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Inventive City-Regions

Path Dependence and Creative Knowledge Strategies

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'One of the notable gaps in the literature on creative cities and regions is the dearth of meaningful comparative studies. The authors of Inventive City-Regions have helped to narrow the gap with this excellent study of seven important European cases. The study is framed by a valuable theoretical overview and by an informative summary of findings.' – Allen J. Scott, University of California Los Angeles, USA

'A uniquely well-researched and informative analysis of a key contemporary issue for urban planners and regenerators: how to transform fundamentally the economies of older cities and their regions, illustrated by in-depth analysis of the recent histories of seven major European cities. It will become essential reading.'
– Sir Peter Hall, University College London, UK

Virtually every city and region in West and Central Europe has developed policies and strategies to attract, retain and encourage creative industries and knowledge-intensive services. This book explores the spatial, economic, historical, socio-demographic, socio-cultural and political conditions that may determine whether a city-region is or can become attractive for creative and knowledge-intensive companies. Using seven European cities as case studies, the book highlights similarities and differences, and makes policy recommendations.

Contents: Introduction; Theoretical framework; Research design and methodology; Framing the cases: comparative facts and figures; Amsterdam: social and political obstacles on the road towards a creative knowledge region; Munich: the tricky luxury of long-lasting success; Helsinki: beyond the Nokia revolution; Barcelona: competitiveness vs. sustainability; Manchester: phoenix from the ashes?; Birmingham: overcoming modernism and the shadow of London; Leipzig: a confusing mix of growth and shrinkage; Conclusions: pathways, strengths and strategies; Bibliography; Index. Includes 29 b&w illustrations

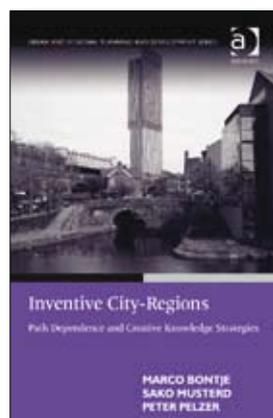
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February 2011

278 pages

Hardback

978-1-4094-1772-9

£65.00

This title is also available
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