Territorial Governance across Europe: Pathways, Practices and Prospects, Peter Schmitt and Lisa Van Well (Eds.), Routledge, London and New York (2016). 278 pp. £95.00 (hbk). £30.00 (pbk). ISBN 978 1 13 886087 2.

Territorial governance has proven to be a popular notion in European spatial planning and policy discourses, primarily in relation to the concept of territorial cohesion (FALUDI, 2012). Furthermore, several academic publications and a number of transnational policy documents have been devoting attention to the topic. Despite the myriad literature, some conceptual misalignments remain, triggering continuous research. For instance, has territorial governance been employed as a synonym for spatial planning, as STEAD (2013) points out? Alternatively, as FALUDI (2012) poses it, is the term ‘territorial’ redundant in ‘territorial governance’? The scholars DAVOUDI et al. (2008) have also convincingly stated that the meaning and effects of territorial governance are dissimilar at different territorial levels, while STEIN (2010) argues that territorial governance ‘still suffers from little specification’ (p. 6).

Bearing in mind these arguments, I have embraced the review of this edited book - *Territorial Governance across Europe: Pathways, Practices and Prospects* - with much curiosity. A curiosity similar to that of an explorer facing the new or the unknown. However, is this collection of writings on territorial governance pathways, practices and prospects a novel one or a reframing of already known statements? I can already advance the view that the chapters provide strong arguments. In addition, they are also empirically informed and present comprehensive frameworks that aim to provide, in line with the editors wishes, thorough considerations of the emergence, state-of-the art and evolution of the concept of territorial governance. I will clarify, hence, why this book challenges the conventional ‘governance wisdom’, and how the findings can enlighten the theory and practice of territorial governance.

This book stands out - in the sense that it contributes, both theoretically and empirically, to the argument that territorial governance is not merely a pleonasm of governance, as STEAD (2013) also interrogates. Territorial governance, in line with the conception postulated in this book, is based on the processes involving place-based knowledge, the inclusion and engagement of stakeholders and the alignment of multiple interests that have a stake in a certain territory. The book is structured in three parts. Part I explores the territorial governance ‘pathways’ across Europe. Part II devotes attention to territorial governance ‘practices’. In addition, Part III demonstrates the need for more tailor-made/context-sensitive/place-based governance arrangements and discusses the ‘prospects’ for future territorial governance theory and practice.

The discussions in this edited volume are at the forefront of the territorial governance debate, as it helps to capture knowledge-related and territorial/place-based elements, which have been overlooked in other governance-research frameworks. The novelty of the book lies not on trying to define (once again) ‘governance’ but focuses, instead, on the processes by which actors and institutions at different levels formulate and implement policies, programmes and projects, in order to achieve - in an efficient, inclusive and sustainable manner - a territorial goal. The initial theoretical premise is that ‘governance indeed matters’, and inductive methodological approaches have certainly contributed to the development of the actual and potential role of governance in achieving collectively defined goals. The 18 chapters move on from the conventional governance discourse and apparatus, as the nuts and

bolts of ‘how’, ‘why’ and under ‘which’ settings governance matters are clarified. Together with the novel theoretical approach, this volume also contributes to the methodology of territorial governance research, supporting, thus, assessment of the quality and nature of territorial governance practices in different spatial contexts and time. To this extent, a set of five territorial governance dimensions and 12 indicators were composed (Table 1).

Table 1. The 5 territorial governance dimensions and the 12 indicators

Dimensions	Indicators of good territorial governance
<i>Co-ordinating actions of actors and institutions</i>	Governing capacity Leadership Subsidiarity
<i>Integrating policy sectors</i>	Public policy packaging Cross-sector synergy
<i>Mobilising stakeholder participation</i>	Democratic legitimacy Public accountability Transparency
<i>Being adaptive to changing contexts</i>	Reflexivity Adaptability
<i>Realising place-based/territorial specificities and impacts</i>	Territorial relationality Territorial knowledgeability

Validating the indicators was the first step in operationalizing the five dimensions of territorial governance. The book’s theoretical exploration, and indicator validation, was conducted by studying 10 European cases. Table 2 highlights the case studies and the key findings. From my perspective, they are extremely useful for drawing lessons for theory building and spatial policymaking. The key findings support the editors/authors in their quest for a set of territorial governance components. Furthermore, the findings also contribute to bridging the acknowledged gap between territorial governance in theory and in practice. The ESPON/NORDREGION (2013) programme was the main source of the data for the empirical chapters, which are complemented with qualitative in-depth interviews.

Table 2. The 10 case studies analysed in the book and synthesis of key findings

Title case following the chapter ordering (6-15)	Key findings on territorial governance practices
<i>Hyper-local planning in England: Territorial Governance at the Neighbourhood Scale</i>	A certain degree of civic capacity is needed to ensure that territorial governance is adequately developed.
<i>The 'European Capital of Culture - Pécs': Territorial Governance Challenges within a Centralised Context</i>	A centralised system of governance made impossible to implement the original European Capital of Culture project in line of a multi-level governance logic.
<i>Planning for Resource Efficiency in Stockholm: 'Good' Territorial Governance Practices without Consistency</i>	Modernist spatial planning tradition and the role of charismatic personalities influence governance practices and outcomes. Stockholm holds a good number of strengths in territorial governance.
<i>Territorial Governance Faces Complexity: The South Loire Plan for Territorial Cohesion</i>	Territorial Cohesion Plan-making could be taken as an important milestone towards effective territorial governance to achieve collective defined spatial development goals.
<i>Integrating Public Transport and Urban Development in the Southern Randstad</i>	The involvement of different levels of government are represented in the Stedenbaan initiative.

Maintaining Stable Regional Territorial Governance Institutions in Times of Change - Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Limited involvement: The Role of Local and Regional Actors in the Hungarian Structural Fund Management

The Rise of a New Territorial Governance Domain: Flood Management in the Rhine River Basin

The Trilateral Nature Park Goričko-Raab-Örség: A Project-Based Mode of Territorial Governance

A Role for Macro-Regions: Climate Change Adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region

Territorial specificities have been identified and territorial have been synergies exacerbated against competition.

Greater Manchester has developed a series of governance institutions and institutional practices that have allowed it to tackle cross-sectoral issues and maintain a strong sense of territoriality.

Regional stakeholders were insufficiently involved in the processes related to the making and implementation of the Structural Funds in Hungary. Because of this lack of involvement regional knowledge could not be capitalised.

Norms must be kept open and not prescriptive so context-sensitive/place-specific circumstances could also be integrated in territorial governance arrangements.

The trilateral park is following a stable course of development towards territorial development of a trans-border natural area. However unequal capacity of park authorities can wither away cross-border territorial governance efforts.

The process of developing a climate change adaptation strategy for the Baltic Sea Region was characterised by informal governance arrangements and consensus between project partners.

From the overall findings, I underline here a component often neglected in other approaches - 'territorial knowledge'. The cases observed show that the utilization of territorial knowledge was widespread, mainly in the initial stages of programmes or projects. The case studies also show that, in order to be adaptive to changing contexts, it is necessary to have certain institutional structures in place. Furthermore, the cases also showed that governance habits were not very adaptive to dealing with change, lacking the responsive capacity to unanticipated events or long-term challenges. A general concluding remark from the case studies is that the use of the five dimensions and 12 indicators provides a simple heuristic to guide research efforts, though the editors acknowledge that there is no 'one-size-fits-all' approach to employ territorial governance. Rather, there is a need to apply territorial governance in line with territorial specificities. In this way, it would be possible to safeguard the possibility that territorial governance could work as a tool for policy-making and spatial planning. The case studies presented in this book and the further theoretical reconceptualization pave the way for the maturation of 'territorial governance'. More research, however, is needed so that lessons can be generated, thus informing spatial plan making and implementation in light of the proliferation of 'softer' territorial spaces across Europe and beyond.

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