REVISITING THE FIELD
Planning from "above" and "below"

11.201 GATEWAY: Planning Action

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Bankers are people too

“World Bank wants to bring happiness to ordinary people”

Times of India (May 7, 2002)
Today’s agenda

- Taking stock: Modern planning’s origins vs. planning-from-below
- Contexts for planning: Planning in the Third World, assumptions and realities
  - Participation and democracy
  - Law and institutions etc.
- Development as change
  - History of paradigms
  - Development as freedom (Sen)
- Dams/big projects: state of play
- Radical planning, power
Rational planning … from *above*

Assumptions of the *rational* model:

- Stakeholders are already organized (in political communities)
- Guiding values are clear
- Citizens are *trusting* and the state is *trustworthy* – liberal “harmony” vision
- Technically competent bureaucracies have the needed expertise (no citizen learning or participation required)
- Alternatives have been considered
Planning from above vs. below

- Rights, accountability, and power
- The promise of citizen involvement vs. the risk of cronyism, parochialism, process paralysis (impasse)
- Civil society and government interaction: Competing, collaborating, contesting, other?
- Globalization: Transnational coalitions, media influence, information technology shifts in power and voice
Trained vs. indigenous experts

- What forms of knowledge are *valid*? Who sets the rules?
- What does public participation add to what technical experts provide?
- How can distinct types of expertise be *blended* to create better, not just more popular, solutions?
- Technocratic modernism vs. “deliberative democracy”
Context: Planning in the 3rd World

- Differences with the West:
  - Democratic
  - Legal
  - Inward-looking

- Breaking boundaries
  - Domestic v. International
  - Institutional v. Non-Institutional

- Within ‘Development’ discourse
- Globalized
Law and legal institutions (A)

- Is law simply institutional politics?
- Law as a terrain of resistance
- Law and scale: law simultaneously defines scale and destabilizes scale
- Global space of law
  - Proliferation of global norms and institutions
  - Human rights and environment
Law and legal institutions (B)

- Law as a framework for social mobilization
- Contestation through the law as a conscious strategy in mobilization and the tradeoffs
- Resort to law as an escape from politics?
- Domestic legal culture and nature of legal system as major variables in social mobilization
Development as change (A)

- History of paradigms
- Current state of the field
- Development and the role of democracy
- Sen’s theory: Development as freedom
- Critique of income poverty
- Commodities, capabilities and functionings
Development as change (B)

- Constitutive and instrumental roles of freedoms in development
- Role of policy in translating capabilities into freedoms
- Universal nature of the theory and its tensions with its own ethical aspirations
Dams/big projects: State of play

- **The World Bank**
  - Revival of Bank interest
  - Bank’s role in big projects
  - Bank’s Inspectional Panel

- **Accountability (e.g. Export-Import Banks)**

- **Continuing crisis, examples**
  - Ilisu (Turkey)
  - Lesotho Highlands Water Project
Friedmann’s *radical planning*

- Critical (normative + analytic) of the status quo
- Pragmatic as to means, strategic
- Inclusive, pro-participation: But there are many dilemmas here
- Reflective, iterative (social learning)
- Guided by meaning, ideology
- Oppositional: Mainly? As needed?
Six levels of power

1. **Frames and meanings**: How the issues are thought about ("symbolic power")
2. **Agendas**: What’s on it, what’s not?
3. **Options**: Expanding vs. limiting
4. **Judgment**: Influence over criteria
5. **Decision-making**: Influence over choices
6. **Production**: Getting things implemented (capacity to produce)

*Source: Briggs (2003) *Organizing stakeholders*
KEY ISSUES:

- The city as “growth machine” vs. “equitable development”
- Comprehensiveness vs. incrementalism
- The power and limits of physical revitalization and “placemaking”