



SUSPLACE: insights in theory and method for place-based research

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SUSPLACE

- › 6 academic and 7 non-academic partners:
<https://www.sustainableplaceshaping.net/partners/>
- › 15 research projects of Early Stage Researchers, organized in 6 themes
- › Joint training, each half year in 6 countries.
Final conference in Finland, May 7-10, 2019,
Tampere, Finland



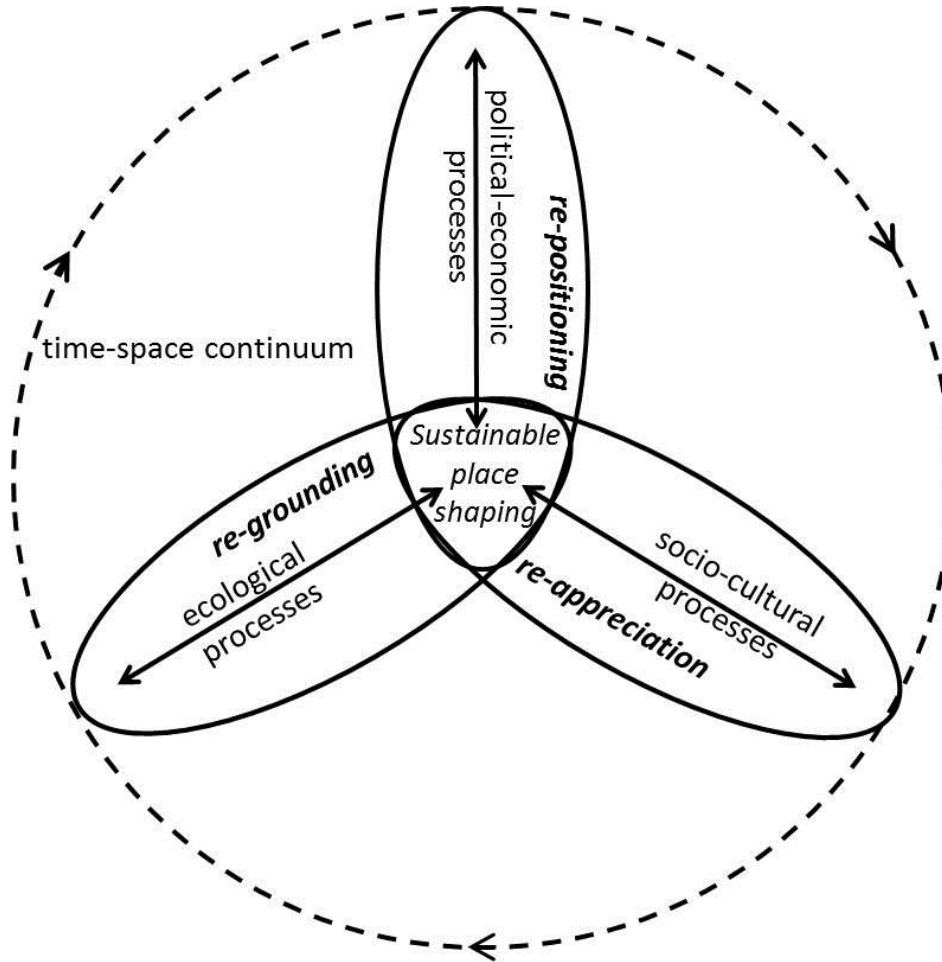
Some deliverables

- Workshop co-production Cardiff: Sustainable Place Making in Public Policy; Terry Marsden, Susan Baker and Matthew Quinn (then Welsh Government) debating about sustainable place-making
- PhD Autumn School Aveiro, 2017.
- Masterclass Performative Practices for Diverse Economies by Katherine Gibson, Wageningen
- Conferences: e.g. CSPA conference The Value of Life, Wageningen: contribution + Transformation conference 2017: speedtalks + arts-based methods workshop
- Towards an Agenda for Sustainable Food Governance Joint event at KU Leuven of @TRANSMANGO + @SUSPLACE_INT
- Toolkit creative and art based methods (ESR Kelli Pearson)
- Planned: Policy guide, SUSPLACE video, special issue, stakeholder report and publications

Theoretical roots: a relational conceptualization of place

- › Place as the constantly unfolding product of flows and networks. (see, for example, Amin, 2004; Cresswell, 2004; Jones, 2009; Massey, 1991, 1993, 2004, 2005; Varro & Lagendijk, 2013; Woods, 2011)
- › The product of interrelations, a point of intersection, integrating the global and the local (Massey, 2005). Place as a knot in a web of evolving social-material relations, 'throwntogetherness'
- › Place as the in time and space differentiated outcome of interacting, unbound ordering processes, also creating sustainability problems
 - Ecological processes: shaping dead and living matter: not all matter is 'natural' or 'nature'.
 - Socio-cultural processes: practices are shaped by shared values, norms, ideas: cultural patterns and repertoire; highly routinized ways of thinking and doing (taken for granted) = an institutional perspective.
 - Political-economic processes: practices shaped (power) relations, hierarchies.

Sustainable place-shaping



- Sustainable place-shaping:
- Social actors engage in ordering processes which shape places.
 - Place-shaping results from processes of:
 - *re-appreciation*
 - *re-grounding*
 - *re-positioning*



Research themes

- > inclusive, resilient and connected places, greening economies and pathways to sustainability. These are linked to SUSPLACE aims and EU goals.

Assumptions

- > Place-shaping acknowledges the role of structuring forces which result in 'territories of difference', but also the role of people able to shape places. This interaction creates **diverse pathways to sustainability**;
- > Assumption that sustainable place-shaping can be transformative and requires participation, empowerment & capacity building, supporting more **inclusive and resilient** places.
- > The assumption is that re-grounding of practices in place-based assets and re-positioning via new products and markets can contribute to the **greening of economies**.
- > **Connectivity** is key to a relational approach. SUSPLACE aims to increase connectivity between actors from different domains and to 'connect people to place' (embed daily lived practices in social-ecological systems). **A politics of connectivity** acknowledges place as the dynamic outcome of a multiplicity of relations beyond a geographical bounded approach. It considers place-shaping results from **co-production** from varied actors.

Politics of connectivity (Horlings, 2018)

Place has a threefold relational relevance (Horlings, 2016):

- › As an arena for debates, power struggles and negotiations.
- › In the context of subjective processes of sense-making
- › As an object of policy interventions and spatial planning.

Example: Sense of Place (ESR Sara Grenni)



Case: town of Mänttä in the Pirkanmaa region. Historically an industrial city, Mänttä has seen a transition in recent decades towards the arts and culture sector. The town it is currently undergoing a planning process to redevelop its centre. The case highlights how processes of place-shaping transform both material and immaterial aspects of places





- › Goal: to understand the interplay of place meanings and values held by multiple actors in the process of shaping the future of a place; this will help shed light into what motivates people to accommodate change in such a context, and how processes of sustainable place-shaping can unfold in practice.



- › Interactive workshops: mapping place meanings, exploring values and imagining the future using creative methods

Creative methods for innovative co-production (Kelli, Malin, Sara, Angela, Siri, Anke)

Opening up creativity and imagination by

- Reflecting on inner values (U-theory)
- Shift to a non-human perspective)
- Imagine different time scales



Arts-Based Methods for Transformative Engagement

A TOOLKIT

By Kelli Rose Pearson, Malin Bäckman, Sara Grenitt,
Angela Moriggi, Siri Pizzani, Anke de Vries

Challenges for spatial planning I



Place as arena:

Protests as place- protective actions, which are founded upon processes of place attachment and place identity (Devine-Wright, 2009).

Support the development of novel (production & consumption) networks (Horlings and Marsden, 2014)

Acknowledge sustainable place-shaping practices and grass-roots initiatives as forms of social action and autonomy, and accommodate these via the creation of policy spaces

Challenges for spatial planning II



Sense of place:

Conditional for a re-appreciation of places. Sense of place provides information which place qualities people consider as worthwhile and should be preserved. It is a valuable source of input for policymakers in processes of participative planning (Horlings, 2015a).

Strong bonds between people and place can foster pro-environmental behavior (Manzo & Perkins, 2006), influence the intention to maintain valued qualities of the environment (Devine-Wright, 2009; Stedman, 2002), and the willingness to actively contribute to the solution of potential environmental problems (Kaltenborn, 1998). Conflicting meanings can also be the source of natural resource management controversies (Cheng et al., 2003)

a starting point for the development of governance storytelling, strategies, visions and storylines based on place qualities, assets and resources (Horlings, 2012; Arts et al., 2017; Van der Stoep, 2014; Hartman (2016)). Places become more dependent on their 'cultural load' and of the sense of belonging they are able to create, among varied actors.

Challenges for spatial planning III



Place as site of co-production

New institutional arrangements 'sensitive to place' (Rodrigues, 2013, Example: participants should be 'motivated, demanded, enabled, and legitimized' to participate in arrangements that promote nature conservation (Runhaar et al., 2017).

Governing landscapes not as administrative territories, but emphasizing the importance of networks and connectivities (Varro & Lagendijk, 2013). Landscapes do not have a pre-given identity or quality (Massey, 1993; 2004; 2005)

Place-based development builds on place-based assets, citizen's capacities and community resources, supporting the autonomy and self-efficacy of people in places, instead of following the narrow route of competitiveness and smart specialization (Bristow, 2005)

SUSPLACE: Reflections on co-production

- › Many of the SUSPLACE projects deployed co-production as a core method
- › Multi-day workshop with Edgar Cahn held with partner Welsh Govt
- › Great variety of co-production techniques used, many innovative
- › Variety of uses sheds light on appropriateness to different contexts and differing understandings of the role of co-production

Views on the role of co-production

Definition: Beyond communicative planning, spaces of deliberation. Process of co-designing. No inherent dichotomy between co-production of knowledge or outcomes and choice of delivery models such as self-governance.

- › Inclusion – giving voice; understanding needs and aspirations, recognising different types of knowledge, values, logics.
- › Capacity-building – valuing people and places; respecting different knowledge and world views; strengthening collaboration, building networks; increasing resilience, empowerment
- › Disruption – prompting reflexion; connecting unconnected groups; creating transformative space (perhaps least developed role in the literature?)

Ethical dimensions & research design

- › Abstractive research vs creating new shared knowledges (What do you give back? Importance of non-hierarchical approach to knowledge)
- › Transferability versus place-based/context
- › Researcher as actor – legitimacy of external change agency? Action-based and supportive vs activist and agenda. Humility.
- › Short-term engagement risks. Inspiration without follow-through?
- › Legitimacy of ad hoc transformative spaces? – for and with whom? Voice or network?

How to engage actors: Variety of techniques and tools

- › Arts based tools
- › Story-telling
- › Video narratives
- › Deep mapping
- › Interactive mapping sense of place
- › Photo voice
- › Collaborative technology-based tools (peer-to-peer-networks)
- › Interactive 'games'

Inclusion

Entry point to co-production, linked to participative/deliberative democracy and indigenous knowledge:

- › Cardiff City Region– sense of place mapping, interviews, workshops, photo voice [Lorena Axinte]

Range of techniques designed to enable equal voice in mixed groups. Dependent on range of participants and topics, the approach may also lead to capacity building and networks

Inclusion: Cardiff City Region

Research questions:

- a) what are the youth's values, aspirations, needs and/or expectations from the city region in the coming future
- b) how do these match or differ from the ones perceived (and translated into action) by the city region frontrunners
- c) Can expanding the network of active stakeholders contribute to a more progressive definition and development of the city region (connecting the different theoretical streams of collaborative governance and regenerative development)



Capacity building

Closest to the Edgar Cahn tradition that respect and engagement builds social capital:

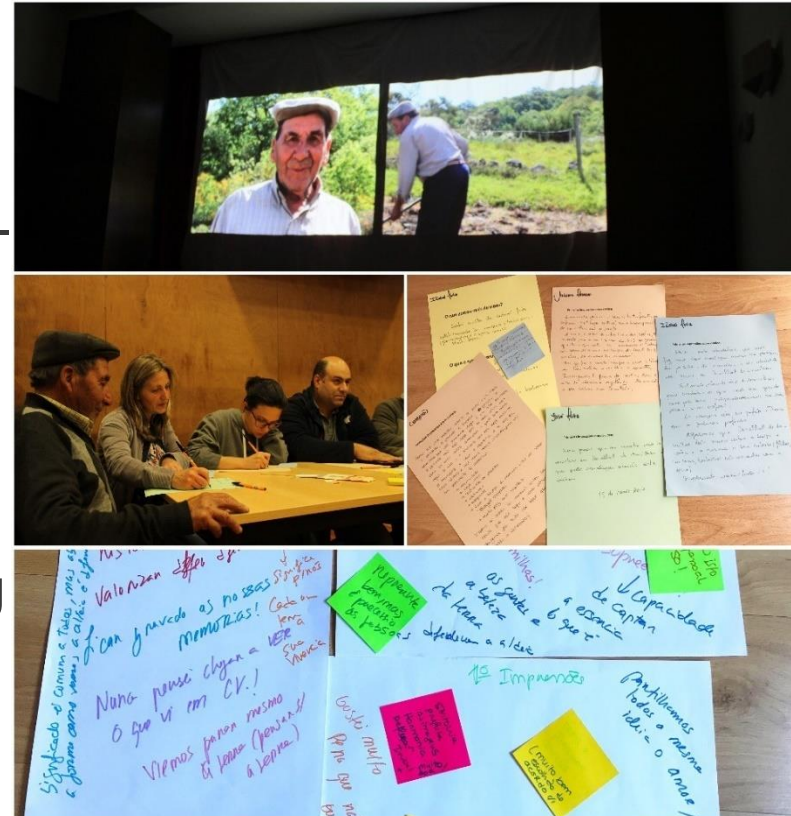
- › Place Ambassadors – community engagement; interviews; professional quality 'stories of place' films [Cátia Rebelo]

Approach serves to connect a community with itself and also with outsiders/visitors, builds confidence, worth and capacity

Capacity building: place ambassadors

Research framework:

- tourism a result of a dynamic social and cultural construction
- tourism - to be sustainable, competitive and differentiated - needs to place more emphasis on community values and meanings surrounding land use.
- need for more participatory approaches in tourism planning and decision-making
- Testing the impact of 'place ambassador' programmes



Disruption

Using co-production expressly as a means to create transformative space:

- › Self-organisation and sociotechnological innovation: virtual networks; virtual commons; blockchain etc [Omer Husain]

Range of techniques, ranging from arts to technological, seeking to explore and share values, beliefs and world views and apply to change contexts

Disruption: blockchain and self-organisation

Research frame: Through unique and innovative forms of self-organization and self-governance, Grassroots Innovation Movements (GIMs) and Blockchain-based social innovations are creating protected spaces within and more radically outside the institutional setting:

Aim :To explore whether and how these emerging modes of governance and sociotechnical innovations:

- i) Could create a more place-sensitive policy regime and
- ii) how they can be diffused into the mainstream policy regime.



Some conclusions on co-production

- › Co-production essential to inclusive place-making. A counterweight to expert-led traditions and potentially much more
- › Researcher is clear actor. Benefit of not just abstractive observation but needs self-awareness of legitimacy of action and implications for participants
- › Potential of genuine capacity and confidence-building in communities
- › Broad participation and collaboration techniques can promote sustainability by creating transformative space
 - linking values, issues and different societal actors –
 - but may also create new silos

Joint reflections on (SUS)PLACE

- › Place learning is potentially an arena for sustainable development transformation
- › The 15 ESR projects show that practices shape particular dimensions of place (arrangements, inner dimensions, resource-based products, new economic relations)
- › As Place is also symbolic, it is a powerful physical and emotional/cognitive connector for exploring societal values, world views, framing
- › Place meanings derived from participative/open processes of co-production and show points of negotiation/conflict/juncture to sustainable change (e.g. around 'communing').