position where they are able (physically and financially) to live in private housing can be hugely challenging, and thus forms an important context to their experience—a subject which would have benefited from exploration.

Imrie concludes in part III by exploring the potential for promoting accessible housing, and makes the case for an expanded notion of home and housing quality which takes account of the diverse ways in which people inhabit, and ascribe meanings to, domestic space. This section focuses heavily on an assessment of the effectiveness of legislation in being able to achieve such ideals, although the conclusions on this are far from clear cut. Thus, Part M is shown to be an ineffectual piece of legislation insofar as it specifies minimum standards for access which are open to wide interpretation—but it is not clear that more legislation is the answer, particularly if it is based around technician standards which fail to promote flexibility in domestic design.

Overall, the significance of this book lies in its illumination of the complexity of social relations which shape the house building process, and its powerful critique of the role and effectiveness of regulation in creating accessible domestic environments for disabled people. The use of features such as comparative case studies neatly demonstrate how practice can vary at local and national levels, and the difference that local and national political relations make to the provision of accessible housing on the ground. Imrie debunks many of the myths that builders hold about accessible design, but also raises significant questions about legislation as a route for securing rights for disabled people. For this reason, *Accessible Housing* will be invaluable reading not only for academic audiences but also for policy makers and practitioners working in the area.

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Handbook of research on urban informatics: the practice and promise of the real-time city

by M Foth; IGI Global, Hershey, PA, 2008, 547 pages, \$265.00 cloth, ISBN 9781605661520

Cities already provide habitats for over half the population of the world and this is expected to increase to 70% by 2050 (United Nations, 2007). This growth coincides with the increasing use of information communication technologies (ICTs), such as mobile phones, wireless networks, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and web-based services in our personal and professional activities. Such technology is changing our daily lives, not only in the way we communicate and interact with each other or share information but also in how we view the city.

Urban informatics research has evolved to explore this change. It is concerned with the impact of technology, systems, and infrastructure on people in urban environments. It draws researchers together from a broad spectrum of academic communities. These exclude the social (media studies, cultural studies, etc), the urban (urban studies, urban planning, etc), and the technical (computer science, software design, human–computer interaction, etc) and all focus attention on the opportunities and problems of such ubiquitous computing.

Marcus Foth has brought twenty-nine chapters on recent research and development in the field of urban informatics from around the world. The book covers a plethora of topics including:

community engagement, digital cities, digital identities, locative media, mobile and wireless applications, participatory planning, personal privacy, surveillance, and sustainability.

The book is split into six parts. In the first part Foth introduces urban informatics and highlights their diverse application areas, including how people are adapting to such digital technologies and how they are impacting on urban dynamics. In part 2 he explores who is participating and how ICTs are being used. Questions addressed include why people join online communities, their use for community planning, how such technologies can trigger or sustain civic participation, and how ICTs can be used in public spaces for collective expression through large screen interactive projections.

In the third part Foth explores how one can engage urban communities through the use of ICTs and enable the communication of information and interaction between people in the city. For example, location-based media accessed through GPS-enabled devices. In part 4 he discusses how ICTs can impact on location, navigation, and space such as studying online social networks alongside their real-world counterparts. He also addresses how augmented maps can aid car navigation or how virtual cities can be used as a test bed for examining the design of urban public spaces through the use of agent-based modelling. In part 5 he discusses the development of wireless and mobile cultures and how such technologies impact on our daily lives and activities both at home and in the city, including the development of community wireless networks and how mobile phone use in urban cultures is reducing the need for prearranged plans.

In the final part he explores how ubiquitous and pervasive computing might develop and be used in the future, not only in relation to urban functions but also with respect to potential problems. For example, the increasing deployment of sensors and electronic devices within the transport network will allow for real-time access to route planning, enabling people to avoid congested areas. For the citizen of a city, the development of ICTs will encourage greater mobility or be used to coordinate social action such as protests (see Justo, 2004). ICTs could also be used as a tool for collective problem solving but such technology will also challenge existing social structures and potentially distance people from more traditional face-to-face contact.

In summary, in the book Foth pulls together a diverse literature of ICTs, and addresses how they are used throughout the world. The chapters range from critical reflections on who is using the technology and how, to more technical applications. The chapters are mostly well written and referenced. Each chapter has a key terms section which is extremely useful in understanding each chapter. My only criticisms of the book are, first, the quality of the images (they are all black and white) although some of the text refers to them in colour and, second, the high cost at \$265.00. Nevertheless, it does provide a useful resource for social and computer scientists.

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The Sage handbook of spatial analysis edited by A S Fotheringham, P A Rogerson; Sage, London, 2008, 528 pages, £90.00 cloth (US \$140.00) ISBN 9781412910828

This long awaited handbook is a treasure trove of concepts, techniques, and good practice aimed at postgraduate students and professional practitioners alike. Unlike many other multiauthored technical books it is not simply a themed collection of conference papers or articles; rather, it has been carefully designed to address many of the key topics in modern spatial analysis. These topics are bookended by more general introductory material (for example, on spatial data and on GIS) and concluding chapters that consider the challenges facing this field and future developments. In all instances a strong and persuasive case is made for increased awareness of the central role of spatial analysis in the modern digital world.

The core material in the handbook is covered in twenty chapters, each between fifteen and twenty pages (plus references) and each written by leading authors in their field. Of these, there are several that cover topics not dealt with in any depth in most current textbooks, such as: Robin Dubin's chapter on "Spatial weights"; Eric Delmelle's on "Spatial sampling"; Andrew Lawson and Sudipto Banerjee's discussion of "Bayesian spatial analysis"; Atsuyuki Okabe and Toshiaki Satoh's explanation of "Spatial analysis on a network"; Peter Rogerson's discussion of "Monitoring changes in spatial patterns"; and the excellent chapter on "Applied retail location models" by Morton O'Kelly, which is full of practical advice and comment. Other chapters cover more familiar territory, such as "Geostatistics" and "Cluster detection", but are presented here in a compact and readily approachable manner, with very clear use of graphical illustrations. Some of the chapters are quite short and therefore provide only a relatively brief and largely nontechnical overview of the topic (for example, the chapters on "Geocomputation" and "Spatial autocorrelation").

In a brief review it is difficult to do justice to the many separate contributions to this volume, so three chapters have been selected for more detailed commentary. The first of these is an excellent introductory chapter by Robert Haining on the "Special nature of spatial data". In this he discusses the fundamental properties of spatial data and highlights the impact of the chosen representation (data model) and measurement processes upon spatial and spatiotemporal datasets. This leads on to a discussion of the implications of these issues for analysis, in particular for model building, hypothesis testing, and inference. In these latter sections Haining assumes that the reader has a reasonably good grasp of statistical methods in general and spatial statistics in particular, but he does provide a lucid exposition of some of the key issues and of the procedures, such as CAR and SAR (conditional and simultaneous autoregressive) models, that have been developed to tackle some of these difficulties.

The second chapter I have selected is by Dimitris Ballas and Graham Clarke on "Spatial microsimulation". In this the authors discuss an area of spatial analysis that is more familiar to economists than geographers, that of "creating large-scale population microdata to enable the analysis of policy impacts at the micro-level". This approach is distinct from agent-based modelling (ABM) and similar microlevel dynamic modelling systems, in that it involves the simulated assignment of attributes such as employment status to synthetic individuals within aggregated small areas, typically using random sampling procedures. Essentially, the idea is to construct a synthetic population of individuals or households based on known attributes of the aggregate area (for example, number of households and the related census area statistics for the study area), optionally supported by the use of ancillary data such as microlevel surveys and/or remote sensing. By creating these synthetic individuals and populations in such a way that the totals match the aggregated data and other control information available, the implications of various policy changes (such as alternations to the tax and benefits systems) can be examined in detail—that is, at the level of the individual. This may be a static analysis, or a dynamic simulation examining developing employment patterns or issues relating to population ageing. The topics and approaches outlined will clearly be of great interest to those working in geodemographic analysis and in the more familiar areas of geosimulation such as ABM.

The final chapter I comment on is by Okabe and Satoh. This deals with "Spatial analysis on a network" and in it they describe a variety of issues and techniques applied to point datasets in urban areas. These include the use of functions like Ripley's K and Cross- K statistics applied in a network environment, the development of a range of network-based Voronoi 'regions', and comparison with their planar-based equivalents. Much of this material will be familiar to readers from published articles by Okabe and colleagues over the last few years, and through the use of their SANET software tool. However, an important extension to this family of techniques is also described, the application of kernel density estimation (KDE) methods to networks. The authors demonstrate that a uniform random distribution of points on a complex street network results in a nonuniform KDE because networks are not isotropic, resulting in peakiness (apparent clustering) in the computed KDE. The authors have developed network KDE functions that resolve this problem, which may then be applied to problems such as hot spot analysis of street crimes and vehicle accidents.

The handbook has a few weaknesses: its coverage necessarily is not exhaustive; there are relatively few application examples, so the focus is on theory and techniques in many chapters; and it is, unfortunately, available only as an expensive hardback volume, beyond the reach of most students. However, despite these issues *The Sage Handbook of Spatial Analysis* will be a much valued addition to many university and departmental libraries.

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The ethics of mobilities: rethinking place, exclusion, freedom and environment edited by S Bergmann, T Sager; Ashgate, Aldershot, Hants, 2008, 276 pages, £55.00 cloth, ISBN 9780754672838

In this edited collection Sigurd Bergmann and Tore Sager examine modern understandings of mobility, as part of a project to develop nuanced theoretical perspectives and practices about mobilities in society. With this book they aim to contribute to the social and environmental debate about the impacts on life of a “technically and economically accelerating mobility” (page 4), and reflect on the ways in which this speeding trend could be altered to obtain a better quality of life. Contributors consider the paradoxical nature of technology, as providing means to move people, goods, and capital, and as being vital in the “surveillance and control of mobility” (page 1). Issues of gender and spatiality in relation to mobility are looked at throughout the book. In seeking to develop the mobility discourse beyond the borders of academic disciplines in a world that is progressively globalising and “seems to be on the move” (Sheller and Urry, 2006, page 207), the volume provides a range of interconnected viewpoints on mobility from “social sciences, engineering and ... humanities” (page 8).

The book is divided into two parts. The first includes seven chapters that investigate diverse themes such as freedom and control of mobility in public spaces, social repercussions of mobility, and social exclusion. In chapter 1 Bergmann explores whether acceleration or deceleration will direct us to a better quality of life and fair existence without harming the environment. He asserts that acceleration has a negative influence on social relations and systems, which contract; at the same time acceleration expands space, and thus affects ecological balance. Bergmann highlights the significance of experiential aspects of human mobility and explores different notions of space in the development of theorisations of mobility. Although relevant to the book, this contribution reads, to some degree, as a repetition of the introduction. The book could have benefited from merging the first two chapters into one.

Following Bergmann’s discussion on space, this part of the book exhibits insightful ways of connecting spatial and social factors with mobility inequalities. For instance, Mimi Sheller, in chapter 2, problematises the relationships between mobility and freedom that are interfaced by public space. She challenges the contention that unrestricted mobility equates with freedom. By drawing on Orlando Patterson (1991), Sheller defines “personal, sovereign and civic freedoms of mobility” (page 27) and suggests that those employing sovereign freedom of mobility could mould public space with the purpose of increasing their own mobility and reducing other people’s mobility. As she asserts: “gender, race, ethnicity... nationality”, age, and religion are social factors influencing uneven mobility (pages 27–28).

In chapter 4 Margaret Grieco and Julian Hine utilise the concept of stranded mobility to demonstrate how spatial and social segregation, along with unequal access to mobility, are exposed in situations of disaster such as Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and the Pakistani earthquake, both in 2005. For instance, the authors suggest that race, income, and car ownership interplayed in a way whereby black people living in environmentally vulnerable areas, with lower incomes and without access to a private vehicle, had difficulties in being evacuated from New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. In chapter 7 Tim Cresswell also draws on the case of Hurricane Katrina to discuss the same variables. He highlights the relevance of power issues and politics in mobility inequalities, and calls for a ‘holistic’ conceptualisation of mobility. Although chapter 4 is fairly descriptive, both contributions are of value. However, the use of the same case study to illustrate equivalent arguments reads, to some extent, as duplication.

The second part of the book is composed of eight chapters about “spatial, environmental, gender, aesth/ethical and religious dimensions of our modes of moving” (page 4). This part shows novel ways of exploring links between mobility, space, and religion. For instance, in chapter 9 Peter Nynäs combines resources of “psychology of religion, emotional geography and therapy” (page 6) to focus on experiential aspects of mobility. Nynäs asserts that place is itinerant, and a fusion of “physical, mental, and social spaces” acting together in reminiscent ways that trigger “affective response and invite relationships” (page 173). Kerstin Söderblom, in chapter 10, uses the case of Frankfurt airport to explore “phenomenological perceptions of mobility” (page 179) and religion. She suggests that airports are paradoxical spaces that display an uneven distribution of control and freedom, and potentially can provide praying and reflection places to support “passengers, airport personnel and asylum seekers” (page 178).

The volume offers valuable insights about how mobility and its associated technologies create environmental inequalities as well as social injustices among diverse categories of people such as women and ethnic groups. However, the focus on social exclusion, freedom, and ethnics of mobility at the core of the book alerts us to the omission of the mobility experiences of other ‘oppressed groups’. For instance, the text could have been enhanced, in this respect, by including a chapter on the mobility of disabled people, to provide views on mobility inequalities and social exclusions related to the material obstacles of space and means of transport, and social attitudinal barriers, amongst others, faced by people with impairments. The absence of a chapter on mobility and disability confirms the neglect of disabled people’s experiences in the ‘mobilities paradigm’ (see Sheller and Urry, 2006).

The text brings together mobility perspectives from disciplines as diverse as “geography, transport engineering ... sociology”, “ethics, architecture, philosophy, and religious studies/theology” (pages 3–4). Although the broad spectrum of this text provides the reader with a flavour of the issues examined, it sacrifices depth for breadth of coverage. Despite this, the book is innovative in exploring views of disciplines that only recently have developed an interest in mobility, such as architecture and religious studies, and provides new insights of “spatial, ethical, and technical dimensions of mobility” (page 8). I would recommend this compilation to scholars and students from humanities, social sciences, and transport engineering interested in empirical and theoretical matters relating to mobility.

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