



Delft University of Technology

**Planning in a Global Era.** Andy Thornley & Yvonne Rydin (Eds). Aldershot, Ashgate, 2002. 448 pp., £49.00 (hbk). ISBN 0 7546 1943 5

Spaans, M

**Publication date**

2004

**Document Version**

Final published version

**Published in**

Housing Studies

**Citation (APA)**

Spaans, M. (2004). *Planning in a Global Era*. Andy Thornley & Yvonne Rydin (Eds). Aldershot, Ashgate, 2002. 448 pp., £49.00 (hbk). ISBN 0 7546 1943 5. *Housing Studies*, 19(5), 832-835.

**Important note**

To cite this publication, please use the final published version (if applicable).  
Please check the document version above.

**Copyright**

Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download, forward or distribute the text or part of it, without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license such as Creative Commons.

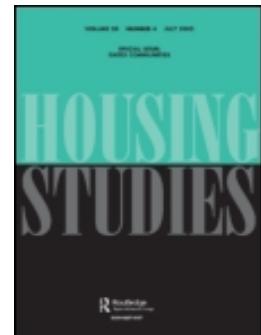
**Takedown policy**

Please contact us and provide details if you believe this document breaches copyrights.  
We will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

**Green Open Access added to [TU Delft Institutional Repository](#)  
as part of the Taverne amendment.**

More information about this copyright law amendment  
can be found at <https://www.openaccess.nl>.

Otherwise as indicated in the copyright section:  
the publisher is the copyright holder of this work and the  
author uses the Dutch legislation to make this work public.



## Book reviews

**To cite this article:** (2004) Book reviews, *Housing Studies*, 19:5, 827-838, DOI: [10.1080/0267303042000253355](https://doi.org/10.1080/0267303042000253355)

**To link to this article:** <https://doi.org/10.1080/0267303042000253355>



Published online: 12 Apr 2007.



Submit your article to this journal 



Article views: 40



View related articles 

the community corrections facility) had the most adverse impact on reported crimes.

To reduce local opposition to assisted housing will, according to the authors, "require changing both the *objective* conditions associated with deconcentrated assisted housing and the public's *perceptions* of these conditions" (p. 186). They suggest offering intensive mobility counselling and assistance to low-income families, expanding anti-discrimination laws to deal with discrimination based on Section 8 status, and instituting stricter screening and monitoring of tenants combined with more rigorous oversight of landlords. Tighter screening may make it more difficult to provide decent housing for the most needy, multi-problem families. However, in this case it may be necessary to sacrifice equity to ensure the future existence of deconcentrated assisted housing programmes.

When HUD first publicised Galster *et al.*'s original Baltimore County Section 8 study, this is what the abstract posted on its website <[www.huduser.org/publications/pubsst/dispers.html](http://www.huduser.org/publications/pubsst/dispers.html)> said:

*Assessing Property Value Impacts of Dispersed Housing Subsidy Programs* adds new weight, as well as important caveats, to earlier research indicating that subsidised housing has a benign or even positive impact on home values *when carefully sited and maintained*. [Italics added]

This overly rosy conclusion appears virtually unchanged in the book. "Most neighborhood fears regarding assisted housing are unfounded but in certain circumstances (low value neighborhoods, high concentrations, large scales), they are justified" (p. 3). In fact, reports from Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati, and elsewhere indicate Section 8-induced neighbourhood decline is not that unusual. In many cities, the spread of minority, low-income ghettos toward and across the city-suburban boundary creates a volatile situation in which the Section 8 programme can accelerate the process of decline. And I do not know what Galster *et al.* mean when they say that "most neighborhood fears" are unfounded; their Baltimore case study showed that most of the residents' concerns were justified. The book would have been stronger and more accurate had the authors not tried so hard to be even-handed and politically correct.

David P. Varady  
School of Planning  
University of Cincinnati

### **Planning in a Global Era**

Andy Thornley & Yvonne Rydin (Eds)  
*Aldershot, Ashgate, 2002*  
448 pp., £49.00 (hbk)  
ISBN 0 7546 1943 5

Globalisation in planning was put on the scientific research agenda by inspiring publications by Castells and Sassen. Since then research on the influences of

globalisation on cities and urban and spatial policy has become more widespread. The concept of globalisation is often under discussion and the editors of *Planning in a Global Era* endorse this. The definition that they use as their basis is that of Held and colleagues (1999): "widening, deepening and speeding up of world wide connectedness in all aspects of social life". This book consists of a wide range of contributions that were originally presentations at the Planning Research 2000 Conference at the London School of Economics. As in many books that have been put together in similar circumstances, widely differing papers are forced into juxtaposition between the same covers. The introduction the editors have given to the 17 contributions that follow is rather brief, even though they do have the intention of developing a common theoretical framework. Unfortunately, they have even neglected to put forward an adequate credible co-ordinating framework within which the 17 contributions could each be given a logical place.

The editors 'cluster' the chapters in the book under five headings. The order of the chapters in the book does not agree with the order in which they are taken up in the account in the first, co-ordinating, chapter. This discrepancy leads to confusion. The editors give five dimensions which to some extent form a framework on which to hang the globalisation debate: mobility and technology; economics; culture; sustainability; and politics. Three contributions are ascribed to the economic perspective and one to the political perspective (chapters 2-5). It is unfortunate that the dimensions do not appear in the contributions in a more structured manner; some dimensions fail to appear at all. The discussion in the first three contributions concentrates on the extent to which the globalisation process, and in particular the economic dimension, has an influence on cities and the variation in their course of development as a consequence of local circumstances. After the first cluster, the editors turn to the chapters in the fourth and last cluster (chapters 13-17). These have as their common subject the enduring and global nature of certain basic planning issues, which have also persisted into the globalisation era. The examples in the chapters are based on extremely divergent and geographically dispersed countries (Egypt, Hong Kong, Scotland vs. USA, Germany and Poland). The editors then return to the second cluster of four chapters (chapters 6-9). These have as their common theme the debate between the various planning schools with respect to planning theory. A third cluster (chapters 10-12 and 18) has as its theme the changing nature of planning procedures and in particular the nature of professional practice. Finally, several contributions start with a broader and more theoretical embedding, which enables connections to be made to the co-ordinating theme more straightforwardly than is the case with a number of other contributions, which feature the authors' own research problems more directly.

Below, I go further into some of the chapters that attracted my particular attention, in 1996 Newman & Thornley wrote a book on *Urban Planning in Europe* that I found well worth reading. Here, they seek out what influences there have been in Europe on urban planning. This they have done through ascertaining the relative influence of broad economic forces, national systems, and local politics on urban planning processes.

In Chapter 2 they return to the interaction between the various levels of influence, so that in fact more attention is paid to the level of the globalisation. Their research object concerns a co-ordinated strategic urban policy, and the policy priorities expressed in these strategies. Their conceptual framework

comprises three scale levels: global, regional/national, and urban. Here they seek to integrate three challenges in urban planning: the redefinition of the global hierarchy of cities (1); the influence of economic globalisation within the world cities: the development of a new spatial order (2); and environmental globalisation and the sustainability of the concentration of development in just a few world cities (3). Their contribution makes an inspiring start to the book, which I had hoped would be carried forward in the same spirit in the chapters that followed. The lines laid down could not be taken up systematically, tied as the authors were to the varied composition of papers.

The contribution by Saito (Chapter 3) is particularly interesting through the idea of working out the advantages and disadvantages of the analysis of world cities. He examines the mechanism of the 'developmental state' and investigates how this influences the process of the creation of a world city. He does so through paying special attention to real-estate development and urban redevelopment in Tokyo. It is unfortunate that the conclusions are so sparse and bear hardly any reference to the theoretical embedding of the world city.

A chapter that deserves attention through its extensive and interesting theoretical analysis is that by Oranje (Chapter 5). The line of approach differs from that of most of the other authors; he concentrates on countries that have undergone a recent regionalisation. In the book, this is entitled the ' "New Regionalism" Nation-states'. He proceeds in his conceptual framework from the two main models, namely from vertical and horizontal power sharing. He sets out the arguments for and against specific legislation at this scale level and discusses these with reference to the South African example.

The chapter by Flyvbjerg reads like an exciting detective novel. The author describes in a gripping and systematic manner his research approach, which has already received considerable attention in his other publications. He refers to his research approach as 'phronetic' planning research and turns his direction to the study of power in planning. This concept is derived from the Greek word *phronesis* (understanding, or practical knowledge). Flyvbjerg researches the full scale of urban planning in his continuously recurring case study of Aalborg (Denmark); he ascertains to what extent power plays a part in decision making in urban planning. His implicit point of departure is that the power of an organisation or a person finally persuades and determines decisions. His analyses are fascinating and on their basis he has become actively involved in the new planning processes in Aalborg. A final remark: the title of his chapter leads one to suspect that this chapter was simultaneously published as an article (Flyvbjerg, 2002).

Another intriguing chapter is that by Dierwechter. He combines a highly theoretical discussion on the concept of space, thereby elaborating on Lefebvre, with case studies in Cape Town. The enduring theme in Lefebvre's thinking is the linkage between everyday life, modernity and the production of urban space. The author elaborates the themes of production of space and theorisation of modernity. On the basis of his urban planning and economic survival examples in Cape Town he argues that the informal sector is providing the basis for a different kind of urban modernity.

McCarthy (Chapter 15) compares policy innovation in the field of urban regeneration in Scotland and the USA. He focuses his study on the American empowerment zone and the Scottish initiatives of Priority Partnership Areas (PPAs) and Social Inclusion Partnerships. The main differences he brings for-

ward are the reliance on tax incentives and deregulation in the US example and the reliance on additional funding initiatives promoting social inclusion in the Scottish example. He concludes with the suggestion "that a more effective approach to urban policy might be derived from combining the experiences within both approaches".

To conclude this book review, it can be said that the chapters reflect a wide range of the issues involved in planning or globalisation. There is something here for everyone: conceptual treatments of planning theory, contributions with a narrow theme or perspective in urban planning, and specific case studies ranging from developed and developing countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and North and Latin America. With such a choice of chapters, readers will surely all be able to find some that appeal, but few are likely to read the book from cover to cover. It will therefore probably be more a book for the university library than a private collection.

## References

Flyvbjerg, B. (2002) Bringing power to planning research: one researcher's praxis story, *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 21, pp. 355-368.

Held, D., McGrew, A., Goldblatt, D. & Perraton, J. (1999) *Global Transformations* (Cambridge, Polity Press).

Marjolein Spaans

OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies  
Delft University of Technology

## Urban Sores: On the Interaction between Segregation, Urban Decay and Deprived Neighbourhoods

Hans Skifter Andersen

*Aldershot, Ashgate, 2003*

212 pp., £49.00 (hbk)

ISBN 0 7546 3305 5

In many countries in Western Europe, area-based programmes have been recognised as the solution for problems like segregation, urban decay and deprived neighbourhoods. The results, according to evaluations and research, are mixed and there is an ongoing discussion about the benefits of these initiatives. There are basic questions to answer: What are the determinants behind segregation in cities? Is there a 'neighbourhood effect'? To what extent can policies and regulations change the situation? What is the appropriate role for a (free?) housing market? And, of course, is there still a purpose for area-based programmes? These are some of the questions *Urban Sores* discusses with a scope and a thoroughness that makes the book highly recommendable to anyone interested in housing and urban development.

Hans Skifter Andersen has a broad perspective, drawing on research from