

# Book Review

*Resilience, Crisis and Innovation Dynamics. New Horizons in Regional Science series*  
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by Baycan Tüzin & Pinto Hugo (2018) (eds.),

Reviewed by Maria Tsiapa  
University of Thessaly

Stemming from ecology studies, the interdisciplinary concept of resilience has been gaining significance and notoriety towards the understanding of socioeconomic systems, reverberating the prevailing feelings of uncertainty and insecurity. Emanated from the extent, the depth and the duration of the recent (i.e. erupted in years 2007-8) world-wide financial and economic crisis, the prevalence of such feelings – and thus, the emergence of the concept of resilience – is no surprise. Indeed, the crisis has exposed the highly engaged with globally footloose activities, socioeconomic systems to exogenous disturbances (shocks) and resilience is, precisely, interwoven with the capacity of socioeconomic systems to move through multiple equilibria. Particularly, under such an evolutionary perspective, resilience may point to the capacity of socioeconomic systems, not only to respond successfully to short-term disturbances, but also to sustain long-term development.

The “*Resilience, Crisis and Innovation Dynamics*” collective volume, edited by the dear colleagues Tüzin Baycan and Hugo Pinto, addresses the need for clear-cut, evidence-based findings as regards the heterogeneous, in terms of the type and the magnitude, socioeconomic impact of the crisis and the consequent heterogeneous socioeconomic responses. To this end, resilience is the bringing notion that splices an array of theoretical perspectives and empirical approaches. The volume includes a bouquet of original and welcomed in the literature scientific contributions that provide valuable, and, most of all, thought-provoking insight to both academia and policy-making. The international synthesis of the authors highlights that even though resilience is a malleable concept (i.e. it is perceived in a different way by different people), it is desirable world-wide given that globalization raises similar issues for different people and for different places across the globe.

The departure of the volume stems from a couple of noteworthy facts: (a) Economic decline is a spatially selective process. Under this perspective, the vast majority of the chapters conduct their analyses at the regional level. This fact confirms that, in a time that the emerging need for economic stabilization of national economies seems to outweigh regional development policy issues, it behooves regional scientists to carry on their responsibility of shedding light on the spatial footprint of the crisis. (b) Innovation is the critical dimension in the comprehension of resilience. Innovation is the means to overcome economic crisis in the sense that innovation systems combine the capacities of the actors involved in the processes of socioeconomic development. Building capacity for change is a key contributor to resilience and such a perspective is evident across the vast majority of the chapters.

The volume consists of four parts. The first part (“*Introduction*”) is the introductory one and includes the first (editorial) chapter (Baycan and Pinto). The second part (“*Innovation, Crisis and Resilience*”) directly connects the concept of resilience with innovation and consists of six chapters. Chapter 2 (Baycan and Özen)

discusses the effect of economic crisis on the innovation performance of EU countries. Chapter 3 (Pinto and Santos Pereira) addresses the resilience of innovation systems under economic turbulence. Chapter 4 (Benke et al.) focuses on the resilience of learning regions in Hungary. Chapter 5 (Sztasiova et al.) deals with resilience in the context of innovation activity in the regions of Slovakia. Chapter 6 (Ridhwan and Bary) examines the effects of macroeconomic shocks in the regions of Indonesia. Chapter 7 (Cooke) focuses on transversality, resilience and innovation and explains the carrying trajectories out of resilience shock by regions in Portugal. The third part (“*Labor Markets, Employment and Resilience*”) explores the labor market effects of economic crisis and consists of five chapters. Chapter 8 (Jara and Faggian) looks at the adaptation and reorientation of local labor markets in Chile in the aftermath of a natural disaster. Chapter 9 (Doğruel et al.) investigates external shocks and regional economic performance in Turkey. Chapter 10 (Psycharis et al.) provides empirical evidence regarding the impact of economic crisis on employment changes in the regions of Greece. Chapter 11 (Martini) addresses resilience, innovation and variety analyzing the provinces of Italy. Chapter 12 (Ortega-Colomer et al.) addresses the role of engineering education in industrial transition comparing the cities of Alcoy and Tampere. The fourth part (“*Clusters, Industrial Dynamics and Resilience*”) highlights the importance of certain characteristics in the economic fabric of a region and consists of five chapters.

Chapter 13 (Stough) investigates learning regions, clusters and resilience, and provides a typology of regional and cluster dynamics. Chapter 14 (Ferreira) illustrates the resilience of the footwear industry in the north of Portugal. Chapter 15 (Santos Bravo) analyses the role of innovation and technology transfers in the cluster of biopharmaceutical firms located in Lisbon. Chapter 16 (Baypinar) addresses the response of the software industry in Turkey to policy changes. Chapter 17 (Comunian and England) investigates the resilience of creative clusters focusing on the crafts sector in the UK.

Overall, the volume provides an essential reading for scholars and policy practitioners that seek to navigate socioeconomic systems in order to minimize the impact of a (destabilizing) shock and to move towards new development trajectories, away for future downturns. Of course, capturing the endogenous mechanisms of adaptability, and thus going beyond the classical engineering approach of resilience, is not an easy task. Even though the volume contributes highly to this end, the need to integrate the short-term and the long-term dimensions of resilience and the need to understand the significance of the historical context in analyzing resilience as pre-existing structures provide opportunities for – as well as limitations to – the evolution of socioeconomic systems, still remain. Such needs highlight emerging challenges in the understanding of resilience. The volume highlights, suggests and addresses these challenges, setting the path for further research in the field. Including a wealth of studies that follow different regional and structural perspectives, and accentuating the critical role of innovation, the volume mirrors the complexity, as well as the scientific importance and the policy relevance of the concept of resilience.