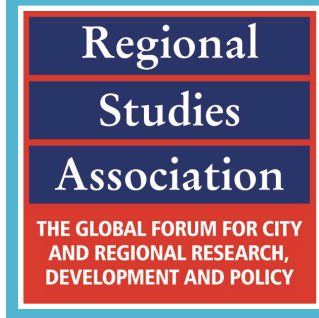



New Horizons for Cities and Regions in a Changing World



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Regional Studies Association
Sussex Innovation Centre
Falmer, Brighton BN1 9SB UK
Tel: +44 (0)1273 698 017
Email: office@regionalstudies.org
www.regionalstudies.org

New Horizons for Cities and Regions in a Changing World

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACTS	PAGE
INDUSTRY 4.0 AS AN ALTERNATIVE OF COMPETITIVENESS OF THE MAIN CLUSTERS OF WESTERN PARANA STATE, BRAZIL <i>Lucir Reinaldo Alves</i> <i>Isabela Romanha de Alcantara</i> <i>Alina Bianca Andreica</i>	1
IDEALISM AND RESISTANCE IN SPATIAL PLANNING: QUESTIONING THE NEW HORIZON OF PLANNING EDUCATION <i>Lauren Andres</i> <i>Phil Jones</i> <i>Lorena Melgaço</i> <i>Stuart Denoon-Stevens</i>	1
HOW CAN CITY LEADERS PROMOTE PUBLIC VALUE THROUGH SOFT METAGOVERNANCE? <i>Sarah Ayres</i>	2
BEYOND 'INDUSTRY 4.0'? IMPLICATIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL POLICY <i>David Bailey</i> <i>Lisa De Propriis</i>	2
PLANNED TOURISTIFICATION: WATERFRONT AREAS DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY OF GDANSK <i>Katarzyna Baranczuk</i> <i>Klaudia Nowicka</i>	3
SOCIAL ARCHITECTURE: COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE AS A TOOL TO PROMOTE LOCAL DEVELOPEMNT AND RESPONSIBILITY <i>Jussara Bauermann</i> <i>Jane Victal Ferreira</i>	3
ELITE CITY-DEALS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH? PROBLEMATISING THE COMPLEXITIES OF DEVOLUTION, CITY-REGION BUILDING, AND THE (RE)POSITIONING OF CIVIL SOCIETY <i>David Beel</i> <i>Martin Jones</i> <i>Ian Rees Jones</i>	4
BIG DATA, NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND ADVANCING URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES <i>Andrew Beer</i> <i>Laura Hodgson</i> <i>Allan OConnor</i> <i>Marianna Sigala</i>	4
POWER UP OR POWER DOWN? THE ROLE OF LEPS IN DELIVERING GOVERNANCE OF SUB-NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY IN THE UK IN A POST BREXIT WORLD <i>Gill Bentley</i> <i>John Shutt</i>	5
HOUSING STOCK MAINTENANCE AND BUILDING LAND DESIGNATION – RESULTS OF A QUANTATIVE AND QUALITATIVE SURVEYS OF GERMAN MUNICIPALITIES <i>Andrea Berndgen-Kaiser</i>	5

INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL INVESTMENTS IN POLAND: EMPOWERING LOCAL ACTORS IN THE EU COHESION POLICY <i>Sylwia Borksowska-Waszak</i>	6
FOSTERING THE GROWTH OF STUDENT START-UPS FROM UNIVERSITY ACCELERATORS: AN ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM PERSPECTIVE <i>Shiri Breznitz</i> <i>Qiantao Zhang</i>	6
WAGES OF FOREIGN AND NATIVE EMPLOYEES IN GERMANY: NEW LIGHT ON AN OLD ISSUE <i>Stephan Brunow</i> <i>Oskar Jost</i>	7
PLANNING FOR REGIONAL FUTURES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: SHIFTING SILOED APPROACH TO PLACE-BASED INTEGRATED PLANNING IN AFRICA <i>John Bryson</i> <i>Lauren Andres</i> <i>Hakeem Bakare</i>	7
CHALLENGES OF REGIONAL STRATEGIZING IN RUSSIA <i>Ksenia Budaeva</i>	7
CAN THE SPACE ECONOMY TRANSFORM EUROPE'S REGIONS <i>Leslie Budd</i> <i>Stefania Paladini</i>	8
SPATIAL DIFFERENCES OF ECONOMIC WELLBEING IN LITHUANIA. ARE PERIPHERAL REGIONS ALWAYS LOSERS? <i>Donatas Burneika</i> <i>Rūta Ubarevičienė</i>	9
ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION AND SPATIAL PLANNING IN PORTUGAL: A PUSH TOWARDS SOFT PLANNING SPACES IN EUROPE? <i>Cristina Cavaco</i> <i>João Pedro Costa</i>	9
CAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES IN RURAL AREAS MEET THE EXPECTATIONS OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS <i>David Charles</i>	10
THE ROLE OF STABILISATION FOR REGIONAL TRANSITIONS <i>Camilla Chlebna</i> <i>Jannika Mattes</i>	10
A PROCESS-CENTRIC APPROACH FOR SYSTEM-OF-SYSTEMS INTEGRATION IN SMART CITIES <i>Dimitra Chondrogianni</i> <i>Stylianos Karatzas</i> <i>Yorgos Stephanedes</i>	11
SUSTAINING A REGIONAL SCREEN ECOSYSTEM IN A SMALL NATION: AARHUS AND THE WEST DANISH REGION <i>Pei Sze Chow</i>	11

THE PUBLIC VALUE OF INTER-MUNICIPAL COLLABORATION AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT POLICY: AN INTEGRATIVE INSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVE <i>Linda Christie</i>	12
THE UNEVEN GOVERNANCE OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SCOTLAND <i>David Clelland</i> <i>Andrew Cumbers</i>	12
AMENITIES BASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: THE ROLE OF PUBLIC PARK SYSTEMS IN LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT <i>Terry Clower</i> <i>Mark White</i> <i>Spencer Shanholtz</i> <i>Kevin Roth</i>	13
ON THE FRONT-LINE: EXPLORING THE IMPLICATIONS OF BREXIT FOR CITIZENS IN IRELAND'S BORDER REGION <i>Micheal Collins</i> <i>Michelle Norris</i>	13
HUMAN CAPITAL DYNAMICS. UNIVERSITIES STUDENTS AND GRADUATES GEOGRAPHICAL MOBILITY IN ITALY <i>Sabrina Colombo</i> <i>Gabriele Ballarino</i> <i>Nazareno Panichella</i>	14
MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION AS SOUTH AFRICA'S REGIONAL CHALLENGES <i>Robert Compton</i>	14
CHALLENGES FOR REGIONAL POLICY IN THE AGE OF GLOBALISING TECHNOLOGIES: REFLECTIONS OF A POLICY MAKER <i>Dimitri Corpakis</i>	15
REGIONAL DESIGN: A TOOL TO ADDRESS THE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE EU-LED SOFT PLANNING AND THE STATUTORY SPATIAL PLANNING? THE LISBON METROPOLITAN AREA CASE <i>João Pedro Costa</i> <i>Cristina Cavaco</i>	15
EUROPEAN SPATIAL STRATEGIES AND CHINESE GEOPOLITICAL INITIATIVES. THE POTENTIAL SPATIAL IMPACTS OF CHINESE ECONOMIC INTERENTION IN THE BALKAN PENINSULA <i>Giancarlo Cotella</i> <i>Erblin Berisha</i>	16
THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF R&D: INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL DRIVERS OF LOCATION DECISIONS ACROSS THE GLOBE <i>Riccardo Crescenzi</i> <i>David Arnold</i> <i>Sergio Petralia</i>	16
THE ERA OF INTERNATIONAL R&D INVESTMENTS <i>Giacomo Damioli</i> <i>Daniel Vertesy</i> <i>Davide Castellani</i>	17

REGIONAL IMAGINARIES <i>Simin Davoudi</i>	17
EVALUATING THE EFFICACY OF POLICYMAKING FOR TONSLEY AS A HUB OF A HIGH-TECH REGIONAL INNOVATION SYSTEM IN ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA <i>Mark Dean</i> <i>John Spoehr</i>	18
THE FUTURE OF SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSES IN PERIPHERAL SUBURBAN AREAS – SCENARIO-PROCESS IN AN INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PROJECT <i>Clemens Deilmann</i> <i>Homes-uP Team</i>	18
USING URBAN FORESIGHT TECHNIQUES IN CITY VISIONING: LESSONS FROM THE READING 2050 VISION <i>Tim Dixon</i> <i>Jenni Montgomery</i> <i>Nigel Horton-Baker</i> <i>Lorraine Farrelly</i>	19
THE ROLE OF TASK BIASED TECHNICAL CHANGES ON LABOR INEQUALITY ACROSS REGIONS <i>Jinwoo Dong</i> <i>Youngduk Kim</i>	19
TOWARDS A REGIONAL CORRIDOR MODEL (RCM) <i>Ernst Drewes</i> <i>Andre Brand</i>	20
HYBRIDIZATION OF REGIONAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT – REFLECTIONS ON CHANGING PATTERNS OF CONTEMPORARY DEVELOPMENT <i>Adam Drobnik</i>	20
THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS IN EU’S LOW-INCOME REGIONS: EMPIRICAL EVIDENCES FROM ROMANIAN REGIONS <i>Mihail Eva</i> <i>Corneliu Latu</i> <i>Alexandra Cehan</i>	21
CLUSTER RENAISSANCE IN INDUSTRIAL REGIONS? THE CHANGING GEOGRAPHY OF ADVANCES MANUFACTURING IN BRITIAN <i>Emil Evenhuis</i> <i>Peter Sunley</i> <i>Richard Harris</i> <i>Ron Martin</i> <i>Andy Pike</i>	21
THE ROLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIS) IN PROVIDING KNOWLEDGE WORKERS FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMIES: A REVIEW <i>Sandra Ewohime</i> <i>Helen Lawton Smith</i> <i>James O’Sullivan</i> <i>Bill O’Gorman</i>	22

PLANNING FOR URBAN RESILIENCE THROUGH GOVERNANCE EXPERIMENTATION? A FRAMEWORK FOR ANALYZING URBAN RESILIENCE ACTIONS <i>Sebastian Fastenrath</i> <i>Lars Coenen</i>	22
SOCIETY, SPACE, AND INSTITUTIONS TO THE TEST OF THE GREAT CHANGES OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY: FUTURE RESEARCH CONCERNS, CHALLENGES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR CITIES AND REGIONS <i>Valeria Fedeli</i> <i>Camilla Perrone</i>	23
INNOVATIONS IN RURAL MUNICIPALITIES: DYNAMICS AND CHALLENGES OF CREATIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT <i>Tobias Federwisch</i>	24
IMPACTS OF A MULTINATIONAL COMPANY ON THE CITY DEVELOPMENT Dávid Fekete	24
HOW CHINA FITS IN GLOBALISATION: INSIGHT FROM THE GLOBAL VIOLIN INDUSTRY <i>Rong Feng</i> <i>Chaolin Gu</i>	25
HUMAN AND SOCIAL CAPITAL IN LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT <i>Carlos Ferreira</i> <i>Jennifer Ferreira</i> <i>Kevin Broughton</i> <i>Stewart MacNeill</i> <i>Kate Broadhurst</i>	25
ONE POLICY, DIFFERENCE EFFECTS: ESTIMATING THE REGION-SPECIFIC EFFECTS OF EU COHESION POLICY FUNDS <i>Ugo Fratesi</i> <i>Paolo di Caro</i>	26
SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES AND SPILL-OVERS INTO THE SURROUNDING AREAS <i>Susanne Frick</i>	27
THE ELECTORAL BIAS: DISTRIBUTIVE POLITICS AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN BRAZIL, MEXICO, CHILE AND COLOMBIA <i>Xabier Gainza</i> <i>Felipe Livert</i>	27
CONCEPTUALIZATION OF THE MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES AND POLICIES. THE EXAMPLE OF POLISH REGIONS Rafał Gajewski	28
OUTWARD FDI AND LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED STATES <i>Robert Ganau</i> <i>Riccardo Crescenzi</i>	28
THE LOCAL IMPACTS OF NEW COMMERCIAL PROPERTY <i>Ben Gardiner</i> <i>Mike May-Gillings</i> <i>Sandy Perkins</i>	29

COOPERATION AGAINST THE ODDS: DEVELOPING TRUST IN THE GREEK AGRI-FOOD AND TOURISM SECTORS <i>Kira Gartzou Katsouyanni</i>	29
LOCALISM IS AN ILLUSION (OF POWER): DIVERGENCE AND TENSIONS IN THE UK MULTI-SCALAR GOVERNANCE SYSTEM <i>Christian Gherhes</i> <i>Tim Vorley</i> <i>Chay Brooks</i>	30
FDI INFLOWS AND IMPACT IN EUROPEAN REGIONS: WHAT ROLE FOR INVESTMENT PROMOTION AGENCIES? <i>Mara Giua</i> <i>Riccardo Crescenzi</i> <i>Marco di Cataldo</i>	30
SPATIAL EFFECTS OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION. AN ANALYSIS ON THE EXAMPLE OF AN AUTOMATIVE R&D NETWORK <i>Jonas Glaesser</i> <i>Michael Bentlage</i> <i>Alain Thierstein</i>	31
TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE, NEGOTIATED MODE OF STRATEGIC REGIONAL PLANNING: A POLITICAL ECONOMY PERSPECTIVE <i>Ian Gordon</i> <i>Tony Champion</i>	31
THE DEPTHS OF THE CUTS: THE UNEVEN GEOGRAPHY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUSTERITY <i>Mia Gray</i> <i>Anna Barford</i>	32
REGIONAL POLICY MOBILITIES: SHAPING AND RESHAPING BIOECONOMIES IN VÄRMLAND AND VÄSTERBOTTEN <i>Ida Grundel</i> <i>Ida Andersson</i>	32
STRESS-TESTING LOCAL FOOD NETWORKS AS AN INSTRUMENT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT – THE CASE OF DENMARK <i>Henrik Halkier</i> <i>Laura James</i>	32
SUBURBAN WORLD: COMPARING THE GOVERNANCE OF GLOBALIZING REGIONS FROM THE OUTSIDE IN <i>Pierre Hamel</i> <i>Roger Keil</i>	33
THE UNEVEN GEOGRAPHY OF FORECLOSURE AND HOUSING MARKET RECOVERY IN THE CLEVELAND SUBURBS <i>Bernadette Hanlon</i>	33
SUB NATIONAL ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE IN ENGLAND THROUGH THE LENS OF ELITE THEORY. TOWARDS A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK AND RESEARCH AGENDA <i>Paul Hayes</i> <i>David Devins</i>	34

EVOLUTIONARY DYNAMICS OF LOCAL ECONOMIC STRUCTURES AFTER THE SECOND INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. INDUSTRY PATHS IN SWEDISH CITIES 1900-1965 <i>Martin Henning</i>	34
POLAND’S LOCAL INVESTMENT IN HUMAN CAPITAL WITHIN THE COHESION POLICY. CONFRONTING THE GOALS WITH THE OUTCOME <i>Mikolaj Herbst</i> <i>Jakub Rok</i>	35
DECENTRALISATION OF GROWTH POLICY TO THE LOCAL SCALE. EMPIRICAL STUDY OF CITIES AND TOWNS IN SWEDEN ABOUT THEIR STRATEGIC PLANNING INITIATIVES AND COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE <i>Brita Hermelin</i> <i>Kristina Trygg</i>	35
INNOVATION IN SPAIN: FEWER INNOVATING FIRMS AND MORE GEOGRAPHICALLY CONCENTRATED <i>Adelheid Holl</i>	35
IDENTIFYING AND MEASURING AGGLOMERATION EFFECTS <i>Gerald Holtham</i> <i>Robert Huggins</i> <i>Anwar Hossein</i>	36
PLACES SPECIALIZED AND SPATIALIZED <i>Andrea Hübner</i>	36
“I KNEW SOMETHING ABOUT THE CITY”: DESIGNERS’ MIGRATION INTO BRISTOL 1975-1985 <i>Ellen Hughes</i>	36
EVALUATING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AS PART OF SOUTH AFRICAN SPATIAL PLANNING EDUCATION <i>Gezina Dorothea Huston</i> <i>Elizelle Juaneé Cilliers</i> <i>Okert Rudolf Pretorius</i>	37
SHARED AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVE RURAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT <i>Sebastian Imhof</i> <i>Roger Sonderegger</i> <i>Widar von Arx</i> <i>Jonas Frölicher</i>	37
FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE STUDIES OF UNIVERSITY SPIN-OFF COMPANIES (USOS) IN THE WEST MIDLANDS <i>Peter Jelfs</i> <i>Helen Lawton Smith</i>	38
STRATEGIC APPROACHES TO VACANT HOUSES IN DENMARK <i>Jesper Ole Jensen</i>	39
“ACTION, NOT WORDS”: HELSINKI’S CITY BRAND AS A TOOL OF URBAN TRANSFORMATION <i>Salla Jokela</i>	39

EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF MOBILITY OF HIGH-EDUCATED WORKERS <i>Jaehyunn Jung</i> <i>Jinwoo Dong</i> <i>Giseung Kim</i>	39
APPLYING GROUNDED THEORY CONCEPT IN ANALYSIS OF UNIVERISTY – FIRM LINKAGES Feketene Czako Katalin	40
DISRUPTIVE INNOVATION AND INEQUALITY: A LONG-RUN VIEW <i>Thomas Kemeny</i> <i>Sergio Petralia</i> <i>Michael Storper</i>	40
CORRIDOR POLITICS, REGIONAL IMAGINARIES: NEW SCALE OF ECONOMIC PLANNING IN THE TORONTO-WATERLOO INNOVATION CORRIDOR <i>Patrick Kilfoil</i> <i>David Wachsmuth</i>	41
GRADUATE START-UPS IN THE REGIONAL CONTEXTS-POLICY FAD OR A HIDDEN DRIVER? <i>Fumi Kitagawa</i> <i>Chiara Marzocchi</i> <i>Mabel Sanchez-Barrioluengo</i> <i>Elvira Uyarra</i>	41
THE DIFFERENTIATION IN ECONOMIC POLICY ON SUBNATIONAL LEVEL IN RUSSIA <i>Vladimir Klimanov</i>	42
SPATIAL ANALYSIS OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES: UNCOVERING THE DUTCH DENSIFICATION POTENTIAL <i>Eric Koomen</i> <i>Jip Claassens</i>	42
MAP OF DYNAMICS OF CHANGES OF CITIES AND NEIGHBOURING COMMUNES <i>Cezary Kowalczyk</i> <i>Krystyna Kurek</i>	43
FIRM-LEVEL CLUSTERING IN GERMANY – EVIDENCE FROM A DISTANCE-BASED INDEX <i>Astrid Krenz</i>	43
DISSECTING THE URBAN(IZED) BINOCULARS. FROM DECONSTRUCTING TO RECONSTRUCTING AND REALIZING URBAN FUTURES <i>Arnoud Lagendijk</i> <i>Robbert van Driessche</i> <i>Peter Ache</i>	43
REGIONALISM AND INSTITUTIONAL COMPETITIVENESS <i>Peter Wilgaard Larsen</i>	44
THE PSYCHOLOGICAL COST OF LOCAL ECONOMIC DECLINE: EVIDENCE FROM NHS ANTIDEPRESSANT PRESCRIPTIONS <i>Neil Lee</i>	44
ENVISIONING REGIONAL FUTURES: AN INTERACTIVE GOVERNANCE PERSPECTIVE FOR REGIONAL SPATIAL PLANNING <i>Valeria Lingua</i>	45

RECONCILING CORRIDOR REGIONS AND CONCENTRIC GREEN BELT POLICY <i>Alan Mace</i> <i>Alessandra Mossa</i>	46
MAKING SENSE OF THE NORTHERN POWERHOUSE <i>Danny MacKinnon</i>	46
CHINESE UNIVERSITIES AND THEIR ROLES IN THE ICT SECTOR-SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT IN INNOVATIVE CITIES <i>Tariq Malik</i>	47
DEVELOPING NEW VOCABULARY FOR COLLECTIVE PLACE-MAKING IN CHANGING WORLDS <i>Anu Manickam</i>	48
TECHNIQUES OF ANALYSIS APPLIED TO LOCAL LABOR MARKETS <i>Angel Manzanares Gutierrez</i> <i>Prudencio José Riquelme Perea</i>	49
IS A COLLABORATIVE STRATEGY AMONG MUNICIPLATIES IN JAPAN TRULY STRATEGIC?: A CASE STUDY OF COLLABORATIVE CORE CITY-REGION (CCCR) <i>Aoki Masakazu</i>	49
EUROPE'S INNOVATION VOUCHER SCHEMES: WHAT MAKES THEM SUCCESSFUL AND FOR WHOM? <i>Christopher McInnes</i> <i>Elżbieta Książek</i> <i>Esteban Pelayo</i> <i>Nathalie Boulanger</i>	50
COHESION POLICY EFFECTS ON INVESTMENT AT THE EXTENSIVE AND THE INTENSIVE MARGIN <i>Vassilis Monastiriotis</i> <i>Riccardo Crescenzi</i> <i>Ugo Fratesi</i>	50
AGGLOMERATION EXTERNALITIES AND OFFER OF ON-THE-JOB TRAINING: EVIDENCE FROM FRANCE <i>Yoann Morin</i> <i>Lionel Védrine</i>	51
ENABLERS OF STRUCTURAL CHANGE: THE ROLE OF THE ENTREPRENEURIAL REGION DURING TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSITION <i>Arnault Morisson</i> <i>Eva Panetti</i>	51
A NEW VISION FOR REGIONAL INVESTMENT POLICY IN RUSSIA: PPP (P3S) PERFORMANCE MANUFACTURING <i>Natalia Moskvitina</i>	51
REVITALISING UKRAINIAN CITIES THROUGH MOBILISING COMMUNITIES <i>Olga Mrinska</i>	52

STRESS-TESTING STATE RESCALING AS A THEORY FOR UNDERSTANDING URBAN AND REGIONAL CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT	53
<i>Vlad Mykhnenko</i> <i>Manuel Wolff</i>	
STUDENTS' MOBILITIES AND SPATIAL CAPITAL: A (MISSING) LINK BETWEEN REGIONAL AIRPORT AND LOCAL UNIVERSITIES (THE CASE OF NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND UK)	53
<i>Alena Myshko</i>	
SOCIAL INCLUSION FROM MIGRANTS AND INCOME INEQUALITY: AN EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS ON EUROPEAN COUNTRIES	53
<i>Amjad Naveed</i> <i>Cong Wang</i>	
THE NEW NORMATIVE: PLANNING CARBON NEUTRAL REGIONAL FUTURES	54
<i>Aleksi Neuvonen</i> <i>Raine Mäntysalo</i> <i>Joe Ravetz</i>	
TERRITORIAL INTERNATIONALIZATION POLICY, AN ARTICULATED INITIATIVE FOR TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT	55
<i>Jose Nino Amezquita</i>	
SOCIAL INNOVATIONS BY ELDERLY PEOPLE – NEW PERSPECTIVES FOR RURAL REGIONS?	55
<i>Anika Noack</i> <i>Tobias Federwisch</i>	
UK SUB-NATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON BREXIT: CHALLENGES, PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES	56
<i>Raquel Ortega Argiles</i> <i>Chloe Billing</i> <i>Philip McCann</i> <i>Deniz Sevinc</i>	
UNDERSTANDING HETEROGENEOUS SPATIAL EXTERNALITIES AS A MISSING LINK BETWEEN LAND-USE PLANNING AND URBAN ECONOMIC FUTURES	56
<i>Haozhi Pan</i> <i>Tianren Yang</i> <i>Sandy Dall'Erba</i> <i>Ying Jin</i>	
CLIMATE AND ENERGY GOVERNANCE PERSPECTIVES FROM A MUNICIPAL POINT OF VIEW IN HUNGARY	57
<i>Csaba Patkós</i> <i>Enikő Kovács</i>	
COMPARATIVE CASE STUDIES AND THE TRANSPORTABILITY OF POLICY OUTCOMES ACROSS THE SPACE	58
<i>Marco Percoco</i>	
FINANCIALISING CITY STATECRAFT	58
<i>Andy Pike</i> <i>Peter O'Brien</i> <i>Graham Thrower</i> <i>John Tomaney</i>	

COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES OF RUSSIA'S REGIONS IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT: NURTURING NEWLY CREATED ADVANTAGES OR EXPLOITING THE OLD ONES? <i>Igor Pilipenko</i>	58
EVALUATING SPATIAL EXCLUSION IN LITHUANIA: WHERE, WHY AND HOW DEEP IS IT? <i>Gintare Pcoiute-Sereikiene</i> <i>Viktorija Baranauskienė</i>	59
ENERGY TRANSITIIONS AND THE CREATION OF NEW INDUSTRIES IN LAGGING REGIONS <i>Robert Pollack</i>	59
THE DETERMINANTS OF POPULATION GROWTH IN EUROPEAN REGIONS <i>Nicola Pontarollo</i> <i>Marcos Alvarez-Diaz</i> <i>Laura De Dominicis</i> <i>Beatrice D'Hombres</i> <i>Claudia Ghisetti</i>	60
FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES, SOCIAL POWER AND OFFSHORE FINANCE <i>Jessie Poon</i> <i>Kuosiong Tan</i> <i>Trina Hamilton</i>	60
MACRO-REGIONAL AND MEGA-REGIONAL COOPERATION: NEW FORMS OF SOFT PLANNING AND SPATIAL GOVERNANCE IN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES <i>Eva Purkarthofer</i> <i>Franziska Sielker</i> <i>Dominic Stead</i>	61
THEORIZING THE PRACTICE OF REGIONAL GOVERNANCE <i>Marco Pütz</i>	61
REFINING SMART SPECIALISATION STRATEGIES IN LESS DEVELOPED REGIONS: LESSONS FROM HISTORY <i>Korneliusz Pylak</i>	62
ATTITUDE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PROMINENCE AND INHABITANTS CONCERNING RENEWABLE ENERGY ISSUES IN NORTHEAST HUNGARY <i>Zsolt Radics</i> <i>Csaba Patkós</i> <i>Tamás Tóth</i> <i>György Szabó</i> <i>István Fazekas</i>	63
THE INFLUENCE OF COLLABORATION EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ON THE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN THE CASE OF EMERGENCY SITUATIONS <i>Bianca Radu</i>	63
CONVERGENCE IN COST EFFICIENCY OF DAIRY FARMS IN THE UK <i>Annum Rafique</i> <i>Max Munday</i> <i>Kent Matthews</i>	64

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CENTRAL IN THE PERIPHERY AND PERIPHERY IN THE CENTRE? THE CASES OF THE UNIVERSITIES OF EVORA, CAMPINAS AND BRASILIA <i>Maria da Conceição Rego</i> <i>Ana Paula Bastos</i> <i>Mauricio Serra</i>	64
SMART SPECIALIZATION INNOVATION STRATEGIES IN CATCH-UP REGIONS: FITTING INSTITUTIONS FOR POLICY IMPLICATIONS <i>Alessandro Rosiello</i> <i>George Papamichail</i> <i>David Wield</i>	64
SMART SPECIALIZATION: AN INCLUSIVE TOOL FOR INTEGRATING MINORITIES IN MIXED REGIONS INTO THE HI-TECH SECTOR? <i>Alessandro Rosiello</i> <i>Mor Shilon</i> <i>Dan Kauffman</i> <i>Dafna Schwartz</i>	65
THE ROLE OF PROXIMITY IN THE UNIVERSITY-DRIVEN SOCIAL NETWORKS. THE CASE OF THE US AND EU BIOTECHNOLOGY CLUSTERS <i>Malgorzata Runiewicz-Wardyn</i>	66
OPENNESS VALUES AND REGIONAL INNOVATION <i>Roel Rutten</i>	
FROM DECENTRALISATION TO DIVERGENCE? A REVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC STRATEGIES OF SIX ENGLISH CITY REGIONS <i>Carina Schneider</i> <i>Clémentine Cottineau</i>	67
REGIONAL DISPARITIES IN THE HUNGARIAN URBAN ENERGY CONSUMPTION <i>Tekla Sebestyén Szép</i> <i>Zoltán Nagy</i> <i>Géza Tóth</i>	67
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGIES IN GREATER MANCHESTER AND PRESTON <i>Marianne Sensier</i> <i>Fiona Devine</i>	
TERRITORIALITY AND SPATIALITY – TWO PARAMOUNT CONCEPTS IN FURTHERING EUROPEAN INTEGRATION THEORY <i>Franziska Sielker</i> <i>Estelle Evrard</i>	68
THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN SHAPING REGIONAL GOVERNANCE: RECONSIDERING THE MEASUREMENT OF LOCAL AUTONOMY <i>Thomas Skuzinski</i> <i>Shahidur Talukdar</i>	69
THE DIVERSE ECONOMIES OF HOUSING: PATTERNS OF INEQUALITY IN ROMANIAN SUBURBIA <i>Adriana Mihaela Soaita</i> <i>Caroline Dewilde</i>	70

REGIONAL STUDIES AND THE FLOWS OF FINANCE: BUILDING A 'FINANCIAL CHAINS' PERSPECTIVE <i>Martin Sokol</i>	70
A THIRD AFRIKANER MIGRATION: PLANS FOR SURVIVAL OF A PEOPLE <i>Das Steyn</i>	71
REGIONAL AND SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: WHY ARE WE NOT TALKING ABOUT THE SAME THING? <i>Marijana Sumpor</i> <i>Irena Dokic</i> <i>Ivana Rasic Bakaric</i>	71
LEGITIMISING IDENTITY DISCOURSES AND METROPOLITAN NETWORKS: BETWEEN URBAN COMPETITIVENESS AND TERRITORIAL PROTECTION <i>Kees Terlouw</i>	72
JEWELLERY RETAIL GEOGRAPHIES: SETTING THE AGENDA <i>Lotte Thomsen</i>	72
ENGLAND'S MAIN (SUB-)REGIONAL PLANNING: THE PATCHY INHERITANCE OF LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGIES <i>Alan Townsend</i> <i>Lee Pugalis</i> <i>Nick Gray</i> <i>Ania Ankowska</i>	72
LILLIES OF BRISTOL: WELFARE COSTS FOR BEING A GREAT WOMAN <i>Annie Tubadji</i>	73
ITALIAN FIRMS' TRADE PATTERNS: A FIRST LOOK AT INTERNATIONAL AND INTERREGIONAL TRADE DECISIONS <i>Stefano Usai</i>	73
HEIS AND THE ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS: LEARNING ORGANISATIONS IN LEARNING REGIONS? <i>Paul Vallance</i> <i>Louise Kempton</i>	74
THE ROLE OF INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS ON REGIONAL RESILIENCE IN THE PERIPHERAL REGION <i>Mariske van Aswegen</i> <i>Francois Retief</i>	74
DOES COHESION POLICY AFFECT TERRITORIAL INEQUALITIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT <i>Lionel Vedrine</i> <i>Julie le Gallo</i>	75
UNIVERSITIES, TECHNOLOGY HUB AND NODAL POINT OF METROPOLITAN FLOWS IN CAMPINAS, SP, BRAZIL <i>Jane Victal Ferreira</i> <i>Denio Munia Benfatti</i>	75
INTER-REGIONAL REDISTRIBUTION AND FISCAL POLICY IN ITALY <i>Giovanni Vittorino</i>	76

ECONOMIC COMPLEXITY, VALUE CHAIN NETWORK AND QUEBEC'S GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS	76
<i>Yihan Wang</i> <i>Ekaterina Turkina</i>	
DOES PRODUCTIVITY VARY WITH ACCESSIBILITY? A FIRM-LEVEL ANALYSIS	77
<i>Don Webber</i>	
EVIDENCING THE BENEFITS OF CLUSTER PROGRAMMES – TOWARDS A FRAMEWORK OF EFFECTS	77
<i>Emily Wise</i> <i>James Wilson</i> <i>Madeline Smith</i>	
BUSINESS-FRIENDLY ECOSYSTEM AS AN ELEMENT OF ECONOMICALLY RESILIENT CITIES	77
<i>Takashi Yamamoto</i>	
BRANDS AND BRANDING: AN ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT OF SPIRIT INDUSTRY CLUSTERS IN CHINA	78
<i>Hui Yang</i> <i>David Gibbs</i> <i>Andy Jonas</i>	
TO RISE OR TO DECLINE: THE IMPACT OF CHINA'S URBANIZATION ON AGRICULTURAL LAND USE EFFICIENCY	78
<i>Qianyu Zhao</i> <i>Helen X H. Bao</i> <i>Zhang Zhanlu</i>	
HARD WORK WITH SOFT SPACES: PROBLEMATIZING THE TRANSFORMING PLANNING SPACES	79
<i>Kaj Zommerbauer</i> <i>Anssi Paasi</i>	

implications of this threat are the impact on key related sectors (especially aerospace and automotive) whose place distribution is a crucial element of regional and innovation policy in the EU.

This paper explores these twin discourses to exemplify how the European space economy can contribute to transforming Europe's regions, in order to address the challenges that they create.

SPATIAL DIFFERENCES OF ECONOMIC WELLBEING IN LITHUANIA. ARE PERIPHERAL REGIONS ALWAYS LOSERS?

Donatas Burneika, Lithuanian Social Research Centre, Lithuania

Rūta Ubarevičienė, Lithuanian Social Research Centre, Lithuania

Since the collapse of Soviet Union, Lithuania experienced fast shrinkage of jobs mainly in industry and agriculture and this shrinkage was especially evident in peripheral places. Fast decrease of employment later resulted in mass emigration, what widely is perceived as extremely negative phenomenon, - cause rather than consequence of economic problems. The rapid downfall of jobs and high unemployment are over for a past few years but regions are still qualified as problem ones. The analysis of economic trends in labour market and earnings shows that slower development or growing spatial inequalities is not common for all non-capital regions and objective wellbeing is not substantially worse for the most population groups residing in such places. The levels of social segregation are also lower here and are not increasing as fast as in metropolitan cities. On the other hand, peripherization processes overtake country and processes of redistribution of population are making certain impact on spatial social structure of population as migrations are selective.

Multinodal urban structure of the country did not help to ensure even economic development in post-soviet era but existence of a few metropolitan centres in NUTS 2 region size country at present ensures differentiation of migration flows inside it. Notwithstanding the growing dominance of the capital city Vilnius, the country withholds multi nodal development. This research was funded by a grant (No. GER-005/2017) from the Research Council of Lithuania. Keywords: Uneven development, migrations, Lithuania, residential differentiation.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION AND SPATIAL PLANNING IN PORTUGAL: A PUSH TOWARDS SOFT PLANNING SPACES IN EUROPE?

Cristina Cavaco, CIAUD, Faculty of Architecture, University of Lisbon, Portugal

João Pedro Costa, University of Lisbon, Faculty of Architecture, CIAUD, Portugal

In the last decade, soft spaces and soft planning have emerged as new spatial planning and governance concepts, calling for a fresh approach to planning. The European Union has been partly responsible, not only by acting as a driver of soft planning, but also by encouraging the convergence and harmonisation of planning styles into a common European planning culture.

However, soft planning does not replace statutory frameworks. Planning deals with both hard (mandatory and regulatory) and soft (non-statutory and non-binding) spaces, although this coexistence is not free of contention. Deviances and mismatches give rise to a number of ambiguities, inconsistencies and contradictions.

The paper examines the meeting ground between hard and soft planning, i.e., how EU-led, soft-planning policy initiatives are accommodated and managed within statutory national planning systems. The Portuguese administrative organization and spatial planning system provide the background for the analysis, while the paper focuses on soft planning initiatives endorsed by EU Cohesion Policy, namely in the last EU programming cycle of 2014-2020.

Index

A

Ache	44
Alvarez-Diaz	61
Alves	1
Andersson	32
Andreica	1
Andres	1, 7
Ankowska	73
Arnold	16
Ayres	2

B

Bailey	2
Bakare	7
Bakaric	72
Ballarino	14
Bao	79
Baranauskienė	60
Baranczuk	3
Baranzelli	38
Barford	32
Bastos	65
Batista e Silva	38
Bauermann	3
Beel	4
Beer	4
Benfatti	76
Bentlage	31
Bentley	5
Berisha	16
Berndgen-Kaiser	5
Billing	57
Borkowska-Waszak	6
Boulangier	50
Brand	20
Breznitz	6
Broadhurst	25
Brooks	30
Broughton	25
Brunow	7
Bryson	7
Budaeva	7
Budd	8
Burneika	9

C

Castellani	17
Cavaco	9, 15
Cehan	21

Champion	31
Charles	10
Chlebna	10
Chondrogianni	11
Chow	11
Christie	12
Cilliers	37
Claassens	43
Clelland	12
Clower	13
Coenen	23
Collins	13
Colombo	14
Compton	14
Corpakis	15
Costa	9, 15
Cotella	16
Cottineau	68
Crescenzi	16, 28, 30, 50
Cumbers	12

D

D’Hombres	61
da Conceição Rego	65
Dall’Erba	57
Damioli	17
Davoudi	17
De Dominicis	61
De Propriis	2
Dean	18
Deilmann	18
Denoon-Stevens	1
Devine	69
Devins	34
Dewilde	71
Di Caro	26
Di Cataldo	30
Dixon	19
Dokic	72
Dong	19, 40
Drewes	20
Drobniak	20

E

Eva	21
Evenhuis	21
Evrard	69
Ewohime	22

F

Farrelly	19
Fastenrath.....	22
Fazekas	64
Fedeli	23
Federwisch.....	24, 56
Fekete	24
Feng	25
Ferreira	25
Fratesi	26, 50
Frick	27
Frölicher.....	37

G

Gainza	27
Gajewski.....	28
Ganau	28
Gardiner.....	29
Gartzou Katsouyanni	29
Gherhes	30
Ghissetti	61
Gibbs.....	79
Giua.....	30
Glaesser	31
Gordon.....	31
Gray	32, 73
Grundel.....	32
Gu	25

H

Halkier.....	32
Hamel.....	33
Hamilton	61
Hanlon	33
Harris	21
Hayes	34
Henning	34
Herbst	35
Hermelin	35
Hodgson.....	4
Holl.....	35
Holtham	36
Homes-uP Team	18
Horton-Baker	19
Hossein	36
Hübner	36
Huggins	36
Hughes	36
Huston	37

I

Imhof	37
-------------	----

J

Jacobs Crisioni.....	38
James	32
Jelfs	38
Jensen	40
Jin57	
Jokela	40
Jonas	79
Jones	1, 4
Jost	7
Jung.....	40

K

Karatzas.....	11
Katalin	41
Kauffman.....	66
Keil	33
Kemeny	41
Kempton	75
Kilfoil	42
Kim	19, 40
Kitagawa.....	42
Klimanov	43
Kompil	38
Koomen.....	43
Kovács	58
Kowalczyk.....	44
Krenz	44
Książek.....	50
Kurek.....	44

L

Lagendijk	44
Larsen.....	45
Latu	21
Lavalle	38
Lawton Smith	22, 38
Le Gallo	76
Lee.....	45
Lingua.....	46
Livert	27

M

Mace	47
MacKinnon	47
MacNeill	25
Malik	48
Manickam	49
Mäntysalo	55
Manzanares Gutierrez.....	49
Martin	21
Marzocchi.....	42

Masakazu.....	49
Mattes	10
Matthews.....	65
May-Gillings	29
McCann.....	57
McInnes	50
Melgaço	1
Monastiriotis.....	50
Montgomery	19
Morin	52
Morisson	52
Moskvitina	52
Mossa	47
Mrinska	53
Munday.....	65
Mykhnenko	54
Myshko	54

N

Nagy.....	68
Naveed.....	54
Neuvonen	55
Nino Amezquita	56
Noack.....	56
Norris	13
Nowicka	3

O

O’Gorman	22
O’Sullivan.....	22
O’Brien	59
OConnor	4
Ortega Argiles	57

P

Paasi.....	80
Paladini	8
Pan.....	57
Panetti	52
Panichella.....	14
Papamichail	65
Patkós	64
Patkós,	58
Pelayo	50
Percoco	59
Perkins	29
Perrone	23
Petralia.....	16, 41
Pike	21, 59
Pilipenko	59
Pociute-Sereikiene.....	60
Pollock	60
Pontarollo	61

Poon.....	61
Pretorius.....	37
Pugalis	73
Purkharthofer.....	62
Pütz	62
Pylak.....	63

R

Radics	64
Radu	64
Rafique	65
Ravetz.....	55
Retief.....	75
Riquelme Perea	49
Rok	35
Romanha de Alcantara.....	1
Rosiello.....	65, 66
Roth.....	13
Runiewicz-Wardyn	67
Rutten	67

S

Sanchez-Barrioluengo	42
Schneider	68
Schwartz.....	66
Sensier.....	69
Serra.....	65
Sevinc.....	57
Shanholtz	13
Shilon	66
Shutt.....	5
Sielker.....	62, 69
Sigala	4
Skuzinski.....	70
Smith	78
Soaita	71
Sokol.....	71
Sonderegger	37
Spoehr	18
Stead	62
Stephanedes	11
Steyn	72
Storper	41
Sumpor.....	72
Sunley.....	21
Szabó.....	64
Szép.....	68

T

Talukdar	70
Tan	61
Terlouw	73
Thierstein	31

Thomsen	73
Thrower	59
Tomaney	59
Tóth.....	64, 68
Townsend	73
Trygg	35
Tubadji	74
Turkina	77

U

Ubarevičienė.....	9
Usai	74
Uyarra	42

V

Vallance	75
van Aswegen.....	75
van Driessche.....	44
Vedrine	76
Védrine	52
Vertesy.....	17
Victal Ferreira	3, 76
Vittorino.....	77

von Arx	37
Vorley	30

W

Wachsmuth	42
Wang.....	54, 77
Webber	78
White	13
Wield.....	65
Wilson	78
Wise	78
Wolff	54

Y

Yamamoto.....	78
Yang	57, 79

Z

Zhang	6
Zhanlu	79
Zhao	79
Zimmerbauer	80