

Theory, Policy and Practice in Rural and Regional Development Planning: Some International Observations

Queen's University, Belfast

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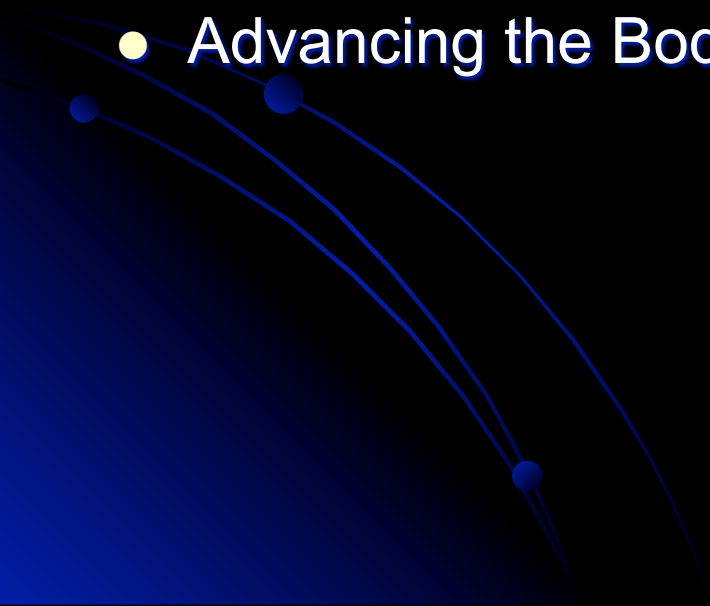
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Rural and Regional Development Planning

- Agenda

- The Issue of Theory, Policy and Practice – Practical, Professional and Other Reasons to Ponder
- Expectations of Theory in Planning
- Rural and “Rurality” – Contested Definitions
- The Region and Governance – A Confluence of Contested Constructions
- Canadian Contexts
- Indonesian Contexts
- Polish Contexts
- Irish Contexts
- Summary

Rural and Regional Development Planning

- The Issue of Theory - Why Bother?
 - Technical Rationale
 - Professional Rationale
 - Personal Ethical Rationale
 - Advancing the Body of Knowledge
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Rural and Regional Development Planning

- Expectations of Theory in Planning

- Explain
- Predict
- Guide


- “Why are things as they are?”

- “How are things likely to evolve?”


- “What will this design induce?”

- “What is better, best?”

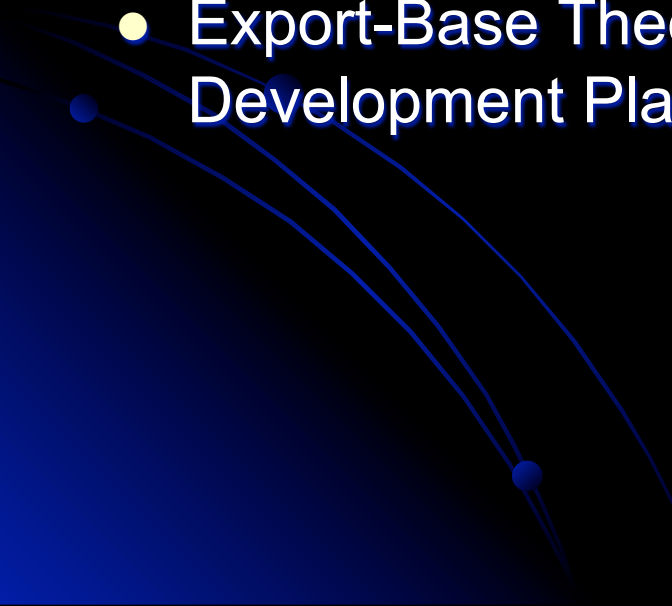
Rural and Regional Development Planning

- Rural and “Rurality”
 - Administrative/Statistical Perspectives
 - Political Perspectives
 - The Continuing Sectoral Claims
 - Imagined Rural
 - Idyll
 - Power, Place and Property
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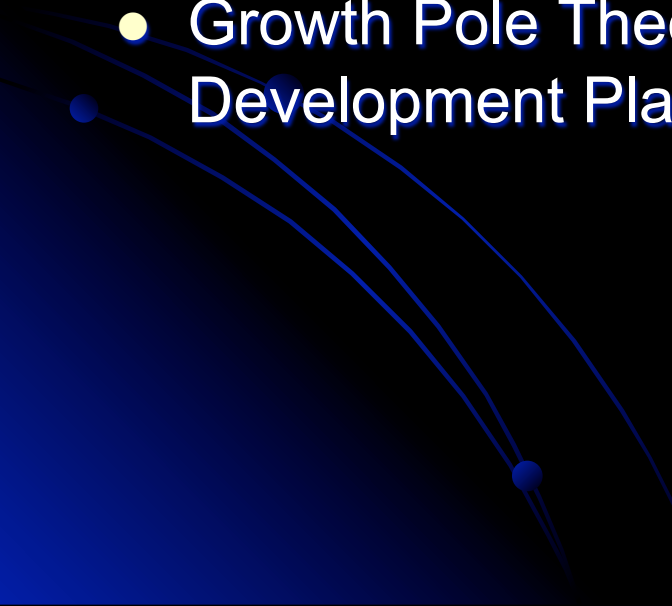
Rural and Regional Development Planning

- The Region and Governance - Confluence of the Contested Constructions
 - Functional Remit and Agenda
 - Spatial Delineation
 - Size and Shape
 - Centre and Edges
 - Governance – Emergent Conceptualization and Praxis
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Rural and Regional Development Planning

- Canadian Contexts – A Sample of Theoretical Perspectives
 - Rational Comprehensive Planning – Institutionalization of Technical Rationality and Logical Positivism
 - Export-Base Theory and the Political Economy of Development Planning
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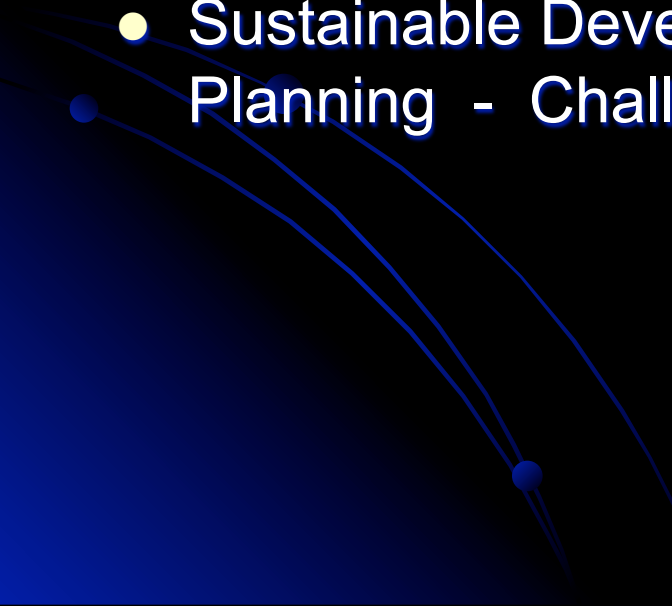
Rural and Regional Development Planning

- Canadian Contexts – A Sample of Theoretical Perspectives
 - Backing into Communicative Action Theory – Participation, Local Democracy and Epistemology
 - Growth Pole Theory, Growth Centres and Spatial Development Planning
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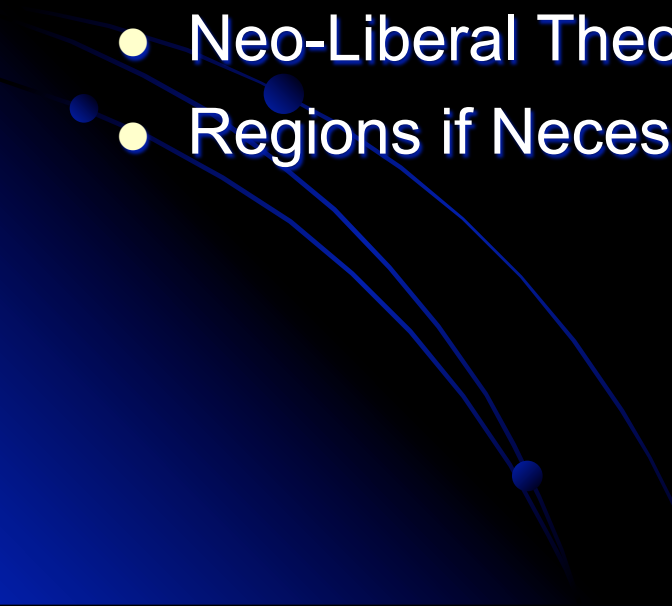
Rural and Regional Development Planning

- Indonesian Contexts – A Sample of Theoretical Perspectives
 - The Political Economic Imperative and Spatial Integration
 - The State, Globalization and Neo-Liberal Theory
 - Technical Rationality and Bureaucratic Planning
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Rural and Regional Development Planning

- Polish Contexts – A Sample of Theoretical Perspectives
 - Regionalism, Regional Structures and Strategic Development Planning
 - Sustainable Development, Food and Rural Development Planning - Challenges and Contradictions
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Rural and Regional Development Planning

- Irish Contexts – A Sample of Theoretical Perspectives
 - The State – A Tacit Theory of Hegemony
 - The Local State – Dependency
 - Neo-Liberal Theory and the NDP
 - Regions if Necessary, But not
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Rural and Regional Development Planning

- Irish Contexts – A Sample of Theoretical Perspectives
- Stages Theory
- Modernization
- Spatial Design – Efficiency, Equity and Arrested Polynuclearism
- Centripetal and Centrifugal Tensions - Endogenous Development, Localism, Place-Based Constructs, Off-Loading and Control – CD Theory as Orphan?

Rural and Regional Development Planning

- Summary
- Need to Better Integrate Economic, Social, Political, Cultural and Other Theories into the Planning Process - From Policy to Practice
- Relevance of Friedmann's Dialectical Process – Social Rationality and Market Rationality
- Relevance of Friedmann's Challenge and Conceptual Schema Regarding - Systems Guidance and Maintenance, versus Systems Transformation

Rural and Regional Development Planning

- Summary
 - Spatial Planning for Rural and Regional Development – Causal Clout and Value-Added?
 - Theory does Illuminate What is, and Why – But Does it Provide Guidance? If not, does it Matter?
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Thank You!

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