

BOOK REVIEW

Pascariu, G. C., Țigănașu, R., Kourtit, K., & Nijkamp, P. (Eds.) (2023). Resilience and regional development, New roadmaps. Edward Elgar Publishing

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In the midst of a rapidly changing world, the concepts of resilience and regional development have emerged as guiding principles for communities, cities and regions worldwide. These interconnected and multidimensional notions have taken on unprecedented importance in the face of the complex and often turbulent realities of the modern era. Thus, the interplay between these two pivotal ideas has shaped the academic scene and influenced the policy decisions of governments worldwide (Martin et al., 2016; Nijkamp et al., 2022; Rouet & Pascariu, 2019).

The world's challenges are rarely isolated, with often interlinked impacts covering economic, social and environmental dimensions. Addressing resilience and development, therefore, requires a holistic approach that addresses these complexities while embracing innovation and adaptability. The ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, energy crises and climate change underscore the contemporary relevance of resilience and development. These circumstances require not only immediate responses but also long-term strategies that enhance economic, environmental and social well-being (Bailey et al., 2021; Bănică et al., 2021; Rouet & Pascariu, 2019). Therefore, effective governance and informed policies play a pivotal role in enhancing resilience and catalysing development, turning these concepts into tangible futures.

The volume “Resilience and Regional Development: New Roadmaps”, edited by Pascariu, Țigănașu, Kourtit and Nijkamp, reviews this intricate relationship and aims to highlight new strategies and perspectives for navigating the complex terrain of regional development. This volume stands as evidence of the collaborative efforts of esteemed scholars in urban studies, regional development, geography and economics as it provides a comprehensive framework for understanding the various aspects of resilience.

Structured into three parts, with 16 insightful chapters, the book delivers a multidimensional perspective. Part I, entitled *The Nexus of Resilience and Space: Theoretical and Methodological Developments* offers a foundational understanding

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of resilience, emphasising its relevance in the face of economic and systemic shocks. By emphasising the significance of geographical space, the section acknowledges that regions vary substantially in their ability to respond to and recover from shocks. It further introduces the idea that crises can function as catalysts for resetting governance structures and facilitating transformative change. Chapter 2, “Creativity in Cultural and Creative Industries as a Source of Regional Adaptive Resilience”, investigates the role of Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs) in regional resilience during periods of economic downturn. The authors highlight that CCIs truly demonstrate creativity through innovative results that strengthen a region’s capacity to adapt and transform in response to the structural changes caused by a crisis. The third chapter, “Accessibility, Population Dynamics and Regional Economic Resilience”, sheds light on the intricate relationship between accessibility, population dynamics, and economic resilience, constructing and analysing the Resilience Capacity Index (RCI) and the Resilience Economic Performance Index (REI). Insights from this chapter provide valuable guidance for policymakers and researchers working to promote resilience in a spatially complex and dynamic economic landscape.

The role of regional resilience in regional convergence within the European Union is examined in Chapter 4, “Binding Resilience to the Regional Convergence Framework: how Does Resilience Affect the EU Regional Gaps?”, which introduces a resilience capacity index that, when incorporated into a convergence model, reveals that regions with higher resilience capacity tend to recover more quickly from shocks, thus aiding lagging regions in the catching up process. It also suggests that reducing economic concentration, ensuring political stability and strengthening social capital can help regions withstand the impact of global financial crises. Drawing on empirical research from the RESIST study conducted in 2021, the following chapter, “Improving Resilient Development in Austrian Cities from a Transdisciplinary Perspective”, provides evidence of differences in understanding resilience among various groups of scientists and practitioners in Austrian cities. The authors offer valuable insights on improving resilient development in urban areas, emphasising the significance of public learning processes and a holistic, transdisciplinary approach to meet specific challenges.

In Chapter 6, “A Spatial Perspective on Wellbeing in the European Union”, the spatial patterns and variations in different types of well-being after a shock are explored. The authors look at how the spatial implications of well-being are closely tied to various territorial determinants, from local climate and natural capital to regional and national policies and underscore the need for macro-regional policies that address the diverse spatial dynamics and regional disparities within the European Union. The subsequent chapter, “Does History Affect Regional Resilience in the Long Term? Path-Dependence Lessons from Poland”, discusses the interplay between path dependence and resilience, highlighting that the demarcation line between the eastern and western regions remains relevant. Thus, even in the face of

significant political and institutional changes, historical legacies continue to shape the socioeconomic landscape and regional disparities.

The second part of the book, entitled *Resilience and Sustainability*, emphasises that the discussion around resilience must integrate various perspectives to comprehensively address the implications of environmental shocks. Chapter 8, “Sub-national governmental budget tools for surviving shocks: resiliency in the public sector”, explores the financial aspect of resilience and how budget management contributes to organisational sustainability in crises. Thus, the authors underscore that institutional differences play a crucial role in providing resilience to governments and suggest that a federalist insurance programme at the state level could be a possible solution. In the following chapter, “Sustainable Development Goals. People and Places Choose what They do not Have”, the attention is focused on the attitudes, values and choices of urban stakeholders concerning the characteristics of the places where they live in the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The authors suggest that sustainable goal indicators by country remain stable over time, with consistent groups of countries exhibiting similar SDG profiles, while the demands for SDGs can vary based on geographic locations.

Moving forward, Chapter 10, “Tsunami Spatial Economic Damage in Japan and Recovery: A Dynamic Input-Output Approach”, investigates the economic impacts of the Nankai Trough earthquake in Japan and the recovery process. Thus, considering three scenarios, the dynamic interregional input-output (IO) model constructed for this study reveals that municipalities and industrial sectors experienced significant direct and indirect damage from the tsunami, and calls for further research incorporating technological progress and innovation. The impact of extreme heatwaves (HWs) across Europe is discussed in Chapter 11, “Coping with Extreme Temperatures in European Regions - From Resilience to Prosilience?”, highlighting the importance of tailored policies and responses, considering urban and rural areas, as well as addressing the needs of various vulnerable population groups, beyond the elderly. The authors underline the importance of effective policy implementation at the local and regional levels, with necessary support from higher authorities and key stakeholders.

Part III of the book, entitled *Case Studies: Multidimensional Shocks, Impacts, and Policies*, presents a collection of case studies that apply a resilience approach to various contexts. These case studies explore the interplay of governance and institutional arrangements, local development in peripheral areas, social cohesion, and tourism-related issues. In Chapter 12, “Crises, Governance and Resilience. A Perception-based Study”, the essential role of good governance in fostering regional resilience is stressed, as effective governance serves as the main pillar for regions to withstand various shocks and crises. Regional disparities in perceptions of institutional efficiency are noted, with implications for regional development based on governance quality, while involving citizens in decision-making processes,

establishing e-citizenship and ensuring a degree of predictability can help governments foster resilience. Chapter 13, “Governance Challenges of Resilient Local Development in Peripheral Regions”, provides valuable insights into the complex interplay of governance and resilience in peripheral regions and highlights the need for more decentralised governance structures to enhance local resilience. With specific reference to Hungary and the peripheral area of Baranya County, the authors underscore the significance of local elites’ activism and their ability to engage and mobilise local communities.

The subsequent chapter, “Typifying Social Cohesion in Rural Areas - the Social Places Concept (SPC)”, discusses the concept of Social Places and its significance in promoting social cohesion and resilience. The authors assert that Social Places are not mere projects but sustainable processes that serve as a link between local communities and the broader society, while their existence can foster tolerance, enhance democratic attitudes and positively impact social cohesion. Chapter 15, “Tourism and Meeting Incentive Convention Event (MICE) Tourism in Europe, Systemic Shock, Structural Transformations and Resilience”, investigates the resilience of MICE (Meeting, Incentive, Convention, and Event) tourism in Europe, focusing on how it can effectively manage disturbances and maintain a sustainable trajectory. It underscores the need to integrate tourism, especially MICE, into broader reflections, strategies and policies to enhance the resilience of these systems in the face of potential disruptions, including systemic shocks. The book’s final chapter, “Resilience of Tourism in Times of Global Crises: the Case of Romanian Urban Destinations”, analyses the resilience of urban tourist destinations in Romania in the face of two significant global crises: the 2008-09 global economic crisis and the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. It highlights lessons that can be learned from destinations that demonstrated growth during these crises, while investment efforts can be directed toward urban destinations in the early stages of their tourism development cycle and possessing resilience-enhancing features.

Overall, “Resilience and Regional Development” represents an outstanding contribution to the field as it provides a comprehensive exploration of resilience within various spatial contexts and a diverse range of shocks. It effectively differentiates resilience from related concepts such as sustainability, well-being and regional development and offers multidimensional insights with practical implications. With contributions from scholars representing various disciplines and an array of analytical tools, along with geographically diverse case studies, the book highlights the transformative nature of resilience, emphasising its multi-level and multi-actor dimensions. It caters to a broad readership interested in understanding the spatial impacts of shocks and the role of good governance in enhancing resilience and underscores the significance of fostering resilience as a means to navigate the turbulent challenges facing regions worldwide.

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