

Abstract

Scholars in various social sciences have studied how concepts and theories not only analytically describe, but also normatively shape social reality. They labelled this phenomenon performativity. While the findings of these studies have brought a lot of new theorizing and implications, little is known on the existence of theoretical concepts in their full range and how they are actually implemented. This dissertation focuses on how theoretical concepts come into being and how they manifest themselves in everyday reality of various actors. Two geographical concepts were chosen—knowledge locality and metropolitan region—and three research questions were set: (RQ1) what are the activities and practices of various actors that lead the concepts come into being; (RQ2) how their coming into being changes urban and institutional arrangements in the functional region of Prague; and (RQ3) whether public policies are performative and succeed in materializing the given concepts in the development of cities and regions. Analysing the implementation of these concepts and discussing with the literature offers answers to research questions through: (1) the theory of performative practices, (2) the urbanization process and the institutionalization of the region, and (3) the "agency" of public policies. Two case studies located in the Prague metropolitan region describe not only what activities of actors led to their performative constitution, but also how their existence in everyday activities affects the spatial distribution of science and research as well as the structure of institutions. They also document that concepts come into being through activities where the agency of socio-materiality—human and nonhuman elements such as transportation system, gatherings, governing bodies, mechanisms, or boundaries—is intertwined. These actors altogether thus play a crucial role in implementing geographical concepts.

KEYWORDS: *metropolitan region; knowledge location; performativity; practices; actors' agency; metropolization process; knowledge and urban dynamics; public policies; sociomateriality.*