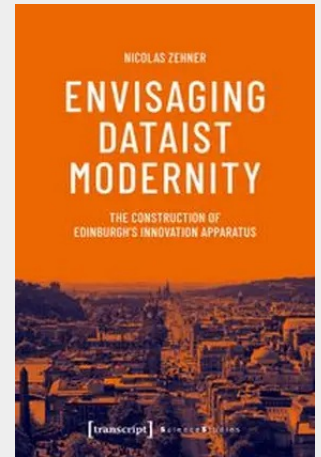


Envisaging Dataist Modernity

The Construction of Edinburgh's Innovation Apparatus

The Edinburgh and South-East Scotland City Region Deal (CRD) constitutes a long-term infrastructure investment that is designed to transform the city region into the 'Data Capital of Europe'. Drawing on science and technology studies and urban studies, Nicolas Zehner explores the question of who gets to imagine what kinds of urban-regional futures by investigating the emergence and early implementation of this large, multi-stakeholder urban-regional development project. Demonstrating the growing influence of universities in shaping desirable futures, he introduces the notion of "dataist modernity" to characterise the contemporary relationship between science, technology and urban planning.

1. Why did you choose this topic? I have always been fascinated by the role of cities as places of emancipatory and alternative future-making. Building on previous research, I was intrigued to find out how expectations about the future develop in the urban landscape, and, at the same time, how they condition the imagination for the development of urban landscapes. Edinburgh, with its rich history and ambitious future visions, seemed like the perfect place to start investigating. 2. What new perspectives does your book offer? My book grapples with the interplay of imagined futures, city regions and technoscience by exploring the ways in which urban planning agents imagine futures, and the sociotechnical conditions which help establish the credibility of their expectations. More specifically, it investigates the intricate relationship between technoscience and cities through the lens of urban-regional innovation. Doing so, it extends co-productionist STS on smart urbanism. 3. What makes your topic relevant for current research debates? My book provides an empirical account of smart urbanism in the Edinburgh city region ? a city region that to this date ? has received only limited academic attention. It contributes to research at the intersection of STS and urban studies by interpreting cities as complex sociotechnical assemblages, and conceptualising urban innovation through the notion of sociotechnical imaginaries. Finally, it highlights the role of universities as key drivers of urban-regional renewal. 4. Choose one person you would like to discuss your book with! Professor Sharon Zukin. 5. Your book summary in one sentence: This book interrogates who gets to imagine what kinds of desirable futures in the Edinburgh city region.



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