

The territorial dimension of the EU Cohesion Policy

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RSA WORKSHOP

EU Cohesion Policy: Focus on the Territorial Dimension

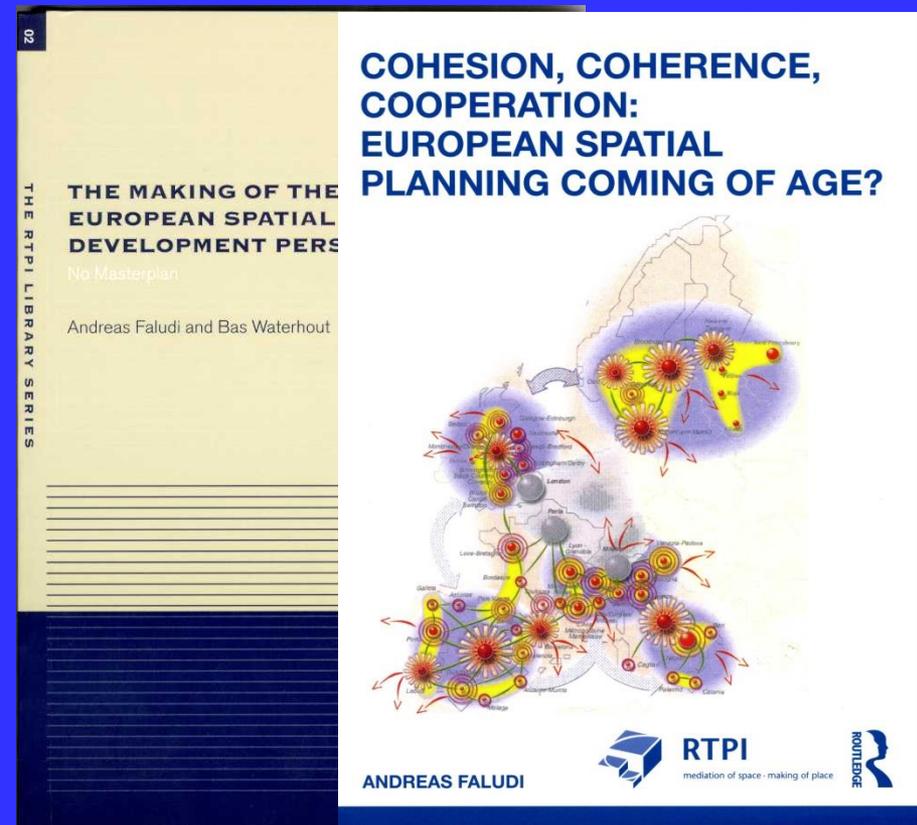
Lisboa, 05 e 06 de Novembro de 2015

Look Who Is Talking

European



(Renegade) Spatial Planner



The Territoriality of Cohesion Policy

- Introduction
- Territoriality Unravelled
- Revisiting Cohesion Policy
- Multi-level Governance and Territoriality
- Territoriality and Representative Democracy
- Conclusions

Introduction

- As 'fully bundled polities' states claiming democratic legitimacy confront EU on:
 - Regulations
 - Target areas
 - Implementaion
- 'Geography of problems' requires rethink:

Absolutistic territorialism >< Relativistic constructivism

Territoriality Unravelled

- [T]he attempt ... to affect, influence, or control people, phenomena, and relationships, by delimiting and asserting control over a geographical area (Sack 1986, 19)
- [T]he spatial manifestations of decisions are fragmented. (Sack 1984, 46)
- State territoriality or 'La fin des territoires' (Badie 1975)?

Revisiting Cohesion Policy: General

- No appetite for European planning
 - From 'Europe in Balance' and 'Green and Clean Europe' to 'Competitive Europe'
 - If there were some overall strategy under 'Coherent EU Policy' storyline, this would
 - Improve efficiency and effectiveness
 - Enhance EU territoriality
- Battle lines drawn

Revisiting Cohesion Policy: Episodes

- Territoriality and budgetary politics (1956-75):
 - Ring-fencing national budgets
- Territoriality and the scale of intervention (1976-84):
 - Regional nor communautarian (Drevet 2008)
 - IMP: mobilising countervailing forces
- The inter-institutional struggle: (1985-93)
 - Delors and his distractors
- Reasserting state territoriality: (1994...)
 - In the name of democracy

Multi-level Governance and Territoriality

- Diffusion of political authority, MLG Type I & II
- ...even though many implementation networks are situated at the regional or local level, their boundaries often do not converge with administrative delineations ... [F]unctional need ... is the key concept. (Conzelmann 2008, 26)
- INTERREG
- Macro-regional Strategies



Territoriality and Representative Democracy

- States have nestled themselves in our minds, but:

You can't use 18th century law for a digital world. (Ansip 2015)

- Balance between territorial and functional representation (Piattoni 2011) into focus
- Eichenberger, Frey (2006): Functional, overlapping and competing jurisdictions (FOCJ) → democratic experimentalism, Neo-medievalism, Europe as empire

[M]ajoritarian models of democracy are primarily suited... at the level of the nation-state and face ... difficulties when adapted to the European level. (Joerges, Neyer 1997)

Conclusions

1. FOCJ in EU and Neighbourhood?
2. Beyond state territoriality
3. Upgrading European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)
4. Members with rights and obligations
5. Full partners in Cohesion policy
6. Independent supervision
7. Rather than superstate: a cloud

