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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Part IV Conclusion: research output

Introduction

This research undertook a Foucaultian fieldwork in philosophy to answer a broad and fundamental question: what is the meaning and usage of the concept of territorial cohesion in the European Union? Concrete analyses of the neologism 'territorial cohesion' were carried out and lead to practical philosophical considerations about the ways its conflicting meanings and usages make sense. The output of this discourse analytical endeavour is then meant to entice value-rational deliberation and action in social and spatial science.

The research frameworks, its object, the below presented discourse analytical output, and the reflective questions these lead to can be illustrated by Escher’s (1940) *Metamorphosis II*. The relation between concrete practices and (strategic) thought made by the analytical framework of governmentality can be seen in the relationship between a village and the game of chess; the ethereal order of territorial cohesion meanings and knowledges in the chess-board, the earthly chaos of the concept’s practices in the rocky soil on which the buildings stand, and its discourse in the white castle with a bridge between this order and chaos; the substantive framework of a world in flux in the streamlet between these sides; the transforming stream of territorial cohesion rationality that meets them in the title ‘Metamorphosis’; the snap shot of it all with the methodological framework of discourse analysis in the woodcutting of the image itself; and, finally, the title of this thesis (i.e. the place where streams seek ground) in the question why that white castle, or rather: ivory tower, is positioned thus. That is to say, with Chapter 18 Part IV concludes the questions of where is territorial cohesion going and who wins from this by creating more freedom for thinking (differently).