



Original Articles

Urban experimentation and institutional arrangements.

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This work may be a bit too academic for direct application to the issues facing small cities and towns; but, it introduces **the idea of experimentation!** Civic entrepreneurs are curious, innovative and somewhat daring in their experiments with new ideas and innovations. With “smart city” initiatives, “green” technology, the coming intrusion of automated vehicles and needed remote civic engagement methods, experimentation is the name of the game. “Zoom rooms” and remote engagement technologies offer ways to overcome isolation and disengagement. These and other new methods and procedures will persist long after the current healthcare emergency has passed. The learning curve just ramped up again.

ABSTRACT

“Currently little is known about how institutional arrangements co-evolve with urban experimentation. This paper mobilizes neo-institutional literature and recent urban experimentation literature as a framework to explore how and why institutional arrangements differ across urban contexts. Empirically the paper focusses on smart city initiatives in Amsterdam, Hamburg and Ningbo. These three cities are frontrunners in adopting a comprehensive smart city agenda, but they do so in different ways. The paper examines regulative, normative and cognitive elements of institutional arrangements, explores how they shape experimentation, and reflects on their place-based specificities. The comparative analysis suggests that the focus of, and approach to, experimentation can be understood as resting in a (possibly unique) combination of strategic agency and dynamics at multiple spatial scales.

KEYWORDS: [Urban experimentation](#), [institutional arrangements](#), [smart cities](#), [comparative case study](#)”

LINK to the full article: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09654313.2017.1393047>