Spatial Action Research Approach: Inter-scalar Equilibrium of Power, Knowledge and Decision Making In Spatial Strategic Planning

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Abstract
In recent years, strategic planning has been developed in line with participatory democracy and communicative rationality, and then criticized for not providing a practical methodology. Some scholars such as Gavent, Cornwall and Ataov argue that we should conceptualize “Action Research Approach” as a methodological solution to implement strategic planning and communicative rationality. Action Research Approach concentrates on mutual learning, and involves interactions between the multitudes of actors. Nevertheless, they have just focused on using the approach in a single geographical scale, while implementing Action Research Approach in one scale depends on other ones due to interdependency of the scales and essentially the multi-scalar character of places. It is, therefore, essential to develop an inter-related scalar approach for strategic planning and Action Research Approach by considering inter-scalar interaction and plural dimension of scales. Hence, this article outlines more spatially-extended vision of Action Research Approach using spatial pluralism alongside the concept of "planning with scales". The aim of Spatial Action Research Approach is to equalize power, knowledge and decision making relations spatially, and to improve them democratically.

Keywords: Strategic planning, Participation, Power, Spatial action research approach, Planning with scale.

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