

beiden Ansätze versucht. Insbesondere weil die Herausgeber selbst betonen, dass regionale Innovation insbesondere dort entsteht, wo Politik und Verwaltung, Unternehmen und ihre Mitarbeiter sowie Bildungs- und Forschungseinrichtungen eng zusammenarbeiten (vgl. S. 1). Wie diese notwendige Verzahnung von regionalen Policy-Netzwerken und regionalen Unternehmensnetzwerken jedoch aussieht und wie sie durch Moderation hergestellt und gestärkt werden kann, wird nur teilweise und in meinen Augen nicht ausreichend behandelt.

Ich denke jedoch, dass man als interessierter und mit der Thematik vertrauter Leser mit den zwei inhaltlichen Teilen des Buches durchaus umgehen kann, zudem die beiden Teile auch verschiedene Leserkreise ansprechen dürften. Und was das Fehlen der Integration beider Perspektiven angeht, so gibt das Buch genügend Raum, sich darüber selbst Gedanken zu machen.

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Peter Meusburger and Heike Jöns (eds.), Transformations in Hungary, Physica-Verlag, Heidelberg/New York, 2001
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The book includes fourteen essays dealing with different aspects of the Hungarian social, economic and political transformation during the 1990s. Ten essays provide a Hungarian, and four a German perspective on the change processes. The authors have diversified professional background: working in geography, sociology and economics the contributors cover a broad range of issues within transformation.

Among the topics of the papers we find role of knowledge (chapter by Meusburger), regional economic development (Nemes-Nagy), foreign investment (Jöns, Hunya), spread of entrepreneurship (Kuczi and Lengyel), income and employment disparities (Meusburger, Dövényi), poverty dynamics (Spéder), election results (Kovács), role of Budapest and the suburban region, and city development (Cséfalvay, Izsák and Probáld), mobility (Sailer), and cross-border co-operations (Rechnitzer).

The majority of essays relay on a geographical approach and explore spatial disparities within Hungary. As Meusburger states: “The slogan “place matters” was equally true under communism and during the transformation period” (p. 179). Two characteristics of spatial disparities are in the forefront of analysis: differences between Eastern and Western part of Hungary, and central – peripheral disparities. Due to historical and locational factors, West Hungary was much more successful in hosting foreign investors and managed to realise higher rates of economic development. Budapest and the surrounding region is

also a preferred region for investors compared to locations in the peripheria. Infrastructural factors and differences in available knowledge and skills are behind the altering rate of economic development. Alterations in economic development have social and political consequences as well. A group of papers concentrate on unemployment, poverty, party preferences expressed at elections, and mobility across regions. The authors emphasise the importance of these regional disparities for the possibilities of economic and social development.

Another group of papers analyses Hungarian transformation in relation to patterns of development in Europe, and within this especially in Central and Eastern Europe. Kuczi and Lengyel compare the possibilities for emergence of entrepreneurial behaviour in Hungary and in other countries of the region. Hunya analyses foreign direct investment in comparison with the other fore-runners of EU accession. Cséfalvay analyses the future role of Budapest in relation to competitiveness compared with other capitals in Central and Eastern Europe.

A third analytical dimension observable in many papers is the historical approach. Many of the authors share the view that proper understanding of transformation needs to take into consideration the previous phase of Hungarian economic and social development. To mention a few examples, Kuczi and Lengyel analyses the role of pre-transformation entrepreneurial possibilities, Meusburger underlines the influence of spatial disparities at the end of the 80s.

Theoretical frameworks used in the essays show broad variety as it might be expected taking into account the different professional background of the authors of essays. Comparative, contextual, and historical approaches may be underlined in characterising the theoretical standpoint of authors.

Publications at the field of socio-political and economic changes in former socialist countries may be grouped into two streams of approaches. The first is called transition, which approaches changes as leading from one starting point, the centrally planned economy, to market economy as the end-point of the changes. This approach does not pay attention to the process characteristics and the dynamics of the changes. The second is named as transformation, concentrating on the processes and influencing factors of the changes, taking into account the internal dynamics of the changes as well. The essays in the anthology mainly rely on the transformation approach, and provide rich information on changes during the 90s.

The essays included in the book relay in empirical analysis. Survey data are presented in the papers and they provide possibility for further analysis. Tendencies and phases within the transformation period may be analysed by using different approaches.

Scholars interested in organisational and management related analysis of changes in transformational societies may profit from the essays of the book.