when the third sector builds the city

third sector-led regeneration projects: spaces of hope?

barbara van dyck, planning & development - university of Leuven

April 2011 _ CRISES Montreal_ troisième colloque international
explain the emergence of third sector-led regeneration projects

explore their potential as seeds for [social] change | spaces of hope

method
→ international comparative approach Friche|Marseille & Angus|Montréal
→ projects as part of the institutional infrastructure that coordinate actors
Understanding socio-political struggle through the study of regeneration projects

(I) What factors shape the projects?

(II) What role for projects in shaping development trajectories?
Technopôle Angus MONTREAL

**site:** 50 ha locomotive production and repair shops neighbouring working class neighbourhoods; transformed into housing and a modern “plural economy” industrial site (46 companies, 1300 employees)

**development coalition:** community development corporation – labour union related pension funds lead the project

- agreement with former land owner and different governmental tiers after strong community mobilisation process
la Friche de la Belle-de-Mai MARSEILLE

**site:** 12 ha tobacco factory, squeezed in between a railway and a working class neighbourhood, transformed into site for archiving and cultural production

**development coalition:** artist collectives lead the project, in cooperation with local government, support from various public sector bodies. Establishment of a cooperative developer and separation from organisers
Third sector actors take the lead...

**Tension**

social innovation – cooption

revolution - survival
QUESTIONS

1. who gains control over what resources?
2. what values / wider aims does the project contribute to? how do they link to the wider struggle?
3. how are the key actors organised?
explore project’s potential as seeds for [social] change | spaces of hope

Société de développement d’Angus?

CDEC - corporation de développement économique communautaire; funding related to mission

SDA - more autonomy; no structural funding
explore project’s potential as seeds for [social] change | spaces of hope

SFT - système friche théâtre

artist association

Cooperation with and distantiating from public authorities

SCIC société coopérative d’intérêt collectif
QUESTIONS
1. who gains control over what resources?
2. what values / wide aims does the project contribute to? how do they link to the wider struggle?
3. how are the key actors organised?
1. who gains control over what resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANGUS -Montreal</th>
<th>FRICHE- MARSEILLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CDEC – SDA - Fondaction landownership</td>
<td>SFT – SCIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>urban economic imaginaries &amp; territorial decision-making process and strategies</td>
<td>convention précaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scale jumping – region, national state, pension funds</td>
<td>bail emphyotique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>urban economic imaginaries &amp; territorial decision-making process and strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>scale jumping – city, region, nation state</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. who gains control over what resources | being part of a larger whole
1. who gains control over what resources being part of a larger whole
1. who gains control over what resources

fitting the mainstream: workfare strategies, outsourcing of public services
“Social movements do not so much engage policy with counter-proposals. Instead they contend the meanings of core ideas that underlie policy debates, challenge dominant notions about what counts as legitimate knowledge in the process of forming policy and argue that alternative actors and sources of knowledge ought also to influence policy-making processes”

Bebbington 2007, 10
2. what values / wide aims does the project contribute to? link to the wider struggle?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ANGUS -Montreal</th>
<th>FRICHE- MARSEILLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>proactive strategies in laying claim to the economy local jobs laying claim to place-making strategies – <strong>urban business park</strong> sustainability story being part of a territory services</td>
<td><strong>proactive strategies in laying claim to the economy</strong> space for alternative arts scene laying claim to place-making strategies – <strong>anti-speculative - reversability</strong> de-colonising minds autonomy being part of a territory Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. what values / wide aims does the project contribute to?
link to the wider struggle?

questioning
• development
• “the” economy
• Commodification | privatisation

new alliances against social exclusion
• creating [accessible] jobs | spaces
  (physical & social)
• community unionism
• connecting people | localities
  local – elsewhere – global connections (e.g. art exchanges; insertech)
3. How are the third sector key actors organised?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Angus -Montreal</th>
<th>Friche - Marseille</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CDEC</td>
<td>SFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDA</td>
<td>SFT – Ville de Marseille</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDA – Fondactoin – FIA</td>
<td>SFT + SCIC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. How are the third sector key actors organised?

- association – development corporation: constraints funding – hierarchy *the freedom of money for “culture”*
- centralised decision-making
- entreprise: cooperative, or not
- connection with “actors on site” | community outreach
learning from the 1990s-2000s | OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE?

rescaling

selective empowerment

collective ownership | more than landlord

need to separate organising from developing
rescaling
changing sites of contradiction
new repertoires of social action
territorialisation as adaption to scale of capital
rescaling

selective empowerment

need to separate organising from developing collective ownership | more than landlord
Regeneration projects are socially and spatially selective “You are in or out”

*Social equity? Fair re-distribution of resources?*

---

**methodological consequence**

impact on those actors that did not play a direct role | un-organised civil society

**consequences for urban development thinking and practice**

going beyond projects: the need for complementary strategies for resource distribution
collective ownership | more than landlord: develop & organise

need to separate organising from developing
need to separate organising from developing

*community builders vs. city builders*
when the developers don’t show up....

issues at stake?

speculative production of the built environment
occupying niches

innovations?

* division of labour in the production of the built environment
* collective ownership as anti-speculation and tool for autonomy

conditions for institutionalisation with respect for values, principles, needs of initiating actors?

* economic crisis (less market pressure)
* being different, but not too different
* public support – inward looking | between survival & revolution
* local leadership + scale jumping
When the third sector builds the city. Brownfield Transformation Projects in Marseille and Montréal (phd thesis)


barbara.vandyck@asro.kuleuven.be
Analytical framework: A political economy view of brownfield transformation projects through linking regulation approach concepts and methodologies with social innovation concepts and methodologies
**EMPIRICAL FOCUS**
- Third sector involvement in the physical reorganisation of space as a new form of collective action

**ANALYTICAL MESO-LEVEL**
- Rescaling capital - rescaling social movements

**UNDERLYING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STRUCTURES**
- Class divisions
- Spatial reorganisation of capitalism

**Research Focus Chapter SEVEN**
- Not for profit developers at Angus and SEITA
- Enhanced local control over local economic development challenging meanings and roles in the production of the built environment
- Reproduction structures / social change