



Bringing together economic phases, spatial shifts, urban policies and contests since the 1950's. The case of Belgium

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Territorial planning is often examined from the standpoint of “good practices”, which should be evident, without any contextualisation. We want to examine the relations between the phases of economic development and transformation of economic structures, spatial shifts and policies and practices of territorial planning. The last ones can be studied at the national and regional scales, but also at the level of urban policies. So, urban development practices have to be linked with global economic and social changes, as well as with the induced balances of power and political coalitions, and possibly urban struggles and contests. The links between these phenomena will be examined for three structuring periods: the Fordist phase, before 1974; the phase of intense tertiarisation of economy in the 1980s and the 1990s; a relative stabilisation of economic structures, in the new context of globalisation since the beginning of the current century. They are considered on the example of Belgium, with a particular focus on Brussels, a small world-city, and its metropolitan area.

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