

Preface

Geographical marginality as a conceptual framework for the research of multifaceted problems evolving from human impact on nature and vice versa is relatively new and its relevance needs to be further discussed in future. Sustainability, or, to be precise, the absence of it, has many links with marginality and marginalization. Both terms are to certain extent ambiguous as they are very widely used. That makes the topic of relationship between marginality and sustainability even more relevant. Future development should in all areas only be sustainable. Actually, if the development is not sustainable, it should not be named development because this term by the definition involves not just quantitative component (growth), but includes qualitative aspects, too. There cannot be any improvement in terms of quality if the growth in production neglects the impact of this development on the quality of life of future generations. Following the path of short-term profit maximization on the account of future generations means marginalization of our descendants and limitation of their prospects for long-term survival. However, unsustainability is not only a driver of long-term marginalization. Unsustainable economic practices are most common in those areas of the world where the awareness of environmental issues is still low and the need for any kind of sources of income is high. Multinational companies are always moving their operations in the direction of the cheapest labour and the lowest environmental restrictions, thus marginalizing the countries where they open their often environmentally offensive branches and employ their low paid workers that are working hard and have long working hours. Employees in the countries that used to host their branches before they moved them elsewhere are marginalized as well, as they become jobless. Therefore even better developed countries with a much higher public awareness of environmental issues and declared orientation towards sustainable development often implement dubious developmental solutions. As permanent growth of the GDP is so extremely important issue for politicians that work on four years re-election cycles, they are often giving priority to the solutions that result in short-term effects rather than those that will give the results sometime in the far future.

Unfortunately, systematic studies of marginality are rare and to come to some conclusion we have to use the insights given by many different partial studies that

often use different approaches and deal with many different topics. What we try to find in the variety of these studies are different drivers of marginalization. In this third book of the series *Perspectives on Geographical Marginality* we are trying to reveal different aspects and different drivers of marginalization. The authors prepared their chapters on the basis of their papers presented at the last two conferences of the International Geographical Union's commission C12.29 Marginalization, Globalization and Regional and Local Responses, held in 2015 in Agri (Turkey) and in 2016 in Ljubljana, Koper and Maribor (Slovenia). The last conference focused on sustainability and this is the reason why the book starts with more nature oriented topics, followed by the insights into different roles that tourism plays in (de)marginalization process, drivers related to ethnicity and other predominantly economic topics.

We would like to express our appreciation to all the chapter authors who have contributed a wide variety of interesting topics that enable us to get better insight to marginality from many different perspectives.

Koper, Slovenia

Stanko Pelc
Miha Koderman

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