

Introduction

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“Regeneration” has been a topic of study and policy since the advent of industrialisation across the globe. The word has been associated mostly with urban and rural areas, as the capitalist organisation of production and the rise in growth were often accompanied by the intensification of disparities between urban and rural regions, the increase in inequality and poverty in the city slums and agricultural areas, the over-exploitation of the natural environment, the marginalisation of disadvantaged groups, and the degradation of the quality of life. These inequalities, resulting from material and non-material forms of deprivation, have been addressed in the literature and have often been related to conceptions and policy measures for so-called renewal and reconstruction with a focus on urban development and spatial planning and reconstruction.

However, limited attention has been given to the social and political dimensions of the physical space within which these localities face problems and pursue policies for regeneration. As a result, contextual historical and cultural factors, like power relations and social inequalities, which affect how problems are perceived, what institutional and organisational solutions are sought, and how policies are implemented, were overlooked and this hampered attempts to renewal and development. Social and political participation and cooperation play a crucial role in regeneration by enabling local actors and communities of interest to voice diverse needs and interests, including those of the marginalised and disadvantaged groups, to organise concerted efforts to discuss problems and promote solutions, and to create a public space of deliberative, democratic participation to re-assess values and priorities regarding the means and ends of development and welfare. There are theoretical and empirical studies from different parts of the world, which touch upon these aspects of urban planning and cover various approaches and dimensions of community- and culture-led regeneration that address the impact of the social economy on urban regeneration (see, for instance, Leary and McCarthy, 2013).

We feel that our volume takes the argument further by focusing on social regeneration, that is, on the processes of transformation based on inclusion and cooperation that are informed by the goal of improving peoples’

lives through participation and deliberation, or by the active involvement of beneficiaries and other communities of interest. This volume addresses specific modalities to achieve social regeneration by emphasising forms centred on inclusion and cooperation within and across territories, which require appropriate public spaces—organisational, relational, political, and physical spaces. These solutions, as social economy scholars have remarked, go beyond the use of material resources and the production of monetary outcomes and involve the use and production of relational goods, behavioural norms of reciprocity and cooperation, values of inter-generational solidarity and respect for the environment, as well as new models of people participating in the planning and delivery of general interest services.

We feel this approach is consistent with two of the most prominent challenges that societies face today, namely social exclusion and inequality. Territories reveal increasing difficulties in addressing the complexity of the answers required, and what can be a good solution for one locality may not be for another. The diversity of needs and aspirations across communities requires an effort to understand whether there are modalities which are conducive to the identification of needs and solutions which respect such diversity. The challenge is to identify decision-making methods that allow the recognition of needs which are not necessarily satisfied by traditional organisations, as well as the formulation of appropriate answers, building on the peculiarities of each territory and on the interests of multiple publics (Dewey, 1927; Sacchetti and Sugden, 2009; Sugden and Wilson, 2002). Global disparities have been repeatedly addressed in UN reports, which denounced the widening gaps between skilled and unskilled workers, educated and illiterate people, the weak and healthy, and citizens with access to the political debate and those to whom such access is denied (UN, 2015). A greater level of societal inclusion, therefore, remains the central aim also of developmental actions against poverty.

This volume focuses on specific forms of poverty, which are crucial to local development but have received limited attention. This is the poverty of social relations, inclusion, and empowerment, which require actions aimed at social regeneration (Becchetti et al., 2008; Sacchetti and Sugden, 2009). Social regeneration, in this sense, identifies with processes of transformation based on inclusion and cooperation that are informed by the goal of improving peoples' lives through the active involvement of beneficiaries and other communities of interest (a perspective that was forcefully brought in the academic and policy debate by the work of Amartya Sen and his approach to human capabilities and democracy; Sen, 2002). Social regeneration poses a huge challenge across diverse contexts, needs, and aspirations, and, so far, the question remains on how these goals can be achieved. The challenge was also recently indicated by Europe's Net4Society, an International network set up to consult and support socio-economic research, which advocates the need for research to address "the development of new forms of

organisations and interactions to respond to societal challenges” in order to determine and satisfy community needs (NET4SOCIETY, 2014, 21).

To deal with these open questions, this volume studies social regeneration and addresses specific modalities of achieving it by emphasising forms centred on inclusion and cooperation within and across territories. We adopt an interdisciplinary outlook and investigate how values and institutions of cooperation and deliberation can be embedded in the physical space of the community to enable social stakeholders to determine the means and ends to local development. In this context, we embrace the unity between the choice of processes (cooperative and inclusive) and the choice of aims (social inclusion, empowerment, and well-being). Thus, we embrace an alternative approach whereby social values and institutions of cooperation and deliberation are not only conducive to growth, which is the dominant view in the literature, but are also constitutive of a sense of development that incorporates material and non-material means and objectives of well-being.

The aim of this volume is to shed light on the emergence and evolution of social economy organisations in different contexts of social, political, technological, and financial structures and thus evaluate their impact on regeneration and development. For instance, we consult the work of Elinor Ostrom and John Dewey to benefit from their insights on coordination mechanisms, polycentric and cooperative forms of governance, and public spaces for democratic solutions and critical thinking. Social capital, that is, norms and networks of reciprocity and cooperation, is an essential building block by supporting the network and governance structures among social stakeholders to act, cooperate, and deliberate for their own development and wellbeing. Our theoretical reflection is combined with empirical analyses and case studies from around the world that focus on the obstacles posed on social regeneration, especially in underdeveloped regions of Southern Europe and the Third World, or even areas in the developed world that face the challenges of the post-industrial era, where deprivation and social exclusion for some segments of the population are often no different, if not worse, to those encountered in less developed countries.

This book focuses on socio-economic dynamics, combines the insights and recommendations of various social sciences, brings together theory and practice, and compares different social and political contexts and dimensions. In this way, it aspires to take account of context and the additional constraints imposed by the global crisis in order to delineate specific steps to be taken for regenerating social values and institutions of cooperation and participation via the social economy and public participation.

The chapters featured in this book emphasise how solutions pertain a variety of public spaces, namely organisational, relational, political, and physical spaces. In so doing, the volume addresses governance solutions that can provide decision-making principles for social regeneration and improved well-being. It contributes to an interpretation of the organisations and interactions that promote the common good by providing answers to

needs that are not normally addressed through conventional market organisations (see also Laville et al., 2015). These solutions have been theorised in the work of institutionalist scholars, such as Elinor Ostrom, who analysed polycentric and cooperative forms of governance aimed at the sustainable use of specific common goods, or in the earlier studies of John Dewey, who theorised democratic solutions aimed at creating deliberative and creative spaces to inform public interest (Ostrom, 2010; Dewey, 1927; Sacchetti and Sugden, 2009; Sacchetti, 2015). The chapters highlight the ways in which participatory and cooperative forms of interaction and decision-making can activate transformative answers to valued problems, which may not find desirable modalities in traditional market or public administration solutions. Cooperative solutions, as social economy scholars have remarked, go beyond the use of material resources and the production of monetary outcomes, and involve the use and production of relational goods (intangible elements characterised by communicative and affective nature, produced through encounters and interactions (e.g., Gui, 2000), behavioural norms of reciprocity and cooperation (e.g., Borzaga and Tortia, 2017), and values of inter-generational solidarity and respect for the environment (e.g., Coraggio et al., 2015).

Thus, the authors contributing to this volume reflect on the ways that specific solutions, such as social economy organisations, and other interacting contextual factors (such as relations and civic engagement, the use of physical space, urban regeneration, leadership, technology, and socially oriented finance) can achieve social regeneration and promote the development and welfare of a good life within and across territories. Their study of social regeneration includes cooperative and collaborative solutions at several levels (that of individuals, organisations, and institutional networks) and can be applied to different areas of local development (such as the use of cooperative, collaborative, and participative processes to address issues of urban and rural regeneration, as well as diverse forms of poverty and social exclusion resulting from immigration, unemployment, illness, digital illiteracy, and diverse forms of addiction). On the one hand, the contributors emphasise the forms of life experience that individuals can enjoy collectively, and, on the other hand, they investigate the resources that can make this possible, such as: norms and rules reflected in legal frameworks and entrepreneurial organisations; forms of leadership and political practices that favour democratic deliberation and civic engagement; a supporting system of social relations; and the availability of aggregative and pleasant physical spaces where people can deploy and develop relatedness, ideas, and opportunities. Specifically, these factors are considered to the extent that they are capable of contributing to societal regeneration by favouring greater social inclusion and environmental sustainability.

The implication for social regeneration is clear. In order to put forth sustainable solutions to the problem of social poverty, values such as inclusion, deliberation, cooperation, solidarity, reciprocity, participation, and respect

for the environment need to be embedded in the nature of institutions, social relations, organisations, as well as in the nature of the physical space. This unity between the choice of processes (cooperative and inclusive) and the choice of aims (social regeneration) is what Sen calls a “comprehensive outcome”, or the idea that specific processes are selected in view of their foreseen ability to achieve certain results or avoid undesired ones (Sen, 2002, 159; Sacchetti, 2015).

In terms of organisational solutions, the volume focuses on organisations whose main objective is the creation of societal value through inclusion and cooperation. These are increasingly identified with social economy organisations, like social enterprises. Social enterprises are business organisations that have the explicit aim of seeing people and their needs, thus playing a key role in improving social integration, equality, and well-being. However, the need for social regeneration, which until now has been confined to the needs of particular groups of individuals, touches upon territories and their communities in a widespread manner. Studies on social capital have shown that where the fabric of social relationships has eroded and isolation prevails, communities lack also the ability to share ideas and responsibility on issues of common interest. Virtuous behaviours, such as cooperation and social responsibility go astray, thus compromising the capacity of a community to enhance the value of private as well as common (or public) assets. Consequently, the community as a space for relations, cooperation, communication, deliberation and democracy, development, and self-determination is being threatened by collapse and disappearance (Putnam, 2000; Christoforou and Davis, 2014).

Against this risk, engagement and cooperation have been promoted not only by social enterprises, but also by developmental policies with a focus on deliberative democracy, participation, and social capital. This requires specific policy and finance solutions as well as elements of public leadership that recognise the desirability of fostering processes based on deliberative democracy that can create capabilities for civic engagement and leadership.

Where appropriate tools of engagement and deliberation are recognised at the system level, social organisations become an integral part of a broader socio-economic environment where issues surrounding social regeneration are decided inclusively and cooperatively, with an emphasis on enhancing the quality of the life experience. The challenge for engaging cooperative processes is to include multiple needs and interests, prototyping and applying the deliberative method so as to give voice to multiple communities of interest, whilst accounting for the wider impacts of regeneration in the longer run (Sacchetti, 2015). The approach fosters the development of democratic and deliberative skills within and amongst community constituencies (for example, through community development forums, festivals, or other engagement initiatives), bringing together actors from different sectors (private non-profit, private for-profit, public sector, families, etc.) and expertise (such as in business, local development, health, social services,

arts, education, housing, urban and rural regeneration, and the environment). Likewise, the financial dimension can deploy its function consistently with long-term social objectives. In this respect, social regeneration is also achieved by means of financial processes which emphasise participatory and monitoring procedures that allow us to identify the community's socio-economic needs and solutions. Finance can promote social regeneration beyond traditional corporate social responsibility, by being shaped around the territory's strengths and playing an intermediary's role in promoting social transformation and development. As cooperative experiences emphasise, financial institutions that support social regeneration reflect the existence of a community of actors who share pro-social values, detect skills and resources, whilst providing a locus for engagement in order to develop the appropriate solutions for social regeneration.

The interconnections amongst factors of regeneration requires creating a system for territorial governance, or a dynamic socio-economic network of like-minded actors sharing fundamental values on methods of engagement (inclusion, cooperation) and purpose (social regeneration). Yet, we have very limited knowledge of what solutions are being introduced to foster cooperation and inclusion in processes of social regeneration, in a context defined by the multiple and at times conflicting interests of a variety of stakeholders and communities. In passing, this is one instance of a wider gap—the need to shift the organisational, and particularly the social enterprise, debate from the level of the firm to the level of the system and system governance.

The volume addresses those issues following an inter-disciplinary and innovative line of reasoning:

- Social regeneration requires the creation of an institutional context where opportunities and capabilities for weak categories, and transversally, for society, can be developed.
- This unity can be achieved, in part, through organisational solutions increasingly defined as social enterprises because they are characterised by a social objective, cooperation, and inclusive democratic governance.
- Additionally, besides organisational solutions, values of cooperation and inclusion must be reflected in other socio-economic elements, which can work in synergy with the social enterprise model to promote and sustain social regeneration and well-being. Such elements include civic engagement and deliberation, social capital, urban and rural spaces, leadership, technology, and finance.

Structure of the Book

Following the introduction, the volume is separated in three parts. The first part of the volume (Chapters 1 and 2) introduces the main framework of analysis along the lines outlined above. The second part of the volume

(Chapters 3 to 7) focuses on organisational solutions based on inclusion and cooperation that can support social regeneration at different levels. These organisational solutions mainly draw from theories, practices, and policies related to the social economy. Finally, the third part (Chapters 8 to 14) positions contextual elements which are complementary to organisational solutions and which, consistently with the approach of third sector organisations, potentially foster cooperative and inclusive values that are conducive to social regeneration.

In the first part of the volume, in **Chapter 1**, Silvia Sacchetti and Carlo Borzaga argue for the need of social regeneration “wherever a specific form of poverty becomes endemic”. The authors take a behavioural perspective and define social regeneration as “the transformative processes which, through institutional choices that embody cooperation and inclusion, develop opportunities and capabilities for multiple categories of actors, and especially weak categories, leading to societal benefits and community resilience”. It is argued that this behavioural transformation is able to address the poverty of social relations, which is at the heart of the failure of societies to address major challenges, such as inequality or urban and environmental degradation across world regions. The authors combine conceptual elements of cooperation and deliberation from institutional theory (recalling authors such as E. Ostrom and J. Dewey) to identify key institutional solutions that are able to generate surplus for communities and reduce social poverty. In particular, they identify three institutional features at the heart of social regeneration processes. The first refers to participatory procedural features and the formation of deliberative forms of problem-framing and decision-making. The second refers to structural features and requires the inclusion of multiple stakeholders in organisational governance. The third extends these features at the system level, arguing that inclusive institutional solutions are required at multiple levels of nested private, public, or community action.

The idea of social poverty and the social regeneration imperative come alive in **Chapter 2**, where Luca Fazzi illustrates the waning of solidarity and social cohesion in the traditional welfare model and proposes new institutional solutions aimed at social regeneration, public participation, and reorganisation of the production of services. The author’s analysis starts from the idea that the scope of the welfare model is to build solidarity among individuals, generations, and social classes. This aim, however, contrasts with the tendency of society to become increasingly individualistic. For a whole range of reasons, most people today no longer have experience of shared collective political and social action, and their lives are increasingly separate from those of others. The author then observes that under these circumstances, it is becoming harder to sell traditional themes of solidarity and social inclusion as foundations of welfare and much easier to promote divisions between social classes, generations, and people. He builds his argument by tracing the political and historical development of welfare as a moral institution. He then focuses on specific areas that are central to

restructuring welfare states, and discusses the tensions and risks related to the weakening of the solidaristic function of welfare. Conclusions stress the importance of supporting new processes and institutions aimed at social regeneration, public participation, and reorganisation of service production.

The second part of the volume begins with **Chapter 3**, where Asimina Christoforou discusses the participatory dimensions of social enterprises and their potential contribution to social regeneration. The author builds on the European Commission perspective, according to which the social enterprise is “an operator in the social economy whose main objective is to have a social impact rather than make a profit for their owners or shareholders. It operates by providing goods and services for the market in an entrepreneurial and innovative fashion and uses its profits primarily to achieve social objectives. It is managed in an open and responsible manner and, in particular, involves employees, consumers and stakeholders affected by its commercial activities” (*Social Business Initiative*, October 2011). Therefore, there is an entrepreneurial, social, and governance dimension that distinguishes social enterprises from for-profit and non-profit organisations. The aim of this chapter is to theoretically and practically determine the ways in which social enterprises can build social capital and sustain the capacity of the organisation and locality to promote social regeneration and pave the way toward a more participatory economic system. To examine the actual potential of a social enterprise to contribute to social regeneration and a participatory economic system via social capital, the chapter provides preliminary results of a case study conducted in Greece, where concepts of social economy and social entrepreneurship are rather novel and are promoted by EU-supported policies and funds to deal with the crisis in the country.

In **Chapter 4**, Flaviano Zandonai, Paolo Cottino, and Francesca Battistoni explore experiences of social and urban regeneration. In doing this, the authors exceed traditional organisational solutions centred on corporate social responsibility and highlight the role of (social) impact investing by focusing on models of territorial governance based on coordination between private enterprises and local authorities. The chapter takes a very practical angle and contributes to the debate on social regeneration by defining new guidelines for the development of financially sustainable processes, which combine social and urban regeneration objectives. The re-combination of social, urban, and specific financial elements gives rise to different models of interaction between enterprise and local authorities, which the authors illustrate with case studies. Specifically, the authors consider the case of the recovery of unused railway stations as *community assets* promoted by the Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane. They highlight both the limitations of a compensation logic and the added value from recovering property for social use within the new chains of value production.

In **Chapter 5**, Darcy Overland reports results from the Cooperative Innovation Project (CIP), which looked at cooperative development in western Canada. The CIP project was aimed at exploring whether cooperative

development can be considered as a tool for social and spatial regeneration in rural and Indigenous communities that have unique local challenges. These communities are facing diminished possibilities as a result of changing economies and populations. The cooperative model, which balances both business and associative capacity, can succeed where other business models or government provision aren't practicable and can form an important part of regeneration in these communities. However, cooperatives are a unique model of organising, so it takes leaders with a unique set of attributes to start and sustain cooperatives. The study conducted interviews with experienced coop development practitioners to investigate the leadership qualities that are considered conducive to community cooperative development. Commitment to the community and shared leadership, possession of business acumen and controlled energy, knowledge of the community and group dynamics, and an ability to put a project over politics were identified as attributes that successful cooperative leaders possess.

Chapter 6 analyses policies for social regeneration taking place in difficult territories. Michele Mosca takes the example of the land of Gomorra in Italy, where, in compliance with the Italian law, third sector organisations are involved in the regeneration of social capital through the social re-use of assets confiscated to the mafia. The author investigates how these policies have outlined a new role for the organisations of the social economy and how this has contributed to creating an alternative development model which is beneficial not only for marginalised or disadvantaged people, but for the community as a whole. He argues that in territories which have suffered the domination of the mafia and the deterioration of their endowment of social capital, social regeneration has occurred by means of policy actions that were able to remove social capital from the mafia's control. In this context, the author suggests that social capital regeneration may consist in re-orienting social capital to support and promote the substantial freedoms of people and the general interests of a democratic community. The chapter stresses the importance of social cohesion policies in preventing the expansion of the mafia, alongside more traditional crime-repression strategies. In addition, it discusses the role of third sector organisations and social cooperatives which have been recognised by the law as privileged concessionaries in the assignment of confiscated assets for their social re-use. The chapter indicates that the seizure and confiscation of illegally acquired assets, paired with suitable policies aimed at promoting and supporting the development of social cooperatives and non-profit organisations, can have a direct impact on work opportunities and on individuals' life choices, reducing the incentive for illegal activity and improving emancipation and development within communities.

In **Chapter 7**, Massimo Caroli and Ermanno Tortia adopt a territorial governance approach to deal with a major European and global issue, namely the marginalisation and social exclusion of migrants and asylum seekers. They use the concept "systemic governance", discussed in Chapter 1, to

analyse systems of migrant reception and integration implemented across Italy. They focus on the role of multiple territorial actors in generating innovation and social inclusion in pair with the regeneration of abandoned spaces and localities. The authors suggest legislative, policy, and administrative initiatives in order to build integration and avoid exclusion and conflict, contributing to the social regeneration of regions. First, they introduce the general trends of immigration and the legislative and policy measures adopted in Italy. Then, they contextualise the patterns of migrants' inclusion, the allocation of national resources, and the implementation of administrative and reception measures at the local level. Finally, they turn to the case of the Union of Municipalities of Romagna Faentina in Central Italy. The Union has recently started several dedicated integration programmes in a country that has recently been the destination of migration flows in Europe. The case study demonstrates how reception and integration are managed through a web of public, civil society, and third sector organisations. With the support of the National Agency for Personal Services (NASP), specific organisations have been created and run by both Italian and immigrant citizens in order to teach the Italian language to migrants, offer administrative services, and enable cultural integration.

In the third part of the volume, in **Chapter 8**, Rudolf Lewanski supports the view that social regeneration requires a process of political regeneration. He argues that the alienation of citizens in contemporary democracies from the polity in general and from specific decisions takes away the locus of power from elected institutions and Nation States. He observes that over the last decade, an innovative form of citizen engagement has been developed and put into effect in many parts of the world: *deliberative* participation. In this chapter, the author illustrates the specific features of deliberative participation, differentiating it from other forms of engagement, and discusses the added value it may contribute to social regeneration. He suggests we go back to the original meaning of democracy, which requires citizen participation in a credible and meaningful way. He then proposes a specific application of deliberative democracy for regenerating civic engagement and social capital in a 'time-poor' society, as well as mobilising collective intelligence in a highly sophisticated technological society.

In **Chapter 9**, Leslie Budd and Alessandro Sancino look at place leadership as a way for enhancing the social regeneration of communities. The authors draw from their previous research that identifies and classifies various types of city leadership: *managerial leadership*, which deals with public services (e.g., housing, health care, education, regeneration, leisure, etc.) delivered within a city; *political leadership*, which deals with the democratic processes and decisions affecting a city and its citizens; *civic leadership*, which deals with all the community processes provided by the community and its actors operating outside the traditional realm of the public and private sectors; and *business leadership*, which deals with the processes of (co-)creation of value provided by the private sector. Then the authors discuss for each type

of place leadership (managerial, political, civic, and business) which actors, structures, processes, and followership patterns can boost social regeneration. Some main themes emerging are: the new roles and skills required by public managers; the need of integrating representative and deliberative democracy in designing processes of political leadership; and the potential of empowering citizens' capabilities for sparking civic leadership. The authors finally suggest that place leadership for social regeneration requires a paradigmatic change in the way we traditionally frame the identity of local governments and the role of public managers and politicians.

In **Chapter 10**, Sara Calvo and Andres Morales examine the role played by digital technology, using the example of Web 2.0 as a tool for social regeneration. They introduce basic theoretical discussions and debates about Web 2.0 and digital divide studies. Notably, the authors do not overlook the rising concern about the emergence of new inequalities and therefore a need for a more critical approach in relation to digital technology as an instrument for socio-economic, political, and cultural transformation. This is especially important due to the fragility of economic recovery and uneven progress in major economies, in which social conditions are not only expected to recover slowly, but also to encounter societal distresses beyond the economic dimension such as political, social, environmental and trust crises. Furthermore, the authors attempt to explain the role of Web 2.0 technology amongst different groups and how far-reaching digital technology serves the purpose of participation, access for all, and its use and knowledge-implementation amongst the global communities. Good practices are included. A Social Enterprise MOOC programme and two social and solidarity initiatives (Citizens Foundation and Million Kitchen) illustrate the importance of digital technology when aiming at generating social and environmental change and therefore social regeneration through participatory, collaborative, and inclusive processes.

In **Chapter 11**, Luigi Ferrara and Salvatore Villani address the role of the legislative framework in promoting urban regeneration and, through it, opportunities for local development. On the one hand, they describe the successful case study of the "Barriera" district of Turin, which shows how a wise management of integration policies and a greater involvement of all actors (public institutions and private stakeholders) in the planned urban regeneration can favour the economic and social exploitation of the territory, as well as the human development of residents. On the other hand, they discuss the fallacy of public decision-making and why opportunities have been missed in Southern Italy by illustrating the case of Bagnoli and the bankruptcy of the urban regeneration programme in this important site of national interest. In particular, the authors stress that attempts to exploit and convert early industrialisation areas have failed in Southern Italy because of the lack of a national strategy for strengthening and developing interconnections between urban areas and effective multi-level governance structures. They go on to argue that this failure has had serious effects on the territory,

especially in the metropolitan areas of Southern Italy, where local public agencies governing Provinces and Metropolitan Cities fail to deliver public goods and services, leading to the exclusion and marginalisation of a growing number of citizens. The authors juxtapose the missing opportunities in Bagnoli with opportunities created by migratory flows in Turin, where local governments have been able to maximise cultural diversity and foster local economic and social development by encouraging greater participation of immigrants in economic and decision-making processes.

In **Chapter 12**, Safa Dhafer illustrates research results on the Wall between East Jerusalem and the West Bank and its implications for social capital among Palestinian people. The author observes that social capital provides a safety net for improving the Palestinian people's chances in their daily survival efforts in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). She discusses the effects of the Wall, which was constructed not only to separate Israel and East Jerusalem from the West Bank but also to separate Palestinian communities in the West Bank from each other. In this complex geopolitical context caused by the different sources of political hegemony over its components and the unjust distribution of land and resources, this chapter examines the role of social capital and what it implies for social regeneration. The author explains how the Wall in East Jerusalem separates Palestinians from Palestinians, highlighting the different comprehensive explicit policies that Israel has used in order to change the demographic balance in favour of the Israeli population in the city of Jerusalem. The author shows how the confinement of the population caused by the Wall has enforced social capital in all its manifestations at the individual, community, and the governmental levels in order to overcome problems related to education and health care services and security. The chapter concludes that social capital has and still has the capacity to soothe the problems in these specific areas, but has no power in solving them without a concrete political solution.

In **Chapter 13**, Silvia Sacchetti and Colin Campbell combine the idea of social regeneration with that of natural justice by considering community development within biosphere reserves (BRs). BRs have been identified by UNESCO since the 1970s and are located across the globe. The challenge of environmental sustainability within BRs meets a variety of cultures, histories, natural settings, and forms of economic organisations. In the chapter, the authors acknowledge that although the need for compatibility between human activities and BRs has been invoked at several policy levels, solutions on how to achieve this outcome have not been considered in the same detail. The authors think that part of the issue may be methodological, since BRs may have common aims, but greatly differ in terms of their contextual elements. To explore contextual diversity, the chapter offers illustrations from BRs in Vietnam, Italy, Australia, and Zimbabwe. The chapter then identifies a number of 'spaces' or contextual dimensions that differentiate BRs, focusing on dimensions of policy, relations, and organisations that can be consistent with social regeneration and natural 'justice'. The authors argue that the presence and features of these dimensions can determine the

ability of community members to cooperate with a long time horizon. The existence of policy and relational spaces, in particular, suggest the presence of place-awareness (e.g., being aware of living within a BR and a specific community), leading to the formation of organisational solutions that are consistent with social regeneration and natural justice.

In **Chapter 14**, Mike Lucas addresses community engagement in the production of festivals. A community festival is a particular form of event which offers intensive relational engagement. This chapter focuses on how, as part of their collaborative practices of organising an annual festival event, a local community group co-produce the space used to celebrate the festival as a form of relational good produced—in this case—by a group of volunteer organisers of an occasional festival. Recent studies of what are termed relational goods suggest a blurred relationship between their production and their consumption. Involvement in the organisation and delivery of such events as the community festival discussed here contribute to the production of a relational good, but also provide a time-space of engagement which may be viewed as a form of relational consumption. Using ethnographic data from the author's own research, the chapter explores the nature of the relational practices and goods which are produced and consumed in the organisation and delivery of a community festival. The particular focus on the space or site which is utilised as part of the community's work is supported in part by Lefebvre's (1991) theorisation of the social production of space and in part by Ricoeur's (1971) use of the text paradigm to understand broader social practices of meaning-making. The author examines how a community festival space becomes a relational text, a form of relational good linked to the development of shared meanings amongst the members of the volunteer organising group.

Research Implications and Future Research

The main objective of the chapters featured in this volume is to discover ways to promote local development by means of social regeneration which relies on cooperation and public participation among local actors. The chapters focused on the potential of social economy organisations to provide the principles and institutions that underpin cooperation and public participation for social regeneration because they are built on values of social inclusion and democratic deliberation for social welfare and empowerment. The studies presented in this book adopt a multi-disciplinary approach and apply both theoretical and empirical analyses to delineate the capacities and limitations of social economy organisations, particularly social enterprises, in supporting social regeneration and local development. Generally, we could say that these studies observe the following:

- Social regeneration is not exclusively determined by calculative and instrumental considerations that underlie the maximisation of personal utility or profit in accordance to mainstream economic approaches.

It also relies on underlying motivations and visions for pursuing cooperation and solidarity among various groups and serving generalised interests in the community. Thus, social economy organisations may be able to support social regeneration because they combine economic and social objectives.

- Social regeneration is essentially driven by a process of political regeneration. Nowadays, even in the modern democracies of the developed world, people show distrust towards public institutions and question their ability and willingness to preserve public values such as redistribution and justice, reducing their effectiveness and legitimacy. This calls for new forms of democratic participation and governance on the basis of deliberation and inclusiveness of all interested classes and parties. More often, it is stressed that legal frameworks and public policies must recognise and protect the autonomy of bottom-up initiatives that aim at mobilising groups and satisfying specific social needs and values. Social economy organisations may function as a forum, which applies, cultivates, and disseminates autonomy and participation in decision-making processes not only within but also outside these organisations by building networks among various local actors that operate in the economy across firms and sectors.
- The processes of social regeneration specifically require patterns of citizen participation in the decision-making processes for goods and services of general interest to be produced. As stressed above, these patterns of participation are crucial in light of the multiplicity and diversity of needs and aspirations across communities, which are not necessarily satisfied by traditional organisations. The challenge is to identify decision-making methods that allow us to recognise multiple and diverse needs and find appropriate solutions by building on the peculiarities of each territory and the interests of multiple publics.
- In this way, social regeneration is a highly complex phenomenon. On the one hand, it is determined by both context-specific characteristics of the locality, as well as systemic factors at broader levels of social organisation and governance. On the other hand, it is shaped by the interaction among various kinds of public spaces—organisational, relational, political, and physical spaces. Therefore, business strategies and public policies should be planned in ways that take into account the multiple dimensions that characterise social regeneration processes. To take a simple example, it is not possible to set out strategies and measures for economic growth without considering the impact on the physical space, particularly the natural environment. It is also not possible to engage in social and political deliberations without considering the impact of the physical space that will bring people together, ‘shelter’ ideas and practices of dialogue and participation, and educate people in developing shared values and identities. Social economy organisations may have the potential to address these dimensions and combine spaces thanks

to their democratic principles of participation in conjunction with their commercial objectives for growth, employment, and competitiveness. The difference is that economic means and objectives are not the outcome of a handful of corporate executives, shareholders, bureaucrats, and politicians, but of all those affected in the community and the economy as a whole.

- Finally, social regeneration is concomitant with a vision of social change. The point of introducing values and institutions of public participation, deliberative democracy, inclusiveness, and solidarity is to enable processes of reflection that will lead to the redefinition of the means and ends needed to respond to ever-changing social needs and achieve social welfare. These processes are important especially in times of crisis, when everything is being questioned and undergoing transformation, like the times we are living today. Social economy organisations are usually considered to be held back by their non-economic considerations and values. However, they have shown that under certain circumstances they may be the drivers of social change. It is precisely because of their dual role that social economy organisations are capable of understanding innovation in its holistic sense, that is, not only as technical advancement and digitisation of the economy, but also as the emergence of new forms of cooperation and governance that places technology in the service of social welfare.

Indeed, the present volume documents a number of cases in which social economy organisations have been able to reduce the gap in inequality, even during the crisis, by providing opportunities, goods, and services to disadvantaged and marginalised people. These organisations have been able to incorporate the perverse effects generated by neoliberal policies that exacerbated this gap. However, the volume also discusses the obstacles and lost opportunities faced by these organisations due to both internal and external factors in different spatial and historical contexts. Therefore, it is imperative to continually explore the basis on which a new idea of enterprise, development, and welfare can be built. Social economy organisations are new forms of enterprise which pursue economic objectives in order to serve social objectives by producing goods and services of general interest. Further insight is needed to understand how these organisations can be entrepreneurial subjects that are capable of ‘contradicting market laws’, while being efficient in the markets they operate in (labour market, credit market, market of goods and services). Some questions for future research may include:

- What social economy organisations provide? What are the potentialities, and what are the limits? In which way they can compensate the causes of the global crisis? How can they absorb the social consequences of the neoliberal policies of the last 30 years?

- When values of individualism, competition, and profit prevail in the national and global economies, what are the conditions that will enable local agents, and particularly social economy organisations, to foster and disseminate values and institutions of cooperation and public participation?
- When conditions of social segregation, human rights violations, and environmental destruction prevent certain segments of the population from participating in decision-making processes, how can social economy organisations build advocacy and voice without compromising the daily provision of services and goods that target these vulnerable groups and contribute to their empowerment?
- What strategies and policies have to be implemented in order to enable social economy organisations to access the economic and social resources they need to flourish? What are the contextual and systemic factors that determine which strategies and policies are appropriate?
- What institutions need to be put in place to foster participatory networks and structures not only within social economy organisations, but also within the broader national and global economic system? What institutions need to be established to build processes of reflection and redefinition at the individual and collective levels and educate people in the principles of these processes?
- How can social economy organisations redefine work in order to combine employment and income with respect to human needs, like environmental protection, creativity, sociality, and family obligations? How can they perceive, produce, and redistribute surplus among agents? How can they contribute to building a new and broader understanding of growth, one that goes beyond its monetary elements (as income and wealth) and incorporates people's capabilities and emancipation (Sen's approach to human development)? What are the motivations and rules that would underpin these principles and processes?

As summarised by Gibson-Graham (2003, 157), there are two lines for research that will further enhance development of “alternative communities and economies”. The first is a more sophisticated analysis of the economics of surplus distribution. Though principles and structures of surplus distribution are at the core of the philosophy and operations of social economy organisations and participatory economic systems, they have received relatively little attention in theory and practice. The second line for research is developing a better understanding of the processes by which “communal subjectivities” are created and fostered. Solidarity is a relational aspect of human nature and is cultivated within the diverse and complex interactions people engage in. Yet few studies give merit to the evolution of these processes and their combined impact on people's values, behaviours, and identities. To deal with these open issues, the authors suggest that we play an active and constructive role in community conversations about “ethical economic decisions and personal political becomings”.

In other words, we could say that principles and institutions of democratic deliberation and public participation among researchers, policy-makers, and local actors, which are at the heart of this volume, can offer technically and socially sound solutions to these questions and open ways to regeneration and development.

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