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The number of non-governmental organizations, community movements and academic conferences, along with myriad policy-oriented reports, devoted to debating the impacts of extreme weather events, natural disasters and climate change has grown exponentially. Against the backdrop of such initiatives and reflections concerning manmade environmental cataclysms, the concept of 'resilience' has gained prominence. Although there has been an explosion of debates, policies and approaches about ways to promote resilience systems, a clear definition of what 'resilience' actually means, or how to apply resilience thinking in order to maintain liveable conditions in the event of interruptions in normally available services, is still lacking. *Governing for Resilience in Vulnerable Places* sets out to provide a multidisciplinary overview and critical reflections of the ways in which the concept of resilience and the virtues of resilience thinking have been addressed in various governance and spatial planning settings. This is an ambitious quest; however, I concur with the editors. It is crucial to offer empirical evidence to researchers, students as well as practitioners in order to better understanding resilience as more than an urban planning metaphor.

The editors have managed to bring together 25 researchers currently engaged in the concept of resilience within different geographical contexts. In turn, empirical evidence on the opportunities and pitfalls of resilience thinking has been presented. Secondly, the book provides timely and insightful reflections. In the first chapter, striking a more theoretical tone, Simin Davoudi reflects on the shifts in conceptualizing resilience, from engineering to socioecological resilience and the influence of the neoliberal discourse on its growing popularity. In Chapter 14, Henk Ovink, first Dutch Special Envoy for Water Affairs with numerous experiences in contexts affected by disasters and in setting up different water governance processes, reflects on the importance of context, culture and political leadership in making vulnerable places resilient to natural disasters.

In my view, Chapters 1 and 14 are the pillars of the book, while the discussions that take place in between critically challenge existing knowledge by adding to it an impressive selection of practical lessons. After the editors' introduction (Chapter 2), the book is organized around three dominant subthemes, which clearly resonate with the book's title. First, the dilemmas and opportunities that spatial planners and policymakers face when trying to apply the resilience approach in practice are mainly discussed in Chapters 3, 4 and 5. However, other chapters reflect on the pitfalls that often emerge from the linkage between resilience and policymaking (Chapters 6, 8 and 9). The key message drawn from these chapters is that it is necessary to be sensitive towards issues of power and justice while engaging with resilience thinking in support of policymaking. Secondly, a number of chapters focuses on disasters in vulnerable places, such as floods in England (Chapter 7), the Bangladeshi 'preparedness programs', which seek to contribute to resilience and disaster governance in this extremely vulnerable country (Chapter 9), and the resilience and reconstruction process in Japan since the 2011 tsunami (Chapter 10). Thirdly, participatory practices and community resilience building, which devote attention to the importance of local-level participation and local knowledge when planning for resilience in vulnerable places, are explored in Chapters 11, 12 and 13.

Notwithstanding that all the chapters spawn a much-needed clarity regarding the intended outcomes of any resilience approach; it would be beyond the scope of this review to consider each chapter in detail. I underline, however, the key findings of some of the chapters. Chapter 7, for instance, explores the 'influence and potential role of civil society, through flood groups, on

community resilience to flooding in England' (p. 110). I found the approach of flood groups, i.e., a group of individuals with a personal interest in local flood issues, to be of interest to scholars and practitioners looking for ways to engage communities in resilience strategies. The chapter concludes that flood groups are sources of knowledge which experts would not have otherwise been able to access while dealing with flood risk management.

Chapter 9 debates the linkages between environmental justice and resilience in Bangladesh. The chapter provides evidence that the resilience approach is valuable in geographical contexts with lower socio-economic standards. Through the 'Resiliency Web' framework, which aims to facilitate the communication and exchange of resources, information, services and knowledge between public and private actors and communities, the authors claim that all citizens, regardless of income level or social standing, are entitled to equal protection from the extremes of nature. The authors further contend that, if cooperation and collective efforts of governments, private businesses, communities and various organizations are made towards the linkage between environmental justice and governance for disaster management, then resilience can realistically become a long-term solution.

Chapter 11 focuses on two UK-based participatory community arts projects, i.e., 'Closer', a community arts project that took place in 2001 in two Liverpool neighbourhoods, and 'Connecting Places: Connected Lives', a participatory community arts project conducted in Newcastle upon Tyne between 2006 and 2007. Based on the findings from these two cases, the authors suggest that, as participatory community arts can engender dimensions of social capital, they should be considered in community development processes as a means of building community resilience. The chapter's conclusions stresses that emotionally engaged and active communities are more willing to become involved in nature conservation and resilience initiatives.

The overall contribution of the book to resilience studies scholarship lays on the emphasis given to the need of developing context-sensitive resilience strategies, i.e., strategies adapted and aligned with the spatial, cultural and economic conditions of a place. The shared hands-on experiences highlight that there is "no one size fitting all" approach in making vulnerable places more resilient against environmental threats. The weakest point of the book is the omission of a conclusion chapter, summarizing the key findings and providing a number of policy recommendations. Overall concluding remarks would have contributed to making the book an outstanding contribution to the literature and practice of resilience thinking. Furthermore, it would have been interesting to read examples of resilience thinking applied in geographical areas facing severe drought or affected by land degradation due to urbanization, for example. In addition, a chapter exploring the roles of citizen science in urban resilience or flood risk management would have been a valuable insight to one of the key messages of the book on the need to involve citizens in resilience-strategy making and implementation. These drawbacks, however, do not hinder the book's capacity to make an important contribution to the scholarship, as well as provide guidelines to scholars and policymakers who care about the ability to bounce back from any disruption or crisis and about working to prevent catastrophic disasters or make society less disaster-prone.