

# Innovation in Public Planning

Aksel Hagen • Ulla Higdem  
Editors

# Innovation in Public Planning

Calculate, Communicate and Innovate

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## PREFACE

As planning researchers, we have long recorded that planners and politicians have used the concept of innovation for many years to inspire and improve their practices. Over the last 15 years, the body of literature on innovation in, for and about the public sector, including public planning, has expanded substantially. Innovation has become an imperative for the public sector including planning. In planning theory, discussion of the innovation concept is less common than might be expected given the public sector's overall level of theoretical interest in the topic.

If planning theory still aims both to describe and to prescribe planning, then it is our view that innovation also must be given more theoretical attention. This book aims at contributing to the discourse on innovation in planning theory. Our efforts have led to the introduction of a theoretical framework for how to understand innovation in planning today by building on other scholars and the several contributions of this book. A central inspirational force for this book is the planning theorist John Fiedmann, who introduced innovative planning in 1966. The main initiating force to realise a book on innovation and planning was Palgrave Macmillan, for which we are thankful. We would also like to thank all the contributors for joining us in this adventure in a positive, disciplined and innovative manner.

Finally, we hope the book inspires further discourse on innovative planning, be it theoretical or practical.

Lillehammer, Norway  
January 2020

Aksel Hagen  
Ulla Higdem

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