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The place where streams seek ground. Towards a new territorial governmentality: the meaning and usage of the concept of territorial cohesion in the European Union

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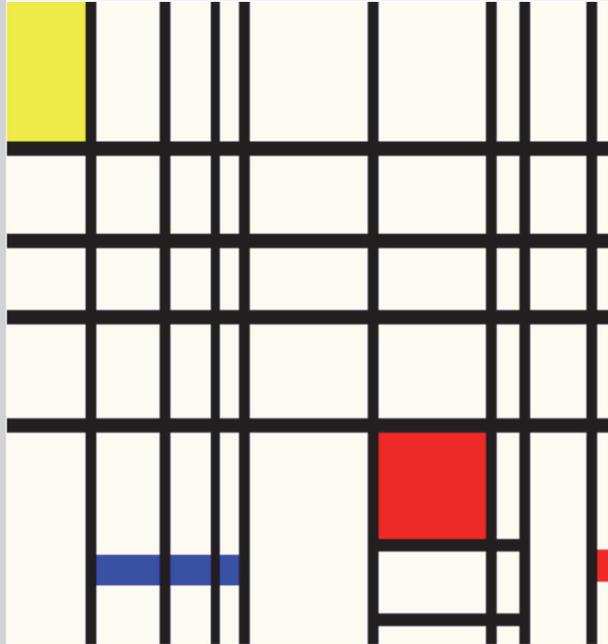
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Part II Analytical framework: governmentality



Mondriaan (1921) *Rood, geel, blauw*

Introduction

In every research, including this one on the concept of territorial cohesion, the researcher shows himself. His basic attitude comes forward through his look. To preclude the critique that this implicitly affects the research outcomes, one can better be open about it from the start and reflect on its influence at the end. This looking must not be confused with seeing though. It is not the sight by which he for research ‘turns towards beings as “objects” and grasps them’ (i.e. $\sigma\alpha\nu$) (Heidegger, 1943: 103, 147). Instead of being about how the researcher sees the world – not even speaking of how he thinks it actually works –, it is about that ‘in which the one who looks shows himself, appears, and “is there”’ (i.e. $\theta\epsilon\alpha\nu$) (Heidegger, 1943: 103). Mingling both would lead us into premature theoretical discussions (i.e. from $\theta\epsilon\alpha\nu\text{-}\sigma\alpha\nu$ to $\theta\epsilon\sigma\iota\alpha$)^a. In a sense, this looking of the researcher is more in line with paintings of Mondriaan than sur-/realistic portrayals of objects (e.g. Dali, Vermeer) or im-/expressionistic displays (e.g. Monet, van Gogh). That is to say, even though abstract, the researcher’s look is clear, sharp, and organised, as his basic attitude is an analytical stance.

^a Discussions which might be rampant since the ‘recent breakdown of the foundational assumptions about human action inherited from classical social theory’ (Biernacki, in Adams&Clemens&Shola Orloff, 2005: 75). When you understand ‘theory’ as the encountering look, the perceptual relation of man towards Being (Heidegger, 1943: 147), it might become easier to understand why unfounded theories seem to be preferred above none at all – theories namely look to see and see to grasp beings.

Hence, the question of ‘What is the analytical stance of this research?’. The analytical stance permeating the divisions of this territorial cohesion research is explicated below in its analytical framework and departure-point – the question of how this research conducts its analysis of the concept is answered thereafter in Part III on the methodological framework. The separations in this analytical framework come forth from Foucault. His understanding of power and governmentality analytics in particular forms the discursive context of this research treated in Chapter 2. The departure-point of spatial planning and European spatial planning in particular also forms this context. Note though, that this analytical framework and departure-point seem to bite each other. Friedmann (1998: 249) for instance calls planning’s ambivalence about power its biggest problem (Flyvbjerg, 2002: 353; Flyvbjerg&Richardson, in Allmendinger&Tewdwr-Jones, 2002). Yet, how better to deal with this tension than through Foucault’s thinking? That is to say, if the spatiality of it cannot only be useful for planning (Flyvbjerg&Richardson, in Allmendinger&Tewdwr-Jones, 2002), but his thinking might even be fuelled by the thought that ‘[t]he anxiety of our era has to do fundamentally with space’ (Foucault, cited in Massey, 1992: 65). Chapter 3 therefore treats the linkage of governmentality and European spatial planning in power performances. The reader should thereby keep in mind that both these chapters of Part II are part of a sceptic exercise in withholding judgement.
