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## Introduction: Foundations

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This is a time of rapid development in environmental planning techniques. Planners and researchers in any one country have much to learn from work in others. Approaches to environmental research and planning are becoming increasingly scientific and interdisciplinary. No existing journal appears to provide an adequate forum for these trends. The publishers of this journal aim to reflect the scientific and inter-disciplinary trends, and to provide an international forum for the presentation of research outputs (Wilson, 1969: 1).

**T**he four journals that make up the *Environment and Planning* series began from this ambition. As the introduction to the first volume of this collection notes, the initial impetus came from the quantitative revolution in the spatial sciences. But that journal quickly extended its reach beyond that specific focus, and encompasses many themes that span the breath of human-environment interactions.

The single journal launched in 1969 became two in 1974, when the original was rechristened *Environment and Planning A*, and *Environment and Planning B* was launched with various subtitles reflecting its architectural heritage until *Planning and Design* was chosen in 1983. C and D, subtitled *Government and Planning* and *Society and Space*, were added in 1983. While each has a specific focus, between them they offer a breadth of engagement, both in terms of subject matter and approaches taken toward it. We like to think that the journals complement one another, rather than competing. In fact, they are edited quite independently, and while the readership of the four journals certainly overlaps, they each have a quite distinctive character.

The extraordinary success of the journals is marked by their growth in size. Series A began with 2 issues in 1969, but became four in 1970, then six, eight, and twelve issues per year by 1977. The twelve issues began as 1,425 pages and expanded to 3,048 in 2010. The other series expanded in a similar way, with the four series growing to 6,456 pages in total in 2010. This expansion has reflected the editorial stance of the journals: to respond to the growing demand for publication of high quality articles in the fields covered. It has been an essentially 'organic evolution' reflecting the growth in interest of the fields and the attractions of the journals as outlets.

## This Volume

The best way to show the overlapping and corresponding themes of inquiry is by illustration. For the rich individual histories and aspirations of the journals, the four individual introductions can be read, of which the introductions to *Environment and Planning A* and *B* especially discusses the foundation and development of the series. Here, instead, we spend some time on each of the four themes under which we have grouped 21 representative articles from across the four journals. Our criteria in selecting themes was that each needed to be sufficiently broad to include articles from at least three of the four journals.

## The City

The urban condition has always been a concern of the *Environment and Planning* series. Many of the articles on planning could have been placed under this theme. Here, we showcase four articles that demonstrate the breath of engagement with cities. The first is from *D: Society and Space*, and is one of Edward W. Soja's classic articles on Los Angeles. Using Borges's *The Aleph*, Soja discusses how LA is a place where fragments 'come together'. The second article, also from *D: Society and Space*, is by sociologists Thomas Osborne and Nikolas Rose, and looks at the how the city is a space of government, authority and 'the conduct of conduct'. Taking a number of examples from the Greeks to the nineteenth century, and a range of cities of today they show how "actually existing cities are complex multiplicities of interests, antagonisms, flows of capital, spatial constructions, moral topographies, forms of authority, and ethical stylisations".

The second pair of articles look at urban transition and transformation. The first of these comes from *C: Government and Policy*, with Sumila Gulyani and Ellen M. Bassett examining slum upgrading in sub-Saharan Africa. The authors suggest that infrastructure investments have improved the situation more than legal remedies. This was the most downloaded article in the journal in 2007, and was later revisited (Gulyani and Bassett, 2008). The impact of the article was argued as being due to its cross between academic debate and practitioner relevance, a hallmark of *Government and Policy*, with a continuing resonance through follow-up research through the World Bank, UN and other agencies. The second article is taken from *Environment and Planning A* where Laurence Ma explores the unprecedented urban transformation of China through the second half of the twentieth century, arguably the most consequential in recent history. Notwithstanding its global significance, Ma contends that the theorization of Chinese urbanism has persistently lagged behind the process itself. He makes the case for a concerted effort to account for the changing political economies of the Chinese city, which must be framed in comparative contexts.

Many of the pieces in the first volume of this collection, the “Urban Policies and Regimes” and “Local Economic Development Policy” sections in the third, and the Philo and Franklin chapters in the fourth continue these debates.

## Space and Social Theory

The journals have long been a home for the innovative use of social theory. Given their environment and geographical focus, this has often been in the field of socio-spatial theory. The five articles here give something of a sense of the range of engagements that have taken place with the series.

In the first, taken from *D: Society and Space*, Bob Jessop, Neil Brenner and Martin Jones offer a broad synthesis of work looking at socio-spatial relations. Suggesting that accounts which focus on simply territory, place, scale or network alone are inherently impoverished, they outline how these different registers of spatiality can be combined in analyses of processes under contemporary capitalism. The second, by the sociologist Manuel Castells, comes from the very first issue of *D: Society and Space*. Castells suggests the early 1980s was a ‘major structural crisis’. Yet this is not a piece of merely historical interest, but clarifies a number of issues concerning the relation between space, society and the uses of theory.

Julienne Hanson’s “Deconstructing Architects’ Houses”, from *B: Planning and Design* develops configurational analysis for examining the way space is used in four houses designed by well known modern architects. The analysis she works with is called space syntax which is one of the major methods for examining how buildings and their components relate to one another with respect to the accessibility of their parts and the visual integrity of their form. Her analysis is part of a much wider set of ideas that build a social logic of space which has become central to understand how design reflects society and it has particular meaning for the design of liveable environments that engender good community relations. Her message concerning the quality of the buildings explored is mixed. It has profound implications for the design of public housing which traditionally has tended to alienate their residents, notwithstanding that her analysis in this article is for what are regarded as outstanding architectures.

Jonathan Murdoch in an article from *Environment and Planning A* demonstrates how actor-network theory (ANT), can be brought to bear on economic issues. Murdoch outlines and criticizes two other accounts of economic change, namely, regulation theory and flexible specialization. He suggests that networks are the dominant organizational form of the contemporary era, even if networks are not new and related to other forms of organization. Finally in this section, Mimi Sheller and John Urry, in an article also from *Environment and Planning A* discuss the recent turn to ‘mobilities’ research, outlining

the potential and limitations of this emergent paradigm. Having critiqued the excessively 'static' nature of much social-science research, they call attention to a host of recent developments in the realm of mobilities. However, continuing theoretical and methodological innovation will be necessary if the mobilities turn is to realize its potential.

Several articles in the other volumes of this collection, especially in the fourth demonstrate the development of these ideas.

## **Planning Theory and Practice**

Given the title of the series, Planning has always been at the heart of the four journals' concerns but since *Environment and Planning A* was founded, its theory and practice have changed profoundly with its scope being stretched at both ends of the spectrum from instrumentalism to ideology. The articles in this section are appropriately from all four journals. In the first, from *D: Society and Space*, Robert Beauregard outlines the way US planning is caught "between modernity and postmodernity". He issues a call for planners to return to an emphasis on the materiality of the built environment and to try to "respond critically to postmodern capital restructuring and cultural transformation". Spatial planning has always grappled with different issues at different spatial scales. The distinctions between urban design, metropolitan planning and regional planning are a long standing areas of specialist planning activities but over the last thirty years the contrast between these different styles has focused more on the relationship between the strategic and the local, with the strategic relating more to longer term, larger scale, global issues than the local. Louis Albrecht's in his article from *B: Planning and Design* evaluates strategic planning arguing that the current complexities that societies need to tackle mean that local cannot be separated quite so clearly from strategic issues. He illustrates the need for stakeholders to be closely involved in both local and strategic, thus providing an added impetus for participation. In his thesis, he draws from business as well as government practice, making a strong case for a new style of planning that he believes is illustrative of what is happening at present in many parts of Europe.

A leading researcher in the field of collaborative planning theory, Patsy Healey, in an article from *Environment and Planning A* makes the case for a concerted focus on 'quality of place' in planning practice. Effective (local) governance systems, coupled with supportive 'local policy cultures' are, she argues, essential for progress in this area. Healey maintains that a fundamental shift in the philosophy and practice of urban planning is required, away from a traditional emphasis on 'building places', in favour of the cultivation of institutional and collaborative capacities in local communities, a process she terms 'place-making'. Victoria A. Beard, from *C: Government and Policy* looks at the

role of participation in community development in Indonesia, arguing that participation is strongly influenced by family and gender roles, and difficult to free from dominance by state and elite agendas. As a result, “participatory community development” methods are insufficient to meet the needs of the poor. The detailed empirical analysis is based on large-scale surveys (n=17,000) and logistic regression: an approach that has been sought to emphasize in *C: Government and Policy* as a means to ensure credible research that is influential in practitioner as well as academic fora.

The articles in the ‘Planning and Design Processes’ section of the second volume of this collection deal more explicitly with the processes of planning and the way planners theorize about the problems that they seek to resolve.

### Models, Modeling and Simulation

All the journals in the family have published articles on systematic models of spatial systems and as is argued in the introduction to the second volume, the term model entered the academic lexicon from the time *Environment and Planning A* was first published. In this sense, it not surprising in the early years at least, that articles on models and modeling provided significant contributions. The mantle of modelling, however, has more recently been taken up by *B: Planning and Design*, where the focus has been on formal methods of various kinds, some of them, models in the traditional sense but many of them dealing with optimization, allocation, design, and decision support. In fact here, we select two articles from *B* but these are not in the tradition of urban and regional models whose articles we take from *A* and *C*. Those from *B* deal with design and configuration much more at the building scale, illustrating that modeling is not only a process for better scientific understanding but also for design.

George Stiny and Lionel March (the first editor of *B*) define design as process in terms of the theory of machines. They argue that design can be articulated as an algorithm, a sequence of instructions that they call a design machine which is comprised of a receptor, an effector, a language of designs, and a theory. In their model, they argue that the receptor defines external processes using finite sequences of symbols, the effector produces an object with respect to the design, and together these define a design context. These are informed by design language that enables designs to be produced algorithmically, thus constituting a formal statement of the design problem that encapsulates the way invention takes place. They suggest that there are a plurality of design machines, and thus networks of such machines might be established to generate the kind of world that we see with respect to buildings, cities, and related artefacts.

A strong theme in *B: Planning and Design* has been in developing models of shapes based on the kind of linguistic theory that Stiny and March define

with respect to their design machines. But form has also been a central preoccupation of those concerned with examining relationships between the components that make up buildings, and more general districts and building complexes in towns. Peponis, Wineman, Rashid, Kim, and Bafna in their article on shape and spatial configuration inside buildings, define one of the fundamental conundrum in all spatial analysis at any scale. As we move through space, we experience changes that can be attributed to the way we perceive the visual and the material environment but in cataloguing these changes, we need to divide space into discrete units. When we examine, for example, geo-demographic patterns in cities, we need to be careful about choosing units of space in which to represent these patterns in a way that provides us with insights into the phenomena at work but not in a way that produces artificial patterns. This, to an extent, is what Openshaw many years ago referred to as the modifiable areal unit problem and it exists as much in buildings as it does at higher levels of spatial aggregation. In this article, the authors define partitions of buildings, arguing that convex partitioning is the best we might aim for and showing that there are many issues that need to be considered in producing the best partitions of buildings that record change in the most effective way. Their work has strong implications for space syntax, for the sorts of analysis that Hanson has pursued in tying spatial form to social structure and dynamics whose paper we noted earlier, and for the visual navigation through buildings which has been a central preoccupation of authors in *B* with respect to cognition and way finding in space.

Harris and Wilson's article from *Environment and Planning A* is widely regarded as one of the most significant contributions to the development of spatial interaction modeling. Focusing on the case of production-constrained models, as commonly found in studies of consumer behavior, they explore a range of mathematical solutions to the problem of determining equilibrium points, but they then go on to suggest that any resolution to these balancing problems – which effectively implies market clearing – can only be resolved in a dynamic context. It is here that they introduce the idea of extending static spatial interaction models into dynamics by embedding extending the supply (or attraction) side of the spatial interaction equation to deal with the dynamics of change. This lies at the heart of more recent work by Wilson on setting these types of model in a framework that builds on the Lotka-Volterra formulation of constrained logistic dynamics that simulate predator-prey relations. The significance of this cannot be underestimated.

In contrast to these traditional types of model, Ballas and Clarke develop much more disaggregate modeling methods based on micro-simulation in their article from *C: Government and Policy*. Here they develop models which are geared much more strongly to labor markets and demographic change which have strong policy implications for local impacts involving taxes, unemployment benefits, job seeker, and housing allowances. Microsimulation is

a widely used technique which constructs a synthetic population at a micro level – in terms of a sample of individuals which is structured from a wide variety of small area data sources – and then generates a dynamics of change in that population with respect to its key attributes. In essence, a synthetic distribution is produced which matches available data and then a sample is drawn from this at any level of required detail. Ballas and Clarke apply their model to Leeds at the level of wards and demonstrate how income, tax, and benefits impact on a changing population with respect to its access to the labor market. This is a much newer tradition than spatial interaction for it assumes that the level of detail needed to examine these kinds of welfare policy is much finer than used for location models and in this sense, the model might be considered to reflect the new wave of agent based models that now dominate applications to urban and regional systems. Several of the articles in the second volume of this collection also work in this area.

## New Economies

The impact of economic change on economies and the policy agendas of governments is one of the over-arching themes that influences many of the articles across all of the Environment and Planning series. The topics are very varied and those selected here can give only case studies of the broader thrust, which is confronting economic change and consequent global shifts in power and concepts. The new economic agendas reflect challenges to state-led approaches through marketization and the use of voluntary and not-for-profit sectors; but also challenges to free market views in the context of the state-led models of economic development in China and other New Industrializing Countries.

Roger Lee's article from *Environment and Planning A*, 'Moral money?', explores the phenomenon of local exchange trading systems (LETS), which were proliferating in the UK and elsewhere during the 1990s. While initially associated with socially excluded communities, these local experiments in alternative finance have a much wider salience, Lee contends, as the bases for distinctive registers of value formation, social relations, and indeed, ethics. He sees in LETS the potential for 'social multiplier' effects, challenging exclusion while pointing the way towards alternative economic geographies.

Anthony Townsend in his article from *B: Planning and Design* on the Internet and the rise of the new network cities over the last 30 years, suggests that far from the world polarizing in mega cities as has been the dominant recent sentiment about urbanization and globalization, the diffusion of network technologies has been much more even than is assumed. We are a long way from complete urban dissolution which was forecast at the beginning of the computer revolution but we are also not at the point where everything is going to collapse into the biggest cities. From a study of domain names in US cities,

Townsend presents a very balanced picture of the impact of network technologies and IT across the city-size spectrum. That there are what he calls information black holes (such as Detroit, Philadelphia, Cleveland, St. Louis) there is no doubt but the most wired cities are not the most global, they tend to be the next tier down in population size such as Washington DC and San Francisco. His article provides a nice contrast to more recent prognostications that anything of any value must be at the center of a world city.

Jun Zhang's article from *C: Government and Policy* confronts the issue of contested markets head-on. Can industrial development and innovation in China occur without strong intermediators between the market and state? Through an analysis of Beijing websites and venture-capital-backed Internet anchor firms Zhang, suggests that intermediators are essential both to negotiate the market's access, and to the reorientation of the state bureaucracies. Extending the analysis to initial public offerings of listed Internet forms in five of China's leading cities, Zhang demonstrates the dominance of Beijing, but also the growing internal regional challenges that mark one of the major policy issues within China. The tensions in the state-market evolution, and the extent of regional dominance versus more equal spread are inevitable and represent one of the key global challenges for the twenty-first century as global economic power shifts to the East.

Whilst Zhang's article includes the important role of universities and research institutions in his analysis of China, the next article by Helen Lawton Smith focuses explicitly on the role of universities and the challenges they have of adapting to global and wider economic demands in the UK. The role of universities and other research institutions for entrepreneurship and economic development have been one of the recurrent themes of articles in *C: Government and Policy*, and have featured in several theme issues, in many individual articles, as well as in the 'Political Economies' section of the fourth volume of this set. In the Lawton Smith article, a benchmark analysis is provided of universities as the focal point for the formulation and delivery of policies on innovation, cluster development, human capital formation, entrepreneurship, and governance. Lawton Smith finds that university support is not without difficulties, with perverse policy outcomes and difficulties of adaptation. In the case of the UK, the reliance on universities as the main means to stimulate innovation and economic development will produce varied outcomes and requires adaptation of state policies as well as the universities themselves.

## Finally

The journals are, naturally, the product of many hands. Editors, board members and (of course) the contributing authors are the most immediately recognizable, as their names appear in the journal itself. But as any editor will acknowledge, reviewers are an integral part of a journal's success, contributing to the work and shaping what appears, and what does not appear, in

the journal, and in what form. Yet, authors are reviewers and reviewers are authors, rather than distinct groups, something that seems to be frequently forgotten when another request to review appears in a busy academic's in-box. The reviewers for each journal each year are listed in an early issue of each succeeding year or in the last issue of the year in question, with fulsome thanks for their support.

In addition, journals depend on labors of copy-editors, design artists, printers and web designers, and, especially the administrators or journal managers that work with editors. Ros Whitehead's crucial role for *Environment and Planning A* was recognized in the introduction to the first volume of this collection, but she also worked with Nigel Thrift on *D: Society and Space* for many years and was administrative editor of *B: Planning and Design* from 1996 until 2003. The publishers also play a crucial role, and Pion's 2011 Association of American Geographers award was fitting tribute to their work. John Ashby was paid explicit tribute to in the introductions to the first and fourth volumes of this collection, but we would also like to publicly thank Jan Schubert and her colleagues at Pion. Ros and Jan have been involved with *Environment and Planning* since the earliest days. This was recognized by Jan receiving the Publication Award of the Association of American Geographers in 2011 on behalf of Pion and Ros being awarded the Ronald F. Abler Honors for Distinguished Service. Their and others largely unseen labors are essential in bringing these four journals, and the remarkable work within their pages, of which these five volumes showcase just a small sample, into the world.

## References

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