

evaluating how effective planning schools are being with our efforts to provide community service.

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Stiftel, Bruce, and Vanessa Watson, eds. 2005. *Dialogues in Urban and Regional Planning*. New York: Routledge in association with the Global Planning Education Association Network (GPEAN). 355 pp. \$150.00 hardcover, ISBN 0-4153469-3-2.

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Reading this edited collection reminded me of both Paris's (1983) edited collection, *Critical Readings in Planning Theory*, and Campbell and Fainstein's (1996, 2003) *Readings in Planning Theory*. However, whereas both of these books focused on bringing together and (re)casting light on older seminal works in planning theory, *Dialogues in Urban and Regional Planning 1 (Dialogues 1)* is concerned with showcasing contemporary but previously published scholarship in urban/regional planning thought.

Dialogues 1 comprises a total of thirteen chapters and takes the reader on a whirlwind tour of a mix of theoretical, empirical, and methodological writings by contributors and topics located in and/or from Africa, Australia, China, Israel, North and South America, and the United Kingdom. This diverse and exciting range of scholars and papers has been brought together by the Global Planning Education Association Network (GPEAN) in order to "improve entry to 'foreign' scholarship for urban planners working in each of the world's nations and languages and, as a result, to promote better integration, cross-fertilization and criticism" (p. xiii). In other words, *Dialogues 1*—a second volume is planned for 2006—represents the first step in a journey to develop a globalized mosaic of contemporary planning thought. As the editors, Stiftel and Watson, note in their introductory chapter:

The growth of the Planning Schools Movement onto a global stage offers potential to reduce the problems of scholarly isolation in urban planning, and to build a stronger, more rigorous, richer profession of urban planning. This volume is a significant step in the very young global history of planning schools cooperation. (p. 13)

In a rapidly changing world, insight into how "globalization" is impacting the physical, economic, social, environmental, and political fabric of urban and regional areas across a range of nation states is a welcome one.

Dialogues 1 is essentially in four sections. The first part of the book is primarily concerned with the theme of "planning and [political] economy" and comprises three chapters (chapters 2–4). In chapter 2, "Mixed Use in Theory and Practice: Canadian Experience with Implementing a Planning Principle," Jill Grant ponders the potential and reality of New Urbanist-inspired mixed-use development in Canada and tentatively concludes that the jury still seems to be out on this highly vexed issue. In short, there seems to be an underlying cultural resistance to a policy that smacks of social engineering. Glen Searle examines the political economy and sustainability of the building of large sporting stadiums in Sydney as part of the 2000 Olympic Games in chapter 3, "Uncertain Legacy: Sydney's Olympic Stadiums." Searle is somewhat wary about the long-term economic and social viability of pursuing such large infrastructure projects and warns that planning (and politicians) run the risk of being subordinated by economic development. Then, in chapter 4, "Land Markets, Social Reproduction and Configuration of Urban Space," Lombardo et al. consider the impact of neoliberalism and globalization in transforming land values and uses, urban morphology, and ultimately, social relations within Buenos Aires. This chapter, while very detailed, struck me as somewhat labored—it may have lost some of its clarity and momentum as a result of being translated from Spanish to English. There were also a number of maps highlighting patterns of land values, socioeconomic strata, land vacancies, and so on. Unfortunately, these were difficult to read—a function of their scale—and as a result seemed out of place.

Part two of the book has an "environmental and conservation" focus with all three chapters in this section primarily concerned with how to achieve ecological balance in different urban-rural settings. In chapter 5, "Designing Whole Landscapes," Dolman et al. present an innovative methodology—a whole of landscape approach—by combining attitudinal surveys with farmers and Geographic Information System (GIS) and visualization techniques in order to test-drive a range of virtual ecological and biodiversity-sensitive land management scenarios. This chapter was fascinating to read and should provide considerable methodological food for thought for those engaged in redeveloping and regenerating blighted urban areas and socially excluded communities. On the issue of urban regeneration, Jiantao Zhang reflects in chapter 6, "Management

of Urban Regeneration and Conservation in China," on the conservation and development dilemmas confronting planners in Shanghai in light of unprecedented economic growth. Using a multiple case study approach, Zhang interrogates the interplay between economic and planning structures, processes, and agents, intimating that Chinese planning needs a more developed theoretical framework if it is to get a better balance of development and conservation. Continuing on the broad theme of ecological sustainability, Henri Acselrad, in chapter 7, "Ecological-Economic Zoning in the Brazilian Amazon Region," is critical of the environmental discourse that has seeped into territorial planning in Brazil since the mid-1980s and as reflected in a policy instrument known as Ecological-Economic Zoning (EEZ). Despite the positive intentions associated with EEZ it is argued to be an inherently flawed instrument bedeviled by contradictions.

The third section of this book focuses on "planning governance, participation and cultural diversity." This was unarguably my favorite part of the book, not least because this is my topic of special interest, and I could immediately see the potential of the chapters within my own teaching programs.

Umemoto, in chapter 8, "Walking in Another's Shoes: Epistemological Challenges in Participatory Planning," provides a wonderful insight into the methodological and epistemological challenges facing planners working in "multicultural" settings. Drawing on empirical research from Hawai'i, Umemoto highlights that there are five key challenges facing planners/planning when working with "the other." These challenges include: embedded interpretive frames, social and cultural otherness, language, social mores and rules, and power in cultural translation. Two strategies are offered as ways of (re)solving these dilemmas of otherness. On one hand, planners should allow decision making to have a much greater degree of community ownership and management. On the other hand, and more provocatively, planners need to become "code switchers"—that is, have the ability to "alter one's interpretive as well as vernacular framework in communication with others who share the same language and cultural sensibilities" (p. 199). The problem, however, is that this skill is difficult to teach to planning students. Rather, it is a skill acquired and developed, consciously and unconsciously, by people who have lived in different worlds and are thus able to see the world through a different lens. Bollens uses a multiple case study approach to highlight the highly spatially segregated nature of three urban hotspots (i.e., Belfast, Jerusalem, and Johannesburg) in chapter 9, "Urban Planning and Intergroup Conflict: Confronting a Fractured Public Interest," and offers up several models of planning intervention that

may be used to deal with societies fractured along ethno-religious and/or racial/ethnic lines. This chapter will prove invaluable to teachers of comparative planning and conflict resolution and will help students develop an appreciation of the complex nature of spatial segregation around the globe. In chapter 10, "Beyond Labels: Pragmatic Planning in Multistakeholder Tourism-Environmental Conflicts," Jamal, Stein, and Harper build on recent debates on the potential of collaborative planning in helping to realize consensus in multistakeholder arenas by advocating what they call "neopragmatism" and applying this to a case study, the Banff-Bow Valley Round Table (Banff National Parl, Canada). "Neopragmatism seeks to provide a more fluid [and] nonhierarchical" (p. 249) approach to planning by stripping decision making of universalism and relativism and championing the "virtues of rationality, truth and objective values" (p. 249) via the processes of evolutionary dialogue and nondichotomous labeling. In the final chapter of this section, "The Usefulness of Normative Planning Theories in the Context of Sub-Saharan Africa," Vanessa Watson tests the applicability of communicative planning, the Just City approach, and multicultural planning within Africa. Watson acknowledges that these three frameworks have much to offer (African) planners but their potential in Sub-Saharan Africa is somewhat limited as a result of lacking the necessary preconditions for deliberative and pluralistic governance to take hold.

The final "section" of *Dialogues 1* comprises two chapters and in a somewhat disjointed way builds on the previous four chapters in that they focus on the issues of community, participation, communication, language, and communicative planning theory. In chapter 12, "Out of the Closet: The Importance of Stories and Storytelling in Planning Practice," Leonie Sandercock extols that "planning is *performed* through story, in a myriad of ways" (p. 300). For Sandercock, stories, storytellers, and the way(s) in which stories are told play a crucial role in shaping policy—it is just that planners (academic and practitioner) are not consciously aware of this fact. In telling her own analytical story of the potential of storytelling Sandercock demonstrates that she is an artistic storyteller herself. In the final chapter, chapter 13, "Dilemmas in Critical Planning Theory," Raine Mäntysalo carefully sets about deconstructing communication planning theory, or rather, critical planning theory (CPT), as he calls it, in order to prove that CPT is not a definitive planning theory or paradigm. For Mäntysalo, CPT fails to reach the status of planning paradigm because of an overreliance on Habermas at the expense of other theoretical frames, chiefly "pragmatist systems theory and Foucauldian

power analytics" (p. 339), that need to be grafted onto CPT.

In conclusion, I found *Dialogues 1* to be a very enjoyable and interesting read for an edited collection. It should prove to be an extremely useful case study compendium for teachers (and students) engaged in comparative planning, social and community planning, and planning theory at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. My only problem—and this has more to do with the publisher—is the price of the book. At US\$150 this book is only likely to find its way onto university and some academics' bookshelves. I hope that the publisher will give serious consideration to bringing out *Dialogues 2* in paperback.

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Perlman, Dan L. and Jeffrey C. Milder. 2005. *Practical Ecology for Planners, Developers and Citizens*. Washington, D.C.: Island Press. 328 pp. \$65.00 hardcover, \$30.00 paperback, ISBN 1-5596363-4-3 and 1-5596371-6-1.
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This book is divided into three main parts: Part I discusses the differences between the planning and ecological thinking paradigms; Part II gets into specific definitions and principles of ecology, biodiversity, and conservation biology; and Part III outlines a series of applications and planning scenarios and provides recommendations on how the lessons from the book can be applied. Appendices A and B summarize the current state of biodiversity in North America and list commonly used data sources for conservation inventory and assessment, respectively.

The authors present balanced perspectives on both pristine and domesticated landscapes and the realities of planning and designing for sites and broader regions. They also offer practical insights into how to conserve nature, native species, and healthy ecosystems; how to retain ecological values; how to promote livable communities; and how to integrate humans and nature more beneficially. Advice appears from cover to cover of the book including:

- Have a basic understanding of an area's or site's ecosystem and ecology so that environmentally compatible plans and designs can be written;

- Create site-specific plans that are also context sensitive (i.e., think beyond the boundaries of official planning domains in order to create ecologically based plans and designs);
- Understand that ecosystems are too complex to predict ecological future with certainty and that ecologically based plans and designs rarely have a single correct solution;
- Realize that there are inherent flaws in commonly used indicators and measures of "good" environmental quality (such as percentage of green space);
- Promote ecologically based solutions by understanding how patches and corridors work for species and take this into account when carrying out road design projects, for example;
- Avoid land use practices that result in the overload of nearby wetland and waters with nutrients, given the problems and consequences of eutrophication (the process whereby water bodies receive excess nutrients that stimulate excessive plant growth);
- Acquire knowledge about ecology and history of an area to gain useful insights and make predictions about probable "natural disturbances" such as hurricanes, major floods, and prairie fires.

Advisory boxes and tables scattered throughout the text are used effectively. They allow readers to quickly grasp key information such as the steps to understand the ecological context of a study area; restoration techniques that can meet different restoration goals; and scale and context for planning and conservation where, for example, one can select the political/ jurisdictional scale at which one works and an equivalent ecological scale that one should consider during the planning and design process.

With that said, however, the material presented in this book is not new or novel. In addition, one has to read from cover to cover to fully appreciate and contextualize the advice and insights presented by the authors. Busy practitioners might find the book's three-part format undesirable. For example, two of the most important and most sought out questions in such books are posed on page 114 in chapter 6—that is, "where and in what sequence should land be developed to maximize ecological values?" While advice is given in the next one hundred pages that follow, specific answers appear much later in chapter 11. The busy practitioner might seek out Part III and specifically chapters 10 and 11 for both substance and format. The authors integrated the details on ecology and planning most effectively in these chapters. Chapter 10 focuses on conservation and development plans for regional, city, and site scales, and covers planning and ecology concepts, techniques such as land suitability analysis, and implementation strategies such as urban growth boundaries, infrastructure target areas, zoning, transfer of develop-