

Reviews/Comptes rendus

Innovation and Regional Development: Strategies, Instruments and Policy Coordination. Hans-Jürgen Ewers and Jürgen Allesch, eds. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1990, 346 pages.

By the late 1970s, it was apparent that regional policy—as perceived traditionally as a top-down exercise in diverting branch plant investments in the manufacturing sector to designated regions—was in a state of flux. Sources of mobile manufacturing investment had declined, and regional inequalities remained firmly entrenched. Indeed, many observers argued that in some cases such inequalities had become institutionalized by reliance on the same branch plant investments meant to resolve them. The recessionary crisis of the early 1980s further undermined the role of larger firms as job generators (while that of the small firm sector was enlarged) and governments everywhere cut back fiscally, including on the traditional regional policy instruments. Moreover, recognition of the central role of technological innovation within the engine of economic growth gathered momentum during the 1970s and 1980s.

Thus, for various practical and theoretical reasons development solutions to “problem” regions (whether communities, cities, or larger areas) increasingly emphasized “endogenous” approaches and capabilities, most notably with respect to stimulating the supply of entrepreneurship (small firms) and technological innovation. Interestingly, in some countries this shift toward endogenous policy was facilitated by a network of local economic development offices, originally established to help implement traditional policies and whose personnel often gained a rich understanding of local economic resources and changes. Apart from its broad concerns with locally based entrepreneurship and innovation, however, endogenous development policy is a highly variegated experience and a rather ambiguous concept. The entirely justifiable rationale of *Innovation and Regional Development* is to provide analysis and perspective on this topic.

Innovation and Regional Development comprises papers presented at a conference—the fifth in the series—in Berlin in December 1988. The authors of these papers are mostly academics, principally economists, and all but one are based in Europe, especially Germany

and Britain. In fact, the purpose of the volume—to assess recent “innovation-oriented endogenous policies on regional development and problems arising with their implementation”—is pursued almost exclusively from an European perspective.

The volume is divided into six parts. Part 1 comprises three short papers by, respectively, a German politician, a European bureaucrat, and a Welsh businessman/development official, who offer contemporary comments from a “practical” perspective.

Part 2 examines regional disparities in Europe. Gaudemar provides an interesting review of the results of alternative regionalization models of Europe. Genosko's paper, which outlines a regional typology and a regression model (which do not appear to be related and whose values are unclear), is disappointing.

More conceptual in nature, Part 3 focuses on strategies for strengthening regional innovation capacities. The most notable of the six chapters in this part is Davelaar and Nijkamp's analysis of innovation cycles, technological systems, and space-time trajectories with particular reference to producer services in the Netherlands. Other chapters include brief notes emphasizing innovation for regional competitiveness (Townroe), a review of factors promoting and inhibiting innovation in regional systems (Malecki), an empirical comment stressing the metropolitan concentration of producer services within Germany (Bade), and an all-too-brief discussion of the “myths” and “realities” associated with the concept of endogenous development (Brugger).

Part 4 examines how contemporary regional policy is administered in Europe. In a useful and insightful paper, Allen and Yuill provide an international comparison (within Europe) of policy trends that reveals a shift from “automatic” instruments to “softer” measures such as advice and consultancy. These latter are then summarily explored by Kern as “real transfers.” The next three chapters focus, albeit briefly (and finally!), on the central issues of innovation-oriented endogenous policies, specifically the provision of services to small firms (Hull), improvement of “regional qualification structures” in a Swedish context (Hjern), and the varying role played by universities in local economic development (Peters).

The intent of Part 5 to examine endogenous strategies in different kinds of regional contexts is well demonstrated by chapters pertaining to Ireland (Sweeney), Birmingham (Nicholls), and, in a comparative review, Baden-Württemberg, Massachusetts, and Emilia Romagna (Gabriel). The chapters dealing more generally with technology policy in poorer regions (Camagni and Rabellotti) and agglomerations (Allesch) are more consistent with the thrust of Part 3.

Part 6 concludes the volume with a perspective (Hirche) and summary chapter (Ewers).

Innovation and Regional Development identifies important trends in contemporary regional innovation policy in Europe and reveals the complexity implied by the term *endogenous* development. The volume also touches on important problems facing the implementation of innovation-oriented endogenous policy such as that of coordination between various levels of government in a system that is no longer hierarchical, the problem facing regions in identifying innovation priorities, and the extent to which regions need to invest in research and development in order to innovate. Admittedly, the volume is not original conceptually or in a policy-formulation sense; there is a notable void with respect to questions of policy evaluation; and too many chapters do not directly address innovation or endogenous development policy. In addition, the important tensions resulting from, on the one hand, increasing internationalization, including the growing strength of the European Community as a whole in relation to member states, and, on the other hand, the shift toward endogenous policy are surprisingly not given much attention. The volume is also marred by the uneven quality of the chapters. Even in the better chapters important terms are not explained, and some figures and tables are mislabelled or are unclear.

On balance, *Innovation and Regional Development* is a welcome contribution to the literature. From a North American perspective the volume will be useful supplementary reading in senior undergraduate and graduate courses for its information on Europe and because it raises, deliberately and unintentionally, many points for discussion and clarification.

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Continental Accord: North American Economic Integration. Steven Globerman, ed. Vancouver: The Fraser Institute, 1991.

This volume of five chapters and an elaborate appendix represents the outcome of what is described as the first stage of a four-year programme to assess the likely economic consequences of a trilateral trade accord in North America. The project brings together researchers from the Fraser Institute, the Centre for International Studies at the University of Toronto, the Americas Program at Stanford University, the Hudson Institute, the Center for Strategic and International

Studies, the Political Economy Research Center, and El Colegio de Mexico, as well as economists from other North American universities. The resulting publication is a very straightforward and relevant treatment of many of the issues and concerns likely to confront the governments of Canada, Mexico, and the United States as they pursue a continental accord.

In deference to the editor, this reviewer's advice to readers is to examine the chapters in reverse order. If this approach is adopted, the chapters will fall in the following order: "A Perspective on Trilateral Economic Relations" (Globerman and Maureen Bader); "Lessons from the European Experience" (Rosemary Piper and Alan Reynolds); "The Case for Trilateralism" (Richard Lipsey); "A United States Vision of North American Economic Integration" (Clark Reynolds); "A Canadian Vision of North American Economic Integration" (Leonard Waverman); and "A Mexican Vision of North American Economic Integration" (Rogelio Ramirez de la O). The reader then progresses from rather broad perspectives of prospects and prescriptions for a trilateral North American trade bloc to narrower viewpoints regarding the potential advantages and disadvantages of such an accord for each of the three countries.

For those interested in the dynamics of economic integration in North America, a sampling of some of the issues and conclusions set forth in this volume may be of interest. First, while tariff barriers among the three countries have been almost eliminated, major non-tariff obstacles remain, and these are likely to be very difficult to resolve. For example, Mexico continues to maintain licence requirements for the importation of 350 agricultural, chemical, and petrochemical products; all three countries have restrictive review requirements for inward direct investments; and problems remain in working out harmonized trade legislation related to countervailing and antidumping duties.

Second, Piper and Reynolds argue that the most important lesson to be learned from the experiences of the European Community is that "economic integration is quite feasible, without nations forfeiting their cultural identity, without widespread migration of people toward more affluent countries, and without mass relocation of manufacturing activities to low-wage countries" (125). Moreover, they note that in contrast to the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the European Community replaced the concept of harmonization with one of "mutual recognition", in which a common set of standards for health, safety, and the environment were adopted, and all other products were acceptable if they complied with the regulations of other member countries (132). Mutual recognition,

according to the two authors, forces regulatory systems to compete and drastically accelerates the integration process (133).

In developing the case for a trilateral trade accord (rather than a bilateral agreement) Lipsey calls for a "core agreement" taken from the FTA covering the cross-border movement of commodities, services, and investments; dispute settlement procedures; and temporary business travel (112-113). Accompanying the core would be "a separate penumbra of special deals with each or all of the existing contracting parties relating to issues of special concern" (112). He also foresees the possibility that the three countries will eventually evolve into a customs union and then a common market.

Several major points also are made by the authors that examine the prospects for a North American accord from a country perspective. In the case of the United States, Reynolds argues that a trilateral agreement will "contribute to an invigoration of the structural competitiveness of the U.S. economy" (68); create "greater regional security in terms of the availability of energy resources" (69); and enable the country "to take advantage of regional proximity, permitting lower transaction costs, scale economies, gains from learning by doing, scope for scale economies from the introduction of new product and process technologies, and a platform from which to penetrate more distant markets" (73).

In presenting the Canadian perspective, Waverman acknowledges that "severe problems" exist "in coalescing Canadian opinion and the political agenda" to make a North American accord a priority item (56). He notes that "regional/cultural/internal factors are taking precedence over most outside concerns" (56); "strong stakeholder support for free trade with Mexico . . . is not apparent" (57); and strong opposition from Canadian labour groups is inevitable (58). Nevertheless, Waverman argues that "job losses due to increased Mexican competition in Canadian markets are . . . more than offset by the job gains to Canada due to penetration of Mexican markets" (58) and that a trilateral agreement is preferable to a Mexico-United States FTA because the latter "leaves Canadian firms and investors at a competitive disadvantage as compared to their U.S. competitors in Mexican markets" (60).

Finally, in expressing a Mexican view of a continental trade accord, Ramirez de la O also argues against a Mexico-United States bilateral agreement, supporting the views of the other writers in this volume that a trilateral approach is preferable, both for Mexico and for Canada. In addition, using a series of regression equations, he concludes that a North American accord will increase Mexican non-oil exports to North America by some US\$1 billion annually (17); foreign direct investment and capital repatriation should contribute US\$8-\$10

billion annually to the financing of Mexico's current account (23); and, despite the rapid response of non-oil exports, a trilateral agreement is likely to widen Mexico's current account deficit, making it essential that massive investments be made in the country's exploration for and production of petroleum (22).

In summary, the authors have done an admirable job of identifying many of the key issues that must be resolved over the coming months to produce a North American trade agreement. More important, rather than merely offering a superficial accounting of the issues, they have managed to provide an in-depth assessment of the relationships that exist between these issues and the policy alternatives that will have to be dealt with by trade negotiators from the three countries.

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Cities and Urbanization: Canadian Historical Perspectives. Gilbert A. Stelter, ed. Toronto: Copp Clark Pitman, 1990, 276 pages.

Cities and Urbanization: Canadian Historical Perspectives is a volume in the New Canadian Readings series. The objective of this series, as expressed in the Foreword, is "to bring some of the best recent work by this country's scholars to the attention of students of Canada [and] . . . to present a fully formed thesis about some critical aspect of Canadian development". The target group and the content of the entries in this volume are obvious from this statement; it consists of 10 chapters previously published in other sources in the 1980s on various aspects of urbanization historically in Canada. Anyone familiar with Stelter's earlier edited contributions on various aspects of Canadian urbanization, often in conjunction with fellow historian Alan Artibise, will not be surprised by the format and content of this collection (Stelter and Artibise 1979, 1982, 1986).

In addition to providing a set of readings that address a variety of scales of urbanization, from the neighbourhood (Harney) to the nation (Stelter), the editor has chosen readings that address three theoretical frameworks for explaining Canadian urbanization: (1) demographic/ecological (Hanna, McCann, Doucet and Weaver, Linteau), (2) structural (Stelter, Goheen, Dahms, Artibise), and (3) behavioural (Bradbury, Harney). It is ironic and perhaps contradictory that this format leaves the reader with the impression that these approaches could be separated into discrete categories when in fact one of the key lessons to be learned from these readings is

that the most informed insights are obtained when one incorporates several approaches into one article. For example, although Bradbury's chapter on the relationship between the family economy and the process of industrialization taking place in Montreal in the 1870s is nominally placed in the "behavioural camp", by her own admission this chapter "examines how class position, cultural values, and changes in the nature of industrial production influenced the family economy in the period of early industrial capitalism" (124). About Bradbury's contribution, the editor states, "her discussion of larger forces which reshaped the geography of the city, the organization of production, and the nature of work is very much relevant here"(9). By the admission of both the author and Stelter, this article clearly articulates the importance of both the structural and behavioural explanations of urbanization. The reader should recognize that this is not an isolated example. A number of contributions in the volume successfully incorporate several theoretical perspectives. In the cogently written introduction, the editor deserves full marks for alerting the student about the importance of theoretical frameworks and broader issues. He fails, however, to portray the fervor that is presently taking place in the broader field of urban geography as alternative explanations of urbanization compete with one another, creating an understanding about the importance of incorporating elements from the demographic/ecological, structural, and behavioural perspectives, in addition to other theoretical frameworks on urbanization.

It is common in a review of a collection of independently written articles/chapters to comment critically on the balance brought to bear on the subject in question. In this case, one might take issue with the lack of western Canadian examples of urbanization. Only the Artibise chapter—and that only in an urban systems context—substantively addresses urbanization in Canadian communities west of Ontario. In defence of the editor, however, balance can only hope to be achieved on a finite set of fronts when you are limited to a selection of 10 chapters, and in this case the breadth of thematic and theoretical coverage compensate for the problems in regional representation. Perhaps more serious is the failure to live up to the claim that the submissions are "recent work". Only three of the 10 articles in the collection were originally published after 1985.

This collection will be of little interest to academics who have access to and most likely read the articles in this volume when they appeared in their original sources. It will be of value, however, to upper-level students in urban history, historical and urban geography, and urban planning. This value is suggested not only by the relatively moderate price of the book and the fact that the articles are well

written and do reveal important aspects of Canadian urbanization, but also by the usefulness of the extensive list of Further Readings that accompanies the text.

References

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Regional Economic Impact Analysis and Project Evaluation. H. Craig Davis. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1990, 182 pages.

This will be a useful book for those who need an introduction to some of the more important techniques commonly used in regional economic analysis. Based on a course for graduate students in community and regional planning, the treatment is essentially non-technical so that, as the author asserts, the material will be accessible to people without a strong background in mathematics and economics. This means that students and practitioners from generalist disciplines beyond community and regional planning—for example, geography and public administration—should benefit readily from use of the book, as should anyone who is looking for an overview of one or more of the techniques discussed.

The book is divided into two major sections. Techniques of what is defined as impact analysis are addressed in the first section: economic base, income-expenditure, and input-output analysis. These methods are designed through multiplier estimation to gauge the effect on (in this context) local economies of a positive or negative stimulus to a particular sector. In each case, the basic model is reviewed with discussion of extensions, modifications, advantages, and limitations. Among other points made, it is argued that economic base analysis is really only valuable for assessing short-run impacts on small-scale, single-export economies, and that the more complex the local economy is in terms of intersectoral linkages, the more compelling is the case for use of input-output analysis. Naturally, the choice of which method

to use in any particular circumstance involves a trade-off between quality of analysis and cost. My own view is that a sufficiently accurate estimation of impact can often be made for the purpose at hand without using excessively sophisticated and costly methods.

The second section of the book deals with cost-benefit analysis, a technique distinguished from the foregoing forms of impact analysis on the ground that its purpose is to measure the value of a project (or programme?), given the various output, income, or employment impacts generated. While this distinction between so-called impact and cost-benefit analysis can certainly be drawn, it remains that the latter can also be viewed as just another type of impact analysis. Again, a broad review is provided of the essentials of the method together with a discussion of strengths and weaknesses.

At the end of each chapter other than the summary chapters, two case studies are discussed as a way of illustrating application of the principles reviewed. These seem to be generally helpful supplements to the text, although some additional detail in certain cases might have been useful. For example, if the case study discussion of the Clawson-Knetsch method of recreation benefit estimation had included some, even brief, numerical detail, it would have given fuller flavour to the way in which the method is implemented. It also would have given a simple example of the use of the concept of consumer surplus as a measure of benefit.

Inevitably, given the introductory nature of the text, some areas could have been explored in greater depth. But selected readings at the end of chapters and extended references in footnotes point the inquisitive reader toward further material. Inevitably perhaps, too, there are certain small points of interpretation with which one could take issue. Moreover, while there is evidence of sensitivity to feminist concerns, there are occasional lapses into the use of gender-specific language.

I am struck by the degree to which the second section of the book parallels other expositions of cost-benefit analysis, including my own modest contribution to the field. This is not a criticism of the book under review, for the author cites his sources openly. On the contrary, if the observation has any substance, it may be interpreted as something of a compliment to other authors. It certainly suggests the encouraging fact that the corpus of principles in cost-benefit analysis has begun to assume a more or less standard form, much as the wider principles of microeconomics have done in the introductory textbooks of the last 25 years or so.

Like the typical oligopolist, I regret, of course, that this new entrant to the market is going to offer yet more competition to the learned volume referred to above. Nonetheless, I welcome its appear-

ance as a discussion of certain techniques of regional analysis (there are still others such as mathematical programming, econometric modelling of local economic systems, and shift-share analysis not included here) that is at once more broad-ranging and more accessible to readers with limited backgrounds in economics than some earlier works. It is a well-conceived and—apart from the irregular layout of the table of contents—a well-produced contribution to the economics of urban and regional planning.

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Elementary Statistics for Geographers. Gerald M. Barber. New York: Guildford Press, 1988, 513 pages.

This is one of the most authoritative introductions to statistics ever written specifically for geographers. It contains a wealth of mathematical detail and covers most of the topics normally addressed in an introductory course, including descriptive statistics and exploratory data analysis, probability theory, probability distributions, parametric statistical inference (both estimation and hypothesis testing), nonparametric statistics, and correlation and regression analysis (which includes informative graphics and a useful discussion of confidence and prediction intervals).

The writing style is unusually lucid, almost colloquial, and there is a wealth of geographical examples provided from both the physical and human sides of the discipline. Discussions of statistics are accompanied by straightforward, intuitive explanations. The message that this book was improved by years of teaching comes through loud and clear. Chapters contain highlighted definitions, summary sections, references, suggestions for further reading, and a set of problems. In the later portions of the book there are detailed tables providing how-to guides and worked examples for the more complex statistical tests—a nice blend of Sokal and Rohlf's (1969) "boxes" and Siegel's (1956) "how-to style". It would have been useful, however, to have a reference section at the end of the text in addition to the citations at the end of each chapter. The text is complete with the usual sets of statistical tables in the appendix. These tables are made easier to read by the inclusion of frequency distribution diagrams. The table for the chi-squared distribution contains detailed information on critical values all the way up to 100 degrees of freedom; many tables from other texts do not go beyond 30. It might have been worth noting,

however, that for high degrees of freedom formulae are available for converting the chi-squared distribution to a standard normal distribution. By contrast, the table of percentiles of the F distribution is incredibly complex for an introductory text.

Chapter 3 provides excellent coverage of descriptive statistics for spatial distributions, which will be a delight for geographers since these topics are often glossed over or, perhaps more commonly, completely ignored. Directional statistics are especially useful in physical geography where angular data are frequently encountered in measurements of dip, slope, and azimuth. There are some minor weaknesses in the chapter: the Euclidean median might also have been associated with its more common name—the point of Minimum Aggregate Travel; the location-allocation problem is dealt with in an extremely brief manner; Modifiable Areal Units are seen only as a problem and not as an interesting opportunity for regionalization and analysis; the possible lack of convergence of the Kuhn and Kuenne algorithm is not discussed; and, finally, graph theory is mentioned in the Further Reading section but is not discussed anywhere in the body of the chapter.

A few errors seriously detract from the respect that the book should otherwise command. I can still remember one student in my introductory class pointing out to me that the symbols for intersection and union had been reversed. One reviewer (Elshaw-Thrall 1990) has dismissed this as being little more than irritating, but such errors can prove devastating to a first-time user, completely destroying their faith in an otherwise excellent text. It really does not take much to shatter a student's confidence in an introductory statistics class.

In some ways this is an old-fashioned book. To a large extent it ignores the microcomputer revolution, and where it does mention programs it relies on the SAS package which was originally developed for mainframes. The crude lineprinter graphs and pie charts on pages 45-46 are evidence of this mainframe approach. The SAS code contained in several chapters can, of course, be used on either mainframe or microcomputers, but the code, while useful, appears to be an afterthought. Why is it not available in every chapter where statistical procedures are discussed? A more modern approach would emphasize the use of spreadsheets and data bases and a variety of micro-based statistical packages. Most commercial spreadsheet packages have a full range of graphics for summarizing data sets. Data bases and their spatial equivalents, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), are likely to be the main sources of statistical information for geographers in the future, and yet neither term appears in the index or in the typology of data sources presented on page 22. As a result, this typology appears almost quaint in not

addressing these fundamental forms of archived data directly. Brail (1987) has shown how microcomputer-based approaches can be used in planning courses to make statistics much more approachable for the neophyte. So why not in geography? The use of the mainframe computer in my introductory courses is now routinely greeted with choruses of groans. The students see the mainframe as a remote, user-hostile dinosaur and cannot wait to get back to the micros.

What is missing from the book? Besides the lack of a discussion of graph theory, which is, admittedly, a rather esoteric topic, I was surprised to see no formal discussion of the analysis of variance beyond its use in regression analysis. Analysis of variance is an area in which geographers are notoriously weak, and a detailed discussion would have represented an important contribution. Simulation and categorical data analysis are also missing. Nearest neighbour analysis, which has had a long history of use in geography, is relegated to being mentioned in problem 16 at the end of Chapter 5. This is not an effective way to introduce a completely new topic, which is also somewhat controversial. As for more detailed criticism, the summary table of probability distributions might have shown the interrelationships between the various distributions and how some are limiting or special cases of other distributions. A discussion of computer-based, pseudo random number generators would have been useful. I prefer Seigel's (1956) six steps for the classical hypothesis test to those presented on page 262 but not used in a systematic fashion thereafter. More references and discussion on the merits of one- and two-tailed tests and the various levels of significance would have been useful (though the discussion of the "p-value" method of testing is excellent and deals effectively with a concept with which many students have difficulties). Finally, a little more is needed on other types of fallacies besides the common ecological problems—see Wilson and Bennett (1985: 45-48) for a discussion.

For a number of years now I have concluded my own course with a set of "rules" on how to choose the right statistical test. I think that the present text would have benefitted from such a summary and might even have directed the student to such public domain software as Bob Sechrist's Statistical Consultant, a rule-based computer program for guiding students through such choices and based on the guide provided by Andrews et al. (1981).

To conclude, I believe that Barber has presented us with one of the most sophisticated introductions to statistics for geographers. Most of the flaws noted above are relatively minor, and omissions can easily be rectified by the instructor. Moreover, such a comprehensive treatment of statistics is all the more necessary in an age when students are blindly running GIS packages and churning out hordes of

statistics that may have little relevance to the problem at hand and about which they know even less.

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Technologie et territoire : la maîtrise territoriale du changement technologique. Gilles Bergeron, éditeur. Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, 1990, 139 pages.

Issu d'un colloque tenu en octobre 1989 par le Groupe de recherche et d'intervention régionales de l'Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, cet ouvrage a pour objectif de traiter des rapports entre la technologie et le développement régional, ainsi que des stratégies visant la maîtrise des transformations technologiques au palier local. Comme l'indique lui-même l'éditeur (p. 9), le livre soulève de nombreuses questions auxquelles nous ne pouvons répondre dans l'état actuel de nos connaissances.

Nos commentaires sont, nous devons le signaler, structurés selon le même principe que le modèle que nous avons récemment proposé pour analyser le développement des villes internationales (Proulx, 1990). Ainsi, le premier élément de notre modèle, soit l'environnement dans lequel se développent les nouvelles technologies et se détermine le développement des régions, est abordé par P.-A. Julien, G. Bergeron et J. L. Klein. Ces auteurs traitent de la restructuration de l'économie mondiale, de la nouvelle spatialité et de la nécessaire référence au contexte mondial pour comprendre le sujet étudié.

Le facteur synergie dans le milieu local, deuxième élément de notre modèle, figure de façon importante dans la pensée de plusieurs auteurs, plus particulièrement dans celle de G. Bergeron, qui écrit : «les transformations technologiques sont territorialisées; elles sont à la fois le produit de l'organisation territoriale et l'un des facteurs qui en modifie l'évolution en profondeur [...] ce n'est que dans le cadre d'une collaboration interterritoriale efficace que chaque niveau de l'organisation territoriale peut mettre en place une stratégie pour accroître son autonomie» (p. 51). G. Bergeron met en lumière l'importance de la coopération interfirmes, qui permet la création d'un bassin de ressources, et favorise ainsi l'acquisition de compétences; il signale que ce processus d'intégration peut se dérouler hors des mécanismes du marché du travail et au sein de réseaux locaux et régionaux. C'est un processus qu'il nous semble important de prendre en considération et d'étudier en identifiant tant les réseaux du milieu que ceux qui relient les entreprises et institutions locales avec leurs environnements extérieurs.

G. Bergeron établit une distinction trop marquée entre les déterminants de la diffusion de l'innovation technologique et les facteurs qui suscitent l'innovation technologique, suivant en cela nos collègues R. Lacroix et F. Martin, lesquels (selon G. Bergeron) : «placent l'organisation territoriale, et en particulier la région, dans un rôle d'adaptation et de dépendance par rapport aux transformations technologiques». Sans engager le débat sur ce sujet (car un de nos collègues donne au milieu un rôle important dans le développement régional), référons le lecteur à notre article précité, dans lequel le milieu local-régional, d'une part, et l'environnement externe et les réseaux externes de diffusion de la technologie, d'autre part, ont conjointement un rôle à jouer dans la création et la diffusion de la technologie. Il découle de cela que l'importance donnée au rôle du milieu local-régional dans le volume de G. Bergeron, quoique fondamentale et négligée par beaucoup d'économistes, est à relativiser. Notons cependant que G. Bergeron reconnaît que le milieu n'est pas absolu et qu'il faut reconnaître les forces du marché.

Pour J.-P. Marquis, «la notion de région réfère à une entité géographique définie à l'intérieur de laquelle des ressources humaines ont tissé, tentent de tisser ou tissent par leurs activités quotidiennes une dynamique sociale et culturelle spécifique» (p. 120). Des notions de coopération dans un cadre local sont aussi mises en lumière par D. Harrison et J. L. Klein. Ajoutons que le concept d'espace économique, qui ne coïncide pas avec l'espace géographique, est important pour la compréhension des rapports entre technologie et développement local.

Bergeron et Harrison font aussi appel au troisième élément de notre modèle, celui des réseaux et des relations avec l'espace économique

extérieur. Enfin, plusieurs auteurs, dont Harrison, Bergeron, Marquis et Julien, identifient la formation des ressources humaines comme élément d'une politique susceptible de favoriser l'implantation, la création et la diffusion des nouvelles technologies et le changement organisationnel. Il s'agit là d'une des politiques soulignées dans le dernier volet de notre modèle, qui met en lumière le rôle des politiques publiques pour ce qui est de favoriser les synergies dans le milieu et l'insertion des entreprises dans leurs espaces économiques extérieurs.

Le lecteur qui accepte d'oublier un des objectifs du volume concernant le rapport entre les technologies et le développement régional trouvera intéressant le résumé des études macro-économiques et micro-économiques du Groupe de recherche en économie et gestion des PME de l'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, dirigé par P.-A. Julien. On y présente les nouvelles technologies, ceux qui les appliquent, leur rythme de diffusion, etc. Cependant, exception faite d'une mention des problèmes particuliers des régions mono-industrielles, il n'est pas question de milieu local-régional, de réseaux, etc.

Concluons en notant que ce volume, de lecture agréable, aide à diffuser au Québec des concepts et thèses largement discutés en Europe. En posant de façon claire l'analyse des causes de la création et de la diffusion de la technologie et des rapports entre celle-ci et le développement régional, il aide à identifier des thèmes de recherche très négligés au Québec. Des réponses aux questions posées et les stratégies de développement qui en découlent sont importantes pour notre développement économique, social et culturel.

Référence

- Proulx, Pierre-Paul, 1990, «Cadre conceptuel et les éléments théoriques pour l'analyse du développement de villes internationales», Université de Montréal, Département des sciences économiques, Cahier 9008 (à paraître dans la *Revue canadienne des sciences régionales*).

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À la périphérie de la périphérie : l'espace rural et le concept de fragilité en Abitibi. Hervé Gumuchian. Université de Montréal, Département de géographie, Notes et documents, 90-01, août 1990, 66 pages.

L'Abitibi est une région à part au Québec : cela est dû au «mythe» qui entoure la colonisation rurale de l'espace, d'une part, et à celui, plus récent, de l'activité minière. L'Abitibi est en effet, entre autres choses, la seule région de la province qui soit vraiment productrice d'or. Hervé Gumuchian, professeur à l'Institut de géographie alpine de Grenoble (France) et professeur invité au Département de géographie de l'Université de Montréal, a observé cette région pour comprendre la genèse, le développement et l'avenir de cet espace rural à faible densité.

Les concepts de «fragilité», de «marginalité», de modèle «centre-périphérie» employés par d'autres géographes, dont C. Dugas, l'aident à poser le problème. Il les confronte à l'emploi qu'en font les chercheurs français car il existe une dialectique entre le signifiant et le signifié que l'on ne saurait ignorer. H. Gumuchian insiste avec raison sur le «regard de l'intérieur», car la grande majorité des chercheurs tendent à privilégier le regard extérieur, posant comme a-priori implicite que ces espaces «fragiles» sont hors-normes, «dévitalisés» et en voie d'abandon (p. 6). Le problème consiste alors à saisir la réalité non pas tant par les indicateurs «objectifs» que par les représentations des résidents permanents.

Pour présenter l'espace régional administratif, il faut le décomposer en s'appuyant sur l'histoire et sur les indicateurs subjectifs, à caractère principalement démographique. Cette décomposition-reconstruction s'appuie sur des concepts-images géographiques. On découvre ainsi une «Abitibi stabilisée» quadrilatère (Rouyn-Noranda, Val d'Or, Amos, La Sarre), une «Abitibi qui meurt» (le nord-est), une «Abitibi recomposée» (municipalités septentrionales) et une «Abitibi qui se cherche» (espace éclaté à vocations multiples). Pour juger de la fragilité différentielle de ces espaces, et de l'espace rural en particulier, l'auteur construit un indice de fragilité à partir de neuf indicateurs additionnés sans pondération. Le choix de ces indicateurs peut être sujet à discussion mais demeure intéressant dans le contexte de l'étude. De plus, il faut mentionner que les données ne sont pas souvent exploitables car les découpages territoriaux effectués aux divers paliers administratifs ne se superposent pas (p. 25). Néanmoins, Gumuchian dégage une classification des municipalités rurales dont la cartographie aide à visualiser les plus «fragiles».

La deuxième partie porte sur les résultats de deux enquêtes menées, l'une auprès d'un échantillon d'étudiants de première année de l'Université de Montréal et de l'UQAM (en 1989), l'autre auprès d'un échan-

tillon stratifié de la population des 17 municipalités reconnues comme «fragiles» selon le modèle précédent. Les objectifs de ces enquêtes sont évidemment différents : la première vise à identifier les composantes du discours sur l'Abitibi, la seconde à dégager les spécificités des comportements et des pratiques spatiales d'une part, la gestion et le devenir de ces espaces périphériques d'autre part. L'objectif général est de confronter la «parole de l'intérieur» et le «discours de l'autre». Les résultats révèlent une divergence marquée entre les représentations des deux groupes. Les étudiants parlent de région-ressources, de milieu naturel, de région éloignée, peu attirante voire hostile, d'enracinement dans un espace marqué par la distance et la dispersion par rapport au travail, à l'école, aux services de santé. Pour les résidents, la mobilité est une exigence mais non un obstacle; leurs observations connotent un sentiment d'appartenance, des valeurs, des références qui ne sont pas ceux des urbains. L'auteur mentionne des réponses discordantes mais relève des aspects positifs (eu égard aux potentiels touristiques et même agricoles de la région) qui nous font croire, un instant, que la périphérie possède un avenir.

Il aurait été intéressant que les représentations des résidents soient confrontées au discours des décideurs car le sentiment d'appartenance découle en partie de la position des citoyens par rapport aux diverses structures de pouvoir. Une stratégie alternative viserait les immigrants abitibiens installés dans les villes du sud. Dans ce sens, l'étude des relations entre les sous-régions s'impose. L'auteur pourrait s'inspirer des travaux menés à l'INRS-Urbanisation par l'équipe de Mario Polèse dans ce domaine, ainsi que de ceux de Gilles Bibeau, anthropologue, qui, dans un ouvrage récent (*Comprendre pour se soigner*, Presses universitaires de Montréal), offre un autre découpage de l'espace régional. Il n'en reste pas moins que, à l'exemple de la «France du vide», les espaces périphériques du Québec doivent faire l'objet d'autres études en profondeur. On ne peut que féliciter Hervé Gumuchian de poser les premiers jalons d'une problématique qui soulève plus de questions que de réponses.

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Mouvement populaire et intervention communautaire de 1960 à nos jours : continuité et ruptures. Louis Favreau. Montréal (Québec, Canada), Centre de formation populaire/Les Éditions du fleuve, 1989, 307 pages.

Ce livre traite d'entrepreneuriat social. Pourquoi l'esprit d'entreprise devrait-il n'opérer que dans la sphère strictement économique et privée ? N'y a-t-il pas d'entrepreneurs et d'innovateurs dans la sphère sociale ? La science régionale canadienne et québécoise s'est montrée jusqu'ici assez ouverte aux préoccupations sociales, et les expériences de développement communautaire suscitent de plus en plus l'intérêt des chercheurs. Au Québec, il existe des analyses d'un certain nombre de ces expériences, mais peu de synthèses historiques ont été tentées à ce jour. Le livre de Louis Favreau nous propose une telle synthèse en ce qui concerne, surtout, le milieu montréalais. Écrit par un sociologue qui a été organisateur communautaire pendant plus de vingt ans dans les quartiers populaires de Montréal, il élabore une interprétation solidement documentée, et tout à fait renouvelée, de l'évolution du mouvement populaire montréalais, c'est-à-dire de la dynamique d'ensemble des groupes et organisations qui sont devenus partie intégrante de la vie dans ces quartiers depuis les années 1960.

L'objectif principal de l'auteur est de montrer le pluralisme du mouvement populaire, au sujet duquel il fait l'hypothèse d'une mutation provoquée par les difficultés économiques et la crise de l'État-providence depuis le milieu des années 1970. Cette mutation prendrait d'abord une forme culturelle, exprimée sur le mode d'une rupture avec le radicalisme militant des années 1970. Elle prendrait aussi une forme sociale liée à la situation de précarité durable dans laquelle se trouve une proportion élevée de jeunes et au fait que plus de la moitié des femmes font maintenant partie de la main-d'oeuvre. Pour Louis Favreau, ces mutations marquent non pas le déclin du mouvement populaire mais sa capacité de renouvellement, illustrée surtout par la mise sur pied de coopératives de travail et de corporations de développement économique communautaire (CDEC).

Cette hypothèse de travail est développée sur huit chapitres. Les deux premiers portent sur l'histoire et la géographie des groupes populaires de trois quartiers défavorisés de Montréal : Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Centre-Sud et la Petite-Patrie. Des extraits d'entrevues auprès de personnes actives dans le mouvement populaire rendent très concret le récit des tentatives, des succès et des échecs vécus dans ces quartiers. Trois chapitres traitent ensuite de l'économie communautaire, de l'action politique et des rapports avec l'État.

Le chapitre sur l'économie communautaire est sans doute le plus novateur. D'entrée de jeu, Louis Favreau demande : «Le mouvement populaire et communautaire risque-t-il son âme, sa raison d'être en s'impliquant directement dans l'économie et donc dans la création d'emplois et d'entreprises ? Ou bien n'est-il pas plutôt en train d'élargir ses visées en prenant plus directement en charge le développement local de communautés où le chômage et l'assistance sociale dépassent souvent 50 % de la population active ?» (p. 99). Il constate d'abord que la mise sur pied de coopératives de travail et de CDEC au milieu des années 1980 est, le plus souvent, une solution de dernier recours devant l'insuccès des mesures gouvernementales traditionnelles de réinsertion des sans-emploi. Il évalue ensuite les possibilités et les limites des CDEC mises sur pied à Montréal. Il montre qu'il s'agit d'un type de développement économique différent de celui du secteur privé et du secteur public, qui réussit à s'implanter là où les organisations populaires (coopératives d'habitation, groupes d'entraide, médias communautaires, etc.) sont déjà fortes et bien enracinées. Il montre les différences entre les trois CDEC de Pointe-Saint-Charles, Centre-Sud et Hochelaga-Maisonneuve quant au degré de démocratie économique pratiqué, et fait un premier bilan, après quelques mois d'existence, de leur rôle dans la création et la consolidation d'emplois. Il analyse aussi les liens des CDEC avec le secteur privé, le gouvernement et les syndicats. À la suite de ses analyses, il en vient à identifier deux sous-stratégies : l'une plus syndicale, qui mise davantage sur les caisses de retraite comme source de capital, sur les PME et sur les collectivités d'envergure régionale; l'autre plus communautaire, ayant recours à des fonds de sources diverses, et misant sur les TPE et les communautés locales. Il relève enfin que les quelque 700 CDEC américaines, dont certaines existent depuis les années 1960, ont presque toutes été mises sur pied par des chefs de file de l'action politique communautaire de quartier.

Ces liens entre l'action économique et l'action politique sont explorés dans les deux chapitres suivants. L'auteur refait l'analyse de «l'éruption gauchiste» des années 1970, de la montée des partis politiques municipaux réformistes et de l'apparition d'un plus grand pragmatisme au sein du mouvement populaire : «la politique n'apparaît plus comme une espèce de grande tragédie moderne par laquelle tout passe» (p. 185). Mais le social reste l'objectif principal, l'organisation économique communautaire devenant un moyen, à côté de l'organisation politique. Quant aux liens entre le mouvement populaire et l'État, l'auteur analyse l'évolution du financement étatique : diminution de l'aide et diversification des sources avec l'entrée en scène du ministère de l'Industrie et du Commerce et celui de la Main-d'oeuvre et de la Sécurité du revenu. Il analyse également les liens entre les

groupes populaires et le secteur public de première ligne, essentiellement les CLSC, dans un nouveau contexte économique de croissance faible et lente. Il pose la question des effets pervers du monopole étatique dans le secteur de la santé et des services sociaux et propose la solution communautaire plutôt que la privatisation comme voie à suivre pour mettre fin à ce monopole.

Les deux derniers chapitres abordent les perspectives d'avenir du mouvement populaire québécois. Situé à mi-chemin entre les syndicats et les nouveaux mouvements sociaux (pacifisme et féminisme, par exemple), il ferait montre d'une remarquable capacité d'adaptation, par la jonction qu'il est en train d'opérer entre le social et l'économique, par son ouverture aux différents groupes ethniques, et par son refus de se laisser enfermer dans un modèle où «le monopole sur les services sociaux et de santé appartient au secteur public et la sous-traitance sociale au secteur communautaire» (p. 260).

Dans l'ensemble, Louis Favreau nous livre un ouvrage important par la contribution qu'il apporte à l'élargissement de la théorie du développement local. Fondée sur un riche contenu empirique et sur la notion de «mouvement social», son analyse montre l'importance du secteur communautaire, à côté du secteur privé et du secteur public, au sein de la société québécoise. Cette importance ne se mesure pas en termes de produit économique ou d'innovation technique, mais plutôt en termes d'innovation sociale et organisationnelle. Certaines pistes ouvertes dans le livre ne sont pas explorées en profondeur. Par exemple, en ce qui concerne les attitudes face à l'emploi, l'auteur note la nécessité d'aller au-delà d'un objectif de plein emploi, sans pousser très loin l'analyse des tenants et aboutissants d'une telle nécessité. Il faudra également refaire le bilan des CDEC quand elles auront eu le temps de faire leurs preuves. En somme, c'est là un ouvrage intéressant autant par les questions qu'il soulève que par la synthèse qu'il offre.

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