Communicative Development Corporations

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This presentation is an excerpt of:

Broader research awarded the T. Baswell Donaldson Research Prize Honorable Mention by the Central Bank of The Bahamas

Research paper entitled: "Resiliency and Equitable Development: Facilitating Sustainable Urban Spaces in Caribbean Small Island Developing States"
Regionally, development corporations have efficiently facilitated urban development initiatives by subverting standard bureaucratic processes. However, they are not always ‘developers in the public interest.’ This research seeks to consider a communicative adaptation of development corporations that may allow them to better facilitate both procedural justice and increasingly just planning outcomes.
"The Caribbean is one of the most highly urbanized areas in the world with approximately two-thirds of the population living in towns and cities which dominate ‘both the population and economic growth of all Caribbean nations’”

Inclusive Development through Special Powers

Trans-lateral Example: Mukuru SPA


Communicative Development Corporations

Most Commonwealth Caribbean states, during the colonial period under British rule, had systems of local government. With independence, however, national governments reevaluated the efficacy of the existing local government systems. [...] some states retained a system of local government, while others reformed the local government systems, ensuring that they were no longer subnational governmental authorities, but rather became administering arms of the central government, while in other states, the systems were simply abolished and all functions transferred to central government.
"Governance -beyond -the -state refers in this context to the emergence, proliferation and active encouragement (by the state or international bodies like the European Union or the World Bank) of institutional arrangements of ‘governing’ which give a much greater role in policy -making, administration and implementation to private economic actors."

"communicative planning has been one of the most discussed topics in planning research of the late 20th and early 21st centuries." On a practitioner level, individual planners have "discovered the utility of communicating and collaborating with stakeholders, regardless of the requirements coming from the planning systems."


Communities of Practice (CoP) refer to groups of people sharing common concerns or passions who come together to discuss these issues and build out their collective knowledge to advance a domain of professional practice. These communities form in part a process of social learning by allowing the sharing of ideas, strategies, solutions, and innovations.
Inclusive Development through Special Powers

As planners and developers for a specified areas with an ability to operate as government agencies without sole dependency on the ‘consolidated fund’ Development Corporations are more protected from various externalities and is a proactive mechanism for protecting urban development from economic shock and neoliberalism.
Established in 2017, Mukuru SPA introduced a new model of community organizing and representation by “seeking to involve every resident in all stages of the participatory planning process” and relying on “interdisciplinary consortia, which generate new partnerships among government, civil society and the private sector”

Development structures and tools must recognize local or municipal planning is a "quintessentially local activity" and allow these spaces to be guided by community participation and collective community goals.


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<th>Opportunities for Further Research</th>
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<td>Workplace learning and organizational change initiatives for structural changes</td>
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<td>Practical ideation-to-implementation processes</td>
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<td>Development of practical, context-based tools and procedures</td>
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Thank you!

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