

The Impact of Global Transformations on Traditional Societies: Avoiding Ecological Fallacies in Operational Planning Models

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ABSTRACT

The paper is concerned with the problem of ecological fallacy, which affects the planners. ability to comprehend the nature of the problem, community characteristics, and the behavior of individuals. As a result of global transformations the external and internal ecology of communities become more complicated. The probability of an ecological fallacy to occur increases due, in part, to including some communities in the global system, while the rest of the country is left out.

This paper reviews past and current developments in the planning practice and theory in response to transformations in the organization of capitalism. This review is the foundation for the concluding remarks of the paper. Planning education in the next decades will have to build the capacities of planners to have three competencies: technical that is based on empirical knowledge to be used in analytical actions of the planning process; inter-subjective rooted in the hermeneutic knowledge for communicative actions; and critico-ethical for the emancipatory actions of planning needed to empower the public and enlighten planners themselves.

Planners. source of critico-ethical competency is their professors, who have to be mentors to their students in- and outside the classroom not just instructors.