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Editors

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Employment Deconcentration in European Metropolitan Areas

*Market Forces versus
Planning Regulations*



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Employment Deconcentration in European Metropolitan Areas

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Employment Deconcentration in European Metropolitan Areas

Market Forces versus Planning Regulations

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*In memory of Frans Dieleman and
Arie Shachar*

Table of Contents

Contributing Authors	ix
Preface	xiii
1. Introduction: deconcentration of economic activities within metropolitan regions: A qualitative framework for cross-national comparison	1
<i>Eran Razin</i>	
2. Economic deconcentration in a rational planning system: The Dutch case	29
<i>Annet Bogaerts, Frans Dieleman, Martin Dijst and Stan Geertman</i>	
3. Deconcentration of workplaces in greater Copenhagen: Successes and failures of location strategies in regional planning	53
<i>Peter Hartoft-Nielsen</i>	
4. Economic deconcentration processes in mid-sized English cities: Deconcentrated outcomes and spatially differentiated impacts	89
<i>Ian Smith</i>	
5. The Spanish way to economic deconcentration: A process of several speeds	115
<i>Manuel Valenzuela, Carmen Vázquez, Antonio J. Palacios, and Ángel Jodra</i>	
6. The Italian way to deconcentration. Rome: The appeal of the historic centre. Chieti-Pescara: The strength of the periphery	145
<i>Armando Montanari, Barbara Staniscia, Simone Di Zio</i>	
7. Deconcentration in a context of population growth and ideological change: The Tel-Aviv and Beer-Sheva metropolitan areas	179
<i>Eran Razin and Arie Shachar</i>	
8. Sprawling post-communist metropolis: Commercial and residential suburbanization in Prague and Brno, the Czech Republic	209
<i>Luděk Sýkora and Martin Ouředníček</i>	

9.	The impact of retail deconcentration on travel to hypermarkets in Prague	235
	<i>Yaakov Garb</i>	
10.	Employment deconcentration in European metropolitan areas: A comprehensive comparison and policy implications	265
	<i>Martin Dijst and Carmen Vázquez</i>	
Index		293

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Arie Shachar (1935–2006)

Professor in the Department of Geography and the Institute of Urban and Regional Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His main areas of interest were economic globalization and urban development and national and metropolitan planning. He directed the preparation of the Israeli National Outline Plan (Tama 35). His recent publications included two edited volumes, one entitled “Tel-Aviv and Frankfurt – Emerging Nodes in the Global Economy” and the other evaluating the impact of the Intel Corporation on a small town in Israel (Kiryat-Gat). He received the Israel Prize in 1999 for his contributions to urban geography and urban planning.

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Preface

European metropolitan areas have experienced a marked reorganization associated with the processes of globalization and the European integration of economic activities on various spatial scales. Much of this change is particularly evident at the edge of central cities, further away at suburban locations and on the fringes of expanding metropolitan areas. These spatial processes of urban expansion, sprawling development, and employment deconcentration present constant challenges to urban quality of life, raising concerns about excessive consumption of land and energy, traffic congestion, and so forth. These concerns prompt the formulation of public policies at various levels of government: European Union agencies, national, and sub national public authorities.

The challenges posed by the spatial reorganization of economic activities within European metropolitan areas and their implications for the quality of life inspired the research project sponsored by the European Commission 5th Framework, entitled: **Spatial Deconcentration of Economic Land Use and Quality of Life in European Metropolitan Areas (SELMA)**. The primary goal of SELMA was to design urban planning and management strategies to ensure the maintenance of the quality of life in European metropolitan areas. To this end, three broad activities were defined. The first focused on the identification and analysis of the driving forces and dynamics behind the process of economic land-use deconcentration in metropolitan areas. An analysis of the impacts of these processes on urban quality of life formed the heart of the second activity. Finally, the effectiveness of the public policy response to the challenges of economic land-use deconcentration in various governance systems was assessed. These activities were carried out in 14 metropolitan areas in seven countries: Denmark, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Spain, Italy, and Israel.

This book presents the results of part of the SELMA endeavour, focusing mainly on the development trends over a 10-year period relating to the form and magnitude of employment dispersal and the role of public policies in creating the present processes. The main objective was to provide the infrastructural knowledge base relating to European urban trends and to provide rich comparative case-study evidence. In the scientific literature, the broad phenomenon of urban sprawl has been discussed widely. However, most studies have featured patterns, processes, and policy debates in the United States and concentrated mainly on residential spatial reconfigurations. The few studies of the deconcentration of economic land uses are limited in scope and in most cases lack a cross-national comparative perspective. Such a perspective can contribute substantially to the explanation of the patterns and processes of deconcentration, in particular to the assessment of the impact of different governance systems and public policies on deconcentration. In this book we discuss the scale and form of economic deconcentration and quality-of-life implications within selected metropolitan areas, referring to attributes of

governance systems, thus aiming to provide useful insights for possible changes in metropolitan governance and policies.

This book is dedicated to the memory of Professor Frans Dieleman and Professor Arie Shachar – two leading urban geographers, kind and wise human beings, who initiated the SELMA project.

Frans Dieleman of Utrecht University led the SELMA project until, sadly, he suddenly passed away on 11 April 2005. His death was a great loss for the SELMA consortium. He was well-respected scientist in the international geographic and planning community and an expert on housing, transportation, urban development, methodologies, spatial planning, and related topics. His management qualities were renowned both within academia and beyond. It was an honour for the SELMA consortium to have such an experienced and highly esteemed scholar as coordinator. His was a truly influential voice in the many debates and the development of the project. Frans Dieleman will be remembered as a gifted scientist and a much-loved coordinator of SELMA.

Arie Shachar of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem pioneered urban geography in Israel and became a renown geographer and urban planner worldwide, directing international research programs. In Israel he played a leading role in formulating the Tel Aviv metropolitan plan and the National Outline Plan. Abroad he was engaged in many international planning consultancy efforts, even serving in 1978 as an advisor to the White House conference on balanced national growth and economic development. He was a leader and a “scientific” entrepreneur, initiating and directing countless ventures in basic and applied research. He also played a major role in initiating the SELMA project, and served as its scientific coordinator. While still engaged in an impressive array of new such ventures, he passed away in September 2006.

We acknowledge the various organizations that have contributed to this program. The SELMA project is funded by the European Community under the *Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development* FP5 Programme (1998-2002), Key Action 4 *City of Tomorrow and Culture Heritage* (contract no. EVK4-CT-2002-00102). This project could not have been carried out successfully without the unrestrained energy of all the partners: Utrecht University, Faculty of Geosciences, Urban and Regional research Centre (The Netherlands), Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Department of Geography Faculty of Social Sciences (Israel), Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, Department of Geography, Research Laboratory for Urban and Social Geography (Spain), University G. d’Annunzio – Chieti – Pescara, Dipartimento di Economia e Storia del Territorio (Italy), University of the West of England – Bristol, Faculty of the Built Environment, Cities Research Centre (United Kingdom), Charles University Prague, Faculty of Science, Department of Social Geography and Regional Development (Czech Republic), Skov & Landskap, Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning, Department of Urban and Regional Planning (Denmark), By-og-Byg, Danish Building and Urban Research, Housing and Urban Research Division (Denmark), and the RIVM-Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (The Netherlands).

Although they have not contributed to this book directly, the end-users involved in the program have given valuable and constructive comments on the work activities and reports of the SELMA project. The following end-users' organizations were involved: City of Utrecht; Department of Strategic Planning (The Netherlands), The Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (The Netherlands), Ministry of Interior of Israel, Planning Administration (Israel), Comune di Roma Dipartimento XIV per lo sviluppo locale, per la formazione e per il lavoro (Italy), Distretto dell'Audiovisivo e dell'ICT (Italy), Eastleigh Borough Council (United Kingdom), Southampton City Council (United Kingdom), Czech-Invest, Industrial Properties and Regions Department (Czech Republic), City of Brno, Office of City Development (Czech Republic), and the Danish Ministry of Environment and Energy, Spatial Planning Department (Denmark).

In completing this book we consider ourselves very fortunate to have had the help of Anne Hawkins for the English-language editing, and Tamar Sofer, the Cartographic Laboratory of the Department of Geography, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, for the cartographic contributions.