
Contents

1	Planning Theory: Reconstruction or Requiem?	1
1.1	A Certain Uneasiness about “Planning Theory”	1
1.2	Have We Improved the Clarity of Planning Methodology?	2
1.3	What Are the Reasons for the Deceiving Development of Planning Theory?	4
1.3.1	The Equivocal Case of the “Substantive” Side of Planning Theory	5
1.3.2	Expanding the Scope Too Much	6
1.3.3	Expanding the Terrain and the Roots	8
1.3.4	The Lack of Relationship with “Substantive” Planning	10
1.4	Planning Theory: General or Not?	11
1.5	A Vade-Mecum for Good Planners’ Professional Relations?	12
1.6	Deontology and Epistemology of the Profession	14
2	In Search of Integration: The Past Negative Experience	17
2.1	Expectations and Results from the Integration of the Planning Sciences	17
2.1.1	Macro-Economic Planning in Europe	18
2.1.2	Strategic Management and Planning in the Public Sector	19
2.1.3	Integrated Regional Planning	19
2.1.4	Integrated Approach in Academic Journals	19
2.2	The Bad Course of the Debate	21
2.3	Is a Positive Reconstruction of Planning Theory Possible?	22
3	Towards a New Unified Discipline of Planning	23
3.1	The Fields of Activity	23
3.1.1	Physical Planning	23
3.1.2	Macro-Economic Planning	24
3.1.3	Social Planning	26
3.1.4	Development Planning	27
3.1.5	Operational Planning	29

3.2	The Merits and Limits of the Trans-Disciplinary Approach	32
3.2.1	Merits	32
3.2.2	Limits	33
3.3	“Positivist”-Type Decision-Making Analysis	33
3.4	Social Reality is Subjective Reality	34
3.5	“Voluntarist”-Type Decision-Making Analysis	35
3.6	A Defect of Approach or One of Further Elaboration?	36
4	The First Routes of the New Discipline	39
4.1	Schemes of Procedure for the Preparation of Plans and the Construction of Suitable “Accounting Frames”	40
4.2	Schemes of the Systemic Interrelationship Between Plan Levels	41
4.3	Institutional Procedures of “Plan Bargaining” and Preference Consultation Systems	42
4.4	Information Systems for Planning and Their Management	43
4.5	Monitoring and Plan Evaluation Systems	44
5	Some Integrative Topics of the New Planning Discipline	45
5.1	Integration Between (Conventional) Economic Accounting Systems and Social Accounting Systems	46
5.2	Integration Between Socio-Economic Planning (and Related Accounting) and Technological Forecasting	47
5.3	Integration Between Socio-Economic Planning (and Related Accounting) and Physical (or Territorial or Environmental) Planning	48
5.4	Integration Between Socio-Economic (and Physical) Planning and Institutional Organisation and Negotiation	48
5.5	Integration Between Socio-Economic Planning and the Institutional System and Design	49
5.6	Concluding Remarks: The “Planological Approach”	50
6	Planning Science: Basic Postulates and Logical Framework for Reference	53
6.1	From Planning “Theory” to Planning “Science”	53
6.2	A reference Framework for Planning Science: Some Essential Postulates	54
6.2.1	Logical Postulates	54
6.2.2	Field or Delimitation Postulates	57
6.3	The Planning Process	60
6.4	The Planning System	61
6.4.1	The Planning Selection System	63
6.4.2	The Planning Implementation System	66
6.4.3	Functional and Time Interdependencies	68
6.5	Conclusions	70

7	The Future of National Planning Systems: Some New Steps	71
7.1	The Concept of “National Planning”	71
7.2	National Planning in a Systemic Vision	72
7.3	What Opportunities Exist for the Systemic-Type Development of National Planning?	73
7.3.1	The Weight of the Past	73
7.3.2	Strategic Planning at the National Scale	75
7.4	The American Federal Strategic Planning: Its Effects on the National Planning Future	77
7.5	From Strategic Planning to National Economic Programming: A Necessary Step Towards Systemic Planning	78
7.6	Toward a Scientific and Professional Approach to the Systemic Planning	79
8	Planning and Plan Evaluation: Some Well-Known and Often Neglected Pitfalls	81
8.1	Logical Indeterminateness: “Evaluation” Versus “Values”	82
8.2	Systemic Disconnectedness	86
8.3	Strategic Insubordination	87
8.4	Self-Referencing	88
8.5	Sub-Optimization	90
8.6	Bounded Rationality	90
9	Conclusions	95
9.1	A question of Prepositions	95
9.2	A question of “Adjectivization”	96
9.3	The “Rational” Approach Case and the “Communicative” or “Collaborative” One	98
9.4	The Diagonal of “Planology”	99
	Bibliographical References	103

Planning Theory
From the Political Debate to the Methodological
Reconstruction

Archibugi, F.

2008, XII, 126 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-88-470-0695-9