The 'Cambridge Phenomenon' and the challenge of planning reform

Boddy, Martin | Hickman, Hannah


DOI: https://doi.org/10.3828/tpr.2016.6 Language: English Pages: 22

Abstract

The 'Cambridge Phenomenon' has achieved global recognition as an exemplar of economic success. After decades of post-war planning restraint, a major shift in the strategic planning framework saw the city region enthusiastically backing future growth. Faced, subsequently, with abolition of formal strategic planning at a national level and when many local councils took the opportunity to scale back development proposals, Cambridge reasserted its commitment to growth. The new 'localism' and the 2012 National Planning Policy Framework, however, leaves this strategy – and the Cambridge Phenomenon itself – potentially vulnerable. This article explains the continuing momentum behind growth in the face of radical planning reform and looks at the potential tensions between this and the new localism. It provides an updated account of this iconic, high-tech cluster. It also aims to contribute to our conceptual understanding of strategies for growth.

References


CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY SENATE (1969), Mott Report, Cambridge, University of Cambridge Senate Google Scholar


We use cookies to ensure you get the best experience on our website.
I then discuss some of the challenges and implications associated with taking practice seriously in studies of organizations. Throughout this commentary, I will draw on illustrations from the arena of organizational research that I am most familiar with: technology studies.

The first mode emphasizes practice as a phenomenon — the notion that what is most important in organization research is understanding what happens ‘in practice’, as opposed to what is derived or expected from ‘theory’; the second mode advocates practice as a perspective — the articulation of a practice-centred theory about some aspect of organizations; and the third mode highlights the notion of practice.

The ‘Cambridge Phenomenon’ and the challenge of planning reform. The ‘Cambridge Phenomenon’ has achieved global recognition as an exemplar of economic success. After decades of post-war planning restraint, a major shift in the strategic planning framework saw the city region enthusiastically backing future growth. Faced, subsequently, with abolition of formal strategic planning at a national level and when many local councils took the opportunity to scale back development proposals, Cambridge reasserted its commitment to growth. The new ‘localism’ and the 2012 National Planning Policy Framework.

A new book “The Cambridge Phenomenon” is published this week, tracking and seeking to explain the area’s success. Its title picks up on term coined by the Financial Times in 1980 when the newspaper reported that the technology being produced would be “vital to Britain’s basic prosperity and to the continuing ability to contribute on an international level”. Technology clusters are big news. The recent launch of the Google Campus at London’s Silicon Roundabout shows how much importance international companies and governments place on centres of creativity and innovation as engines for driving future profits and prosperity.