

Reviews

Cities and labour immigration: comparing policy responses in Amsterdam, Paris, Rome and Tel Aviv by M Alexander; Ashgate, Aldershot, Hants, 2007, 256 pages, £55.00 (US \$99.95) ISBN 9780754647225

In *Cities and Labour Immigration* Michael Alexander examines how and why cities respond to labour migrants and ethnic minorities at the policy level. The book does not seek to assess the successes and failures of different policies but rather it aims to trace trajectories and phases of policy making and understand the factors shaping these policies. In particular, Alexander seeks to fill a gap in existing research on policy responses to migrants, which has either focused on national-level theorising or on local-level studies; the former glosses over local variations whilst research at the local level typically fails to generalise beyond a particular city. Influenced by the work of Zygmunt Bauman, Alexander draws on the concept of host–stranger relations, to provide the theoretical framework—that is, the assumptions, expectations, and attitudes of the local host society, which offer important explanations as to why local residents and local authorities respond in particular ways to newcomers. Alexander is interested in how perceptions about the permanence of migrants and their spatial separateness shape attitudes towards migrants and local migrant policies. The link between the theory and the local policies is provided by a typology of responses which divides host–stranger relations into different policies, such as ‘guest worker’ and ‘assimilation’, and distinguishes between policy areas, such as spatial and socioeconomic. This serves to organise the data, enables comparisons across different cities, but is also developed by Alexander to assess the host–stranger relations theory. The typology is then applied to four cities, which were chosen to represent different policy types: Rome (nonpolicy), Tel Aviv (guestworker policy), Paris (assimilation policy), and Amsterdam (pluralist policy). In contrast to Rome and Tel Aviv, Paris and Amsterdam have a long tradition of migration, whilst the inclusion of Tel Aviv shows how the typology is not exclusive to European cities.

The result is a fascinating combination of theoretical insights with in-depth and nuanced knowledge about specific cities. The book is easy to read; Alexander is careful to define and clarify terms and provides useful summaries of his argument and findings throughout the book. A striking feature of the book is its scope, both in terms of the sources used and the scale of the analysis. The book is the culmination of work that spanned nine years and involved various stages of research and a diversity of research methods. This includes a survey of secondary sources on local policies towards migrants that covered twenty-five European cities, and qualitative analysis of local policy development, including interviews with policy makers and scholars. The analysis surveys a range of policy areas (for example, the case study of Paris focuses on the development of urban policy), but also assesses policies in the legal–political, socioeconomic, and cultural–religious domain. Useful background information on the particular cities is also provided, such as national immigration policy, electoral changes, and the ethnic breakdown of the migrants.

Alexander also situates his analysis within an historical context. In the case study of Amsterdam he shows how local policies of tolerance and coexisting with the ‘other’ can be traced back to the 16th century. The Netherlands’ colonial legacy also had a fundamental impact on attitudes towards newcomers and a respect for the colonized legacy also had a fundamental impact on attitudes towards newcomers and a respect for the colonized ‘other’ was combined with a moral superiority about the benefits of their colonialism. Important turning points in local policies are also examined, which were often a response to a particular crisis. In Rome the municipality accepted the permanence of migrants in the city, following the Pantanella crisis in 1990, when two thousand homeless migrants took over a vacant building. This prompted a move to a pluralist policy approach towards migrants based on facilitating the integration of migrants whilst protecting their ethnic and cultural identities.

However, Alexander also reveals how these changes are often less radical than the official rhetoric implies and often represent a continuation with the past, rather than a significant departure.

One of the most compelling aspects of the book is that it shows a hidden dimension of policy frameworks—how the perception of migrants is central to the formulation of policies—and this perception is inextricably linked to how cities define themselves. For those working in the field of migration studies, the book also reminds us of the importance of policies to the lives of migrants. As Alexander shows, even a nonpolicy, a decision to turn a blind eye, is a policy phase which has crucial implications as the burden of responsibility to meet the needs of migrants is passed to employers, civic society, and government agency.

The theoretical framework and typology gives the book a resonance beyond the specificity of the four case studies and enables comparisons with other cities. For instance, policies in London do not currently address the issues that affect new migrants who have arrived since the 1990s, including the problems of racism and low pay, which are exacerbated by an irregular immigration status and competition between migrant groups [see Vertovec (2006); for current research on migrants in London see <http://www/geog.qmul.ac.uk/globalcities/>]. The insights provided by Alexander suggest that this may reflect a perception that these migrants are essentially temporary, and will eventually return to their country of origin. The book will prove to be of interest to scholars and students interested in urban research, policy, migration studies, and ethnic and racial studies, but also policy makers themselves, who, as Alexander suggests, may want to learn from the experiences of other cities.

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Feed-in tariffs: accelerating the deployment of renewable energy by M Mendonça; Earthscan, London, 2007, 172 pages, £35.00 (US\$68.00) ISBN 9781844074662

As a US researcher working on wind and photovoltaic energy topics, I am an eager consumer of any material that will help me to understand the unconscionably slow pace at which renewable generating systems are being installed in the USA. Other countries have figured out how to greatly increase the penetration of renewables into their electricity generation portfolios without crippling their economies or destabilizing their transmission systems. Surely we can learn from these stories of success? I was thus quite happy to be asked to review Miguel Mendonça's book *Feed-in Tariffs: Accelerating the Deployment of Renewable Energy*.

In this slim volume Mendonça collects and organizes information that is spread throughout the academic literature and presents it in a format that makes it more immediately useful for policy makers, its intended audience. The book is divided into three parts, the first on barriers and support schemes for renewables (three chapters), the second (five chapters) on renewables policies around the world, and the third on feed-in-tariff (FIT) policy implementation and the future.

Chapter 1 is a set of bulleted paragraphs describing generic barriers to renewable energy under three category titles (costs and pricing, legal and regulatory, and market performance). I found the length and depth of the descriptions of each of these barriers to be about right for the material. Chapter 2 gets to the heart of the matter, describing several policy mechanisms in use around the world to encourage the deployment of renewables. It describes the two best known types of policies: the FIT, which sets prices for different renewable technologies and lets the market determine the penetration of each, and the quota system (eg, the renewable portfolio standard or RPS) that sets the quantity of eligible renewables and lets the market sort out which technologies to use. Tendering systems and net metering policies are also mentioned, and the important point is made that net metering is not all that powerful a policy by itself but is an important component in the suite of policies promoting renewables.

I appreciated the inclusion of the material in chapter 3 on energy efficiency, since efficiency is such an important part of reforming our energy systems in a way that reduces their current undesirable impacts, but it was too cursory a discussion given the importance of the topic. I would argue that dealing with the demand side is a higher priority than increasing the supply of generation from renewables, but of course these are complementary actions and we need to be doing both of them simultaneously.

The bulk of the book (part 2) comprises stories of policies from different countries. These chapters contain a wealth of information and history on the development and differing implementation of FITs in Germany and Spain, as well as an overview of the situation in the US, focusing on California as the most ambitious and forward-looking state. The role of the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act and the federal production tax credit in the US are highlighted, and the performance of the RPS quota system is discussed. I would have like more information on the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and how the restructuring of US electricity markets and expansion of wholesale competition are affecting the implementation of renewables. That quibble aside, Mendonça makes the key point that growth in renewables is the result of a “combination of policies and market mechanisms” (page 69) and not the outcome of a single policy. These chapters bring home the importance of evolution of these policies, illustrating how flexibility and adaptation have improved them over time.

Part 3 contains several chapters that will be of direct use to those interested in designing a FIT policy. Indeed, chapter 9 on fFIT design options may be the single most useful chapter in the book, though some of its value comes only after acquiring the perspectives contained in the case studies in part 2. These case studies illuminate and give context to the FIT policy components discussed here, and the tables with side-by-side advantages and disadvantages for each component add clarity to the points in the narrative. Chapters 9 and 10 (on general lessons for effective implementation) are a short course in FIT policy design and implementation, at least as demonstrated in the EU. The final chapter, primarily on advances in technology, is not strictly necessary to the rest of the story and it is distracting to end with this whirlwind overview, which is likely to be quickly dated anyway.

I still do not understand how a country with such phenomenal renewable resources as the US could lag so badly in taking advantage of them, but telling that story is not Mendonça's remit here. After reading his book, I do, however, have a much better understanding of feed-in tariffs, why they have worked elsewhere, and how they can be designed to work here as well. If you are someone interested in gaining this understanding, this book would be a wonderful resource.

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Bounded rationality and policy diffusion: social sector reform in Latin America by K Weyland; Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2007, 295 pages, \$60.00 cloth, \$24.95 paper (£35.00, £14.95) ISBN 9780691129747, 9780691134710

This is a fascinating and innovative book on diffusion of social sector reforms. More specifically, Weyland aims at analysing the causal mechanisms of the spread of pension privatisation and equity-enhancing reforms in health care in five Latin American countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Peru. In this book Kurt Weyland makes a timely contribution to the debate on globalisation and transnational diffusion of neoliberal principles. Indeed, globalisation and improved channels of communication have raised the relevance of transnational policy makers' networks and international organisations at the national decision-making level.

The consequent question is to what extent neoliberal principles have advanced in social sectors, where concepts of profit and market efficiency are greeted with considerable reluctance. Accordingly, political science attributes great attention toward the study of policy diffusion. Such attention is justified by the attempt to explain the extent to which decision-making processes are rational and, if so, what type of rationality policy makers pursue. The link between diffusion and rationality is reflected in the theoretical framework. Weyland proposes three

alternative determinants of adoption: the relative weight of international versus domestic forces (if the latter prevail the analysis goes further to assess); the role of symbolic versus utilitarian motives (again, if the latter prevails the analysis goes further to assess); the prevalence of comprehensive versus bounded rationality (page 11). This structure allows for the empirical testing of three of the main theoretical foundations of decision making: social constructivism, rational choice, and bounded rationality. The study finds that bounded rationality prevails in the cross-national diffusion of social sector reform in Latin America.

The theoretical arguments also provide the structure of the book. Beyond illustrating the research design and justifying the case selection, according to the variation of policy outcomes among countries that have adopted similar reforms, the introductory chapter also provides a precise definition of policy diffusion and establishes a suggestive classification of the characteristics of policy innovation, distinguishing between model diffusion and principle diffusion. The former implies the diffusion of “a neat, concrete, well-defined blueprint” (page 17); the latter is “a general guideline for designing programs or institutions” (page 18).

The remaining part of the book is organised according to the above-mentioned theoretical division proposed by the author. Chapter 2 presents and discusses the theoretical ideas, focusing mainly on four causal mechanisms driving the diffusion of policy innovation: external pressure, normative appeal, rational learning, and cognitive heuristics. In particular, referring to bounded rationality, concepts of cognitive psychology are used for explaining the specific S-shaped pattern of social policy diffusion. Heuristics of availability can explain why initial phases of diffusion depend mostly on the geographical proximity and neighbourhood effects (page 49). Representativeness, on the other hand, helps to explain the sharp rise of countries adopting policy innovation since “inferential shortcut induces decision-makers to jump to conclusions and overestimate the evidential value of a very limited base of experience” (page 49). Finally, anchoring reflects the stabilisation of diffusion because of the necessity to wait for policy outcomes. Chapters 3 to 6 empirically test the above-mentioned four causal mechanisms. Specifically, chapters 3 and 5 disentangle the question of extent to which the vertical imposition from international financial institutions (the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund) has facilitated (via coercion and normative appeal) the spread of pension privatisation and equity-enhancing reform in health care. Given the marginal impact of vertical influences in the decision to privatise the pension system, chapters 4 and 6 investigate how decision makers pursue well-established interests. In other words, is the decision-making process approximated to the ideal-type postulates of comprehensive or bounded rationality? To answer such question, Weyland traces back the decision-making process referring to the aforementioned elements of cognitive heuristics. The empirical analysis is grounded in impressive research, drawing on impressive fieldwork with personal interviews with decision makers from the five Latin America countries and a careful reading of large amounts of primary sources, allowing for a process-tracing methodology.

The great strength of this book lies in the proposed theoretical framework that connects the microlevel analysis of domestic decisions to adopt social sector reforms with the pattern of their diffusion. The study focuses on the Latin American continent often overlooked by political scientists dedicated to the analysis of diffusion of policy innovations. Moreover, this is a unique study of diffusion of policy innovations using qualitative methodology that allows analysing and testing of alternative causal mechanisms. Weyland shows how foreign models and principles are imported and adjusted (through learning mechanisms) to the specific institutional and social contexts, concluding that, notwithstanding external pressures from international financial institutions, policy makers are relative autonomous in adopting policy innovation in order to pursue specific interests. In doing so they rely on cognitive shortcuts, typical of the bounded rationality model.

Although providing an essential and welcome theory on policy diffusion, Weyland has accomplished such an ambitious challenge partially by overlooking some of the peculiar elements of the diffusion research traditions present among other disciplines (Rogers, 2003). The S-shaped diffusion curve is often explained in other disciplines by relying on concepts such as categories of adopters, diffusion networks, and innovation decision processes. Categories of adopters (earlier adopters, early majority, late majority, and laggard) can be a useful point of reference

for selecting the cases of analysis. Moreover, since the focus on two reforms within the social policy sector, a test of ‘innovation interrelationship’ (Mahajan and Peterson, 1985) may benefit the analysis.

Bounded Rationality and Policy Diffusion is a very clear and well-written book simultaneously addressed to undergraduates, postgraduates, and scholars interested both in theories of decision making and in policy diffusion. Weyland has made a great contribution in clarifying and systematising the concepts and the determinants of diffusion of social policy reforms.

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Water policy for sustainable development by D L Feldman; Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, MD, 2007, 392 pages, \$55.00 (£36.50) ISBN 978 0801885884

David Lewis Feldman’s *Water Policy for Sustainable Development* is an eclectic and engaging account of river basin management in the United States. The book is one part a standard ‘lessons learned’ text by a political scientist attempting to reconcile theory and reality in the messy world of policy making, and one part a philosophical retrospective of a long career asking why we can’t seem to get water management quite right. The lessons, insight, and foresight will be of interest to water managers and students of transboundary environmental collective action problems, particularly those interested in the dynamics of water conflict and cooperation. Though at times Feldman is adrift with his aims, and in need of a robust analytical framework within which to interpret the wealth of information he has, the book is generally inspired and should be read with a note-taking pen in hand.

In essence, Feldman argues for ‘adaptive management’ of river basins. He calls on water managers to assume “humble anthropocentrism [to] make tentative and reversible decisions”, ensuring that “water allocation and management is fair, open, honest, and flexible” (pages 2–3). The call is in striking contrast to the history of American water management, which is recounted in an absorbing manner in chapter 2. ‘Tentative’ and ‘fair’ were not words heard a century ago during the era of conquest, dam building, and making deserts bloom. The American ‘hydraulic mission’ was characterised by strong central planning and disregard for local communities and the environment—a manner understandably emulated by some emerging economies today. Citing the US Bureau of Reclamation’s recent efforts to restore sediment flows downstream of the Glen Canyon Dam on the Colorado River, Feldman demonstrates how management principles have evolved into what he refers to as a paradigm of ‘federal–state partnership and environmental sensitivity’. His later account of the poor state of demand-side management throughout the US obliges us to question, however, if all actors have progressed at the same rate.

A rapid review of international river basins from the Murray–Darling to the Mekong is then supplemented by a deeper probe into five US adaptive management initiatives: the river Basin Commissions on the Delaware, Susquehanna, and Apalachicola–Chattahoochee–Flint rivers; the Northwest Power Planning Council on the Columbia river; and the California–federal imitative for the San Francisco delta region, ‘CALFED’. Feldman concludes that the initiatives have been partly successful, insofar as they focus on the river basin as a unit. He then draws our attention to the fact that unresolved historic injustices and a poor understanding of the cultural context remain sources of contention that we would not do well to ignore.

Substantial space is devoted to the more classical river basin management challenges such as balancing water quality, water quantity, and sustainable development. In chapter 5 Feldman changes tack to engage us in the philosophical questions of water sharing and management ethics. Here he argues the case for integrating a moral basis for water management into the established paradigm of sustainable development so that we may avoid “gratuitous decisions based on short-term, imprudent, or acquisitive aspirations” (page 236).

In the final chapter he returns the reader to adaptive management, where he emphasises that river basins should be managed as “complete social–ecological entities” (page 285). Under this formula the political boundaries would encompass all issues and players, water quality and quantity concerns would be integrated, the roles of each political player would be clearly defined, and effective dispute resolution mechanisms would be employed. There is no mention of the criticism of the river basin management approach, which points out that, while rain and rivers respect the watershed boundaries, ecosystems, the climate, food trade, people, and groundwater do not. We continue, it seems, to stumble along in attempts to manage our newfound consideration for the environment with the perpetually increasing demands we place upon it, seeking to impose somewhat convoluted political demands upon an infinitely complex world. It is in this sense that the flexibility, fairness, and humility of the adaptive management approach that Feldman extols in the book that may be its most valuable contribution.

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Incentives, regulations and plans: the role of states and nation-states in smart growth planning

edited by G Knaap, H A Haccoû, K J Clifton, J W Frece; Edward Elgar, Cheltenham, Glos, 2007, 320 pages, £67.50 (US \$117.00) ISBN 1 84542 644 4

This book contains papers presented at a symposium held in Maryland, 2004, that was organized in order to develop a common platform of understanding between planners in US states, Canadian provinces, and European nation-states. Popular unease with urban sprawl and unsustainable land use has been on the rise on both sides of the Atlantic, but policy responses have varied substantially over these countries. Notably, land-use regulation in the US is predominantly a local affair and the role of state and federal governments is limited. In contrast, European national governments tend to be more heavily involved in spatial planning, sometimes even guided by policy at the EU level. Hence, the role of states and nation-states is one of the central themes of the book, the others being smart growth and the use of incentives, regulations, and plans. From these three viewpoints, the book covers the six topics that roughly correspond to the principles of smart growth promulgated by the US Environmental Protection Agency (urban containment, mixed use, affordable housing, transit-oriented development, public health, and plan implementation), each in separate chapters by European and American authors.

The resulting volume attests to the wide variety of issues at stake when considering socially desirable land-use patterns. Next to the well-known trade-off between private land consumption and the supply of open space as a public good, issues discussed include resulting transportation patterns and the externalities associated with them, benefits to mixing different types of land use within neighbourhoods, and the potential exclusion of the poor from decent housing. It is far from straightforward deriving optimal policies when all these issues have to be taken into account, and it is perhaps not surprising, therefore, that many different policy responses are observed in the real world. Another contribution of the book is its overview of the palette of policies applied in Europe and North America, described in useful survey chapters by Hague and Bay, as well as in detailed case studies such as Bierbaum’s analysis of smart growth implementation in New Jersey. Also, the juxtaposition of chapters from European and American authors on each of the six smart growth principles has worked out well. In particular, I like the clash between Certero and Timmermans on transit-oriented development, as it nicely underlines the empirical challenges to proper policy evaluation.

In the introduction Knaap and Haccoû argue that the transatlantic comparison is motivated as a “logical way to assess policy success”. I agree that ultimately it is the normative questions that we want answers to, but I find the book less convincing in this respect. Which policies work well, and for whom? How should governments intervene in land markets in order to serve the interests of the wider society in the best way, and what would be the most suitable level of government to do so? Is the alleged envy of North American planners with regard to the strong grip on land use of many European countries justified from this point of view? In order to address these questions in a satisfactory way, the editors should have paid more attention to at

least two issues. In the first place an attempt should have been made to quantify the effects of land-use policies consistently in both parts of the world. How do such policies affect the household consumption of land, open space, transportation, or health? For instance, is the impact of an urban growth boundary on private lot sizes of a similar magnitude in London, UK and Portland, Oregon? The second requirement is an explicit conceptual framework that allows one to evaluate and rank policies normatively. It is impossible to tell which policies are better than others in the absence of such a framework. A study by Cheshire and Sheppard (2002) illustrates how welfare economic theory may be used to underpin the empirical evaluation of land-use regulation. The authors identify the demand for both private and public space in two British towns on variation in local land prices, reporting that the costs of limiting the use of land by individual households exceed the benefits to society of providing open space. Thus their study also demonstrates that, even if land-use regulation in Europe would generally be more successful in containing urban sprawl, 'European-style' land-use regulation is not necessarily socially preferable to its transatlantic counterpart.

Lacking consistent empirical methodology and an explicit normative framework, the volume does not provide clear answers to the questions it poses. After reading it, one does not really know whether a shift of land-use decisions to higher levels of government should be applauded, what type of smart growth policies are to be recommended, and whether European planners do a better job than their transatlantic colleagues. However, it is only fair to add that such questions are hard to tackle, and unqualified answers probably do not exist. Moreover, one needs a firm understanding of what is going on in practice before even thinking of doing normative analysis. In this respect, the book offers an interesting contribution.

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Controlling automobile air pollution edited by W Harrington, V McConnell; Ashgate, Aldershot, Hants, 2007, 580 pages, £135.00 cloth (US\$275.00) ISBN 9780754626589

Controlling Automobile Air Pollution encapsulates the economic thinking that has influenced changes in the regulation of vehicle emissions in the US and Europe over the last few decades. These changes, although perhaps more theoretical than practical, entail a move from command-and-control regulatory approaches, usually setting uniform emission standards, towards more flexible modes of regulation, including market-based policy instruments, such as taxes and tradable permits, and voluntary agreements. Interventionist command-and-control approaches have been criticised for being statically and dynamically inefficient. On the other hand, market-based instruments have been promoted as allowing for greater flexibility and efficiency in policy implementation. By gathering together twenty-six previously published journal papers from the past twenty-five years, Harrington and McConnell outline the economic debates surrounding various regulatory measures to reduce car emissions.

In the first part of the book the authors define the economic aspects of air pollution from automobiles. These are the income effect on car ownership and on pollution control. Here the Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) is discussed, with regard to lead emissions. The EKC hypothesis maintains that, while car ownership rises with income, the demand for better environmental quality will result in less pollution. The paper by F G Hank Hilton and Arik Levinson asserts that rising income is not the sole determinant of improved environmental conditions. Government intervention and technological change are important factors influencing the EKC. This implies that lower income countries can experience decreasing pollution levels. Thus, the importance of regulatory measures in avoiding deteriorating environmental conditions is established.

In the second part of the book the contributors examine policy instruments which reduce emissions of conventional pollutants, such as carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides. The papers in this section can be divided into two categories: those reviewing the unintended effects of direct regulation and those considering the impacts of market-based instruments. The discussion about the unforeseen consequences of direct regulation ranges from the impact of stricter emission standards for new cars on the vehicle fleet age, to the unsuccessful results of a driving ban in Mexico City, via the high cost and moral implications of inspection and maintenance programmes in the US. The papers provide an interesting insight into some of the effects of direct regulation. In the second discussion market-based instruments are scrutinised. Tradable permits are endorsed, as experience from the phasing out of lead in petrol in the US has shown that they are economically efficient. Various aspects of taxation, from type of tax to distributional effects of taxations are examined. The argument is generally put forth for the introduction of taxes. This part of the book endorses the economic thinking that promoted the introduction of market-based instruments over command-and-control regulation.

The third part of the book is dedicated to the economic aspects of greenhouse gas emissions regulation. This section is dominated by a debate about the Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards in the US. These standards, which originate from the first oil crisis in the 1970s, set out to improve the fuel efficiency of the fleet of cars and light trucks. In their current design they allow car manufacturers some flexibility in meeting regulatory targets, yet they have a variety of side effects. These include the rebound effect, changes in fleet composition towards bigger cars, and high costs for producers. This section offers some interesting lessons about policy design and its impact on policy outcomes; however, it is limited to the experience of the US and ignores efforts made by other countries.

The final section of this book consists of two papers. In the first paper, possibilities for integration of various policy instruments in the regulation of air pollution in an urban environment are explored. These instruments include parking fees and congestion charges, alongside taxes and emission standards. In the second paper the effectiveness of gasoline taxes in the UK and the US is examined, and it is found that gasoline taxes in both countries need to be significantly higher in order to provide an effective outcome. These papers provide justification for using a mix of policy instruments in the regulation of air pollution from automobiles.

Overall, the book contains some interesting points of discussion for economists and non-economists alike. It provides an overview of past studies on the regulation of car emissions which can be useful in evaluating and deciding upon future measures. It seems, however, to be strongly reliant on the experience of the US. It would have been useful to add some more recent studies from other countries. The book would also have benefited from a summary chapter. Nonetheless, it provides an overview of the economic thinking that has influenced the regulation of vehicle emissions over the past few decades.

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The new development management: critiquing the dual modernization edited by S Dar, B Cooke; Zed Books, London, 2008, 245 pages, £60.00 cloth, £17.99 paper, ISBN 9781842779217, 9781842779224

The New Development Management: Critiquing the Dual Modernization, edited by Sadhvi Dar and Bill Cooke, is an excellent book that brings together two disparate bodies of thinking: critical management studies (CMS) and critical development studies (CDS). Although these two broad bodies of scholarship have much in common, they have largely remained separate with little overlap in theoretical engagement. This book thus fills a lacuna in engaging these literatures, in order to better explain the proliferation of management practices in the realm of development, the increasing professionalization of development organizations and practices, and how such intertwined perspectives can better explain everyday realities of the global South. The editors do a remarkable job in bringing together noted scholars in both fields, who then grapple with a range of issues to demonstrate the ways that CMS and CDS can elucidate complex development processes in a neoliberal era.

The book contains ten chapters, and is organized into framing chapters first, followed by case-study chapters (which are no less theoretically engaging). The chapters individually and together exemplify what deconstructing development looks like when using a CMS lens, which is rare in development studies. This brings considerable value to those grappling with conceptualizing and implementing development in various parts of the world. The contributors help us to better understand how colonial legacies influence current development institutions, how NGOs come to be valorized and critiqued, how experts, states, and local government bodies engage with development, and how individual subjects are produced, and live through the process of development. The vast array of topics covered in the book thus offers a range of material from which to take research and debates even further.

I agree with Arturo Escobar, in his "Afterword" in the book, that the contents of the book are largely about encounters and negotiations with power, in various forms, contexts, and institutions. To this end, I think the book would have benefited by engaging more critically with some of the recent literatures in development geography (eg Gibson-Graham, 2006 and Hart, 2004 to name just two). Such engagements would have problematized the notions of development that are used in a variety of forms throughout the book, to more critically de-essentialize and deconstruct what 'd/Development' means in different contexts (Hart, 2004). It would perhaps also have strengthened the arguments about the ways that macrolevel processes of planning, implementation, and management of development negotiated, subverted, and reconstituted at the local level, and how this does or does not feed back into development thinking more broadly. Some of the case-study chapters address these issues, but a more systemic analysis perhaps would have strengthened the book even further. However, the goal of the book was to start a conversation between CMS and CDS, and it definitely succeeds in doing this. It is up to scholars to continue the debates. This book is highly recommended for scholars and practitioners in development and management, and anyone engaging in studying, researching, or working with 'Third World Others' in the fields of geography, anthropology, sociology, and related fields.

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Climate change as a security risk by German Advisory Council on Global Change; Earthscan, London, 2008, 248 pages, £75.00 cloth (US\$146.00) ISBN 9781844075362

The climate change debate has, among many other things, reenergized the discussion of the security implications of environmental change. The German government has been one of the leading states in tackling the issue and this comprehensive report synthesizes the literature linking environmental change and discussions of security to provide some clear recommendations for policy initiatives as well as for further research. In addition to the nine experts who formed the advisory committee at the time of publication more than twenty other researchers contributed topical and regional perspectives to round out this global survey. Given this many contributors the volume is a remarkably clear and coherent exposition of the contemporary debate.

A summary for policy makers at the beginning of the volume points to the potential for climate change to exacerbate existing conflicts, potentially start new ones, and, if action is not taken soon, the possibility of major disruptions of the earth system leading to such things as the dieback of the Amazon and the disruption of the Asian monsoon. Either or both of these changes would have, the report suggests, incalculable consequences for societies directly as well as indirectly affected for the rest of humanity. This policy summary is followed by ten substantive chapters which review the scholarly literature and look to likely scenarios for climate disruptions having effects on societies in vulnerable places. But prior to engaging in

this detailed work the authors of the report offer a lucid summary of the discussion of the changing meaning of security, because one of their key findings is that traditional military and national notions of security are not much help in either understanding what is likely to come in the decades ahead, or offering policy solutions to deal with the difficulties.

The ten chapters that make up the substance of this report tackle matters systematically, looking first to the discussion of environmental change and conflict, and noting that the empirical research in the last few decades has not provided evidence that the small and regional scale disruptions caused by environmental change have led to warfare on the large scale. So although local violence and conflict might have occurred this is not a matter for international security. But might this change in coming decades, and if so how? In part this is related to the discussion of state fragility and capacity. Where violence has occurred it is clear the absence of legitimate and effective governance is a key factor. All of which suggests both the importance of multilateral institutions and the need to think about climate change and its impacts in terms of effective development so that capable governance structures are fostered.

All this is important because major environmental changes are in the offing if rapid progress is not made on reducing carbon emissions. The scenarios of the future in chapter 5 look at the instabilities of the Greenland and West Antarctic ice shields with their potential to raise sea levels, the weakening of the North Atlantic current with the potential of cooling in Europe in the short run, the die off of the Brazilian rainforest with the dramatic positive feedback that may have for carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, as well as the transformation of the monsoon which might disrupt food production directly for nearly half of humanity. In turn these scenarios might cause conflict in various ways in a series of 'conflict constellations' related to such things as water resource degradation, food production decline, increased frequency and severity of disasters, and environmentally induced migration. These in turn may, as the scenarios in the latter chapters of the report show, play out in a series of regional hotspots, mostly in the global South where the capabilities of handling disruption are less than in the developed world where fewer of the consequences of climate change are likely to be felt so directly.

While the methodology of narrative scenarios is necessarily speculative, and needs to be treated with caution, the picture of possible futures is effective at suggesting the necessity for careful preparation to deal with disruptive possibilities. Having said that, the spike in food prices on world markets in the months after this report was finished, suggests that the long-term discussion of food shortages and disruptions may be happening more quickly than expected. Likewise the continued troubles with European integration suggest that the optimism in the report concerning the European Union as a model of multilateral cooperation that might be useful for encouraging broader cooperation on the part of the international community, and the rising powers of China and India in particular, may be overstated. But clearly the argument in the report emphasizing the need for the developed countries to take the lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, if any international cooperation is to be taken seriously by developing states, is very well placed.

Perhaps the most important point of all in this discussion of scenarios and the future is precisely that we cannot predict with any precision what exactly is coming but that does not mean preparations cannot be made. Indeed the opening epigram of the introduction quotes Pericles precisely to this effect in saying, "It is not predicting the future that matters, but being prepared for it." In setting this tone the analysis in this volume is undoubtedly close to the mark, and the detailed discussion of scenarios is less important than the insistence that governments need to think carefully about how to both mitigate the causes of climate change and prepare to adapt to novel circumstances as they appear. As the report makes clear, all this needs doing while simultaneously working to avoid conflict situations that would aggravate the fate of the marginal peoples of the planet who have done little to cause climate change but who are most likely to suffer its consequences.

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