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Leisuring landscapes

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Introduction¹

“Our era is more in flux, more in process, more rapidly changing than any previous one in history.” Maslow (1965, p. 23)

Cities, urban regions, rural territories are all dynamic entities to a greater or lesser extent. They perpetually change, being subjected to the dynamics of and interactions between socio-cultural, economic, and institutional processes that take place at multiple spatial scales and governance levels. For instance as a response to the rise of a leisure economy we encounter regions that are ‘leisuring’, experiencing on-going transformative processes that are designed to foster touristic, recreational and residential demands. These dynamics relate to our globalized economy and network society, are complex, and make development trajectories – places evolving over time – which are nonlinear, are open to change and are uncertain. It is possible, however, to observe patterns that emerge, to examine directions in which places evolve, to distinguish transitions, and to develop adaptive planning strategies and reflexive governance approaches to guide places in their evolution in a meaningful way. Taking such a nonlinear perspective, strategic spatial planning increasingly involves a focus on adaptive capacity of places so to navigate (themselves) through a contextual environment that is changing continually.

¹ An earlier version of this chapter has been published as: Hartman, S. (2013) Exploring a planner’s adaption to ‘leisuring’ regions. In A. Postma, I. Yeoman & J. Oskam (Eds.) *The Future of European Tourism* (pp. 238-253). Stenden University: Leeuwarden

'Leisuring' landscapes

Over the last decades, many places around the world are witnessing a spatial development process that I refer to in this thesis as *'leisuring'*. The gerund *leisuring* is introduced by Bunce (2008) to describe the on-going transformative processes that are designed to foster touristic, recreational and residential demands. This process has become spatially manifest and visually perceptible in many places. Large scale examples are the rise of tourist destinations around the coastal zones of the Mediterranean Sea or the winter sports destinations in the Alps. Moreover, many cities are oriented towards tourism, recreation and events such as the frequently visited cities of Paris, Rome, Amsterdam, Bangkok, London, Singapore, New York. In the Netherlands, at the regional scale we also find areas that are subjected to *leisuring*, including the islands of the Wadden Sea, the archipelago of Zeeland, and the coastal zone of the North Sea. But also at the local, micro scale, traces can be found of *leisuring* processes in nearly every village, city and rural territory.

As a development process, *leisuring* relates to the emergence of the leisure economy – a container concept used in Dutch planning practice to describe land uses and activities related to tourism, recreation, leisure, wellness, and exurban living and working (cf. Hartman et al., 2011). Enormous growth has been realized in these sectors throughout the world, and it is expected to do so in the future (see UNWTO, 2011). At the global level, the tourism industry is growing gradually. It is nowadays the fastest growing sector, and it is predicted to continue its growth in the near future, despite the financial crisis. This is the case amongst others due to the increasing welfare standards in Southeast Asian countries, Brazil and India. The growth of the leisure economy is also facilitated by innovations in communication and transportation technology, which improved the action radius of people, reinforced the accessibility of places and the competition between them. The result is a diffusion of developments over larger geographical scale. Moreover, entrepreneurs tend to specialize and develop niches to deal with (global) competition (Brinkhuijsen et al., 2007). Tourism and recreation becomes more intense and active, on the one hand whilst on the other hand experiences are sought that are more extensive, revolving around relaxation, tranquillity, culture, authenticity, identity, spirituality, etc. Also for living, people tend to diffuse over wide geographical surfaces settling in the urban, peri-urban and rural areas in search for the experiential values that fit their lifestyles. The urban cores provide high density, highly dynamic places. The city's edges offer the benefits of both the urban and the rural, where

developments are known as suburbanisation. In addition, exurbanization is coined to describe the phenomena of “very-low-density, amenity-seeking, post-productivist residential settlements in rural areas” wherein the inhabitants “have deliberately chosen the rural landscape as a setting for their homes” (Taylor, 2011, p. 324). Bruegmann (2005) adds that these lay beyond the suburbs but are still an integral part of the urban system. Similarly, it is found that peripheral places may face an influx of highly specialized, small businesses (e.g. consultants, architects, designers, artists, internet-based businesses) that operate in supra-regional or international networks, which are categorized as cottage industries (Tordoir, 2010). Hence, it is no surprise that nowadays many regions are directly or indirectly dependent on and shaped by the leisure economy.

Planners are challenged by the emergence of the leisure economy and regions that are *leisuring*. As a result planning needs to take into account not only the functional, tangible aspects of a place, but also intangible, hedonistic aspects (Buijs et al., 2006) that provide for a sense of place and belonging (Steele, 1981; Tuan, 1990; Relph, 1976). This is different compared to a more traditional focus on efficiency and quantitative (economic) growth and dealing with landscapes in a factual and technical-rational manner, as is in general adequate for agricultural, industrial and service economies. With the growing importance of leisure, increasingly relevant are the natural (nature, ecology, landscape) and built environment (infrastructure, heritage) as well as their aesthetics, identities, authenticity and uniqueness. The combination of tangible and intangible factors provides a décor for producing leisure experiences (Pine & Gilmore, 1999; Caalders, 2002; Metz, 2002). Moreover, the leisure economy generates a demand for things to do and interesting stories about places, people, culture, histories made available in interesting ways. Overall, it can offer formidable potential for spatial and socio-economic development, but it can also be a force that shapes the physical and socio-economic landscape negatively. The impact can differ greatly, ranging from low-impact being in symbiosis with their natural and social environment to high impact developments that fundamentally transform landscapes. These observations opt for more integrative, holistic approaches that revolve around quality of place compared to approaches that deal with sectors individually, such as nature, infrastructure, housing or water. Figure 1 provides a spectrum to capture this range of relations between the leisure economy and landscape more conceptually (Hartman et al., 2011; Cadieux & Hurley, 2011).

At one end of the spectrum developments can be positioned that revolve around adapting places and taking opportunities for (socio)economic development.

This includes changing the structures and functions of places, as is the case for instance in the ‘Ruhr’ area in Germany that has shifted its orientation on industries to the service and leisuring economy, focusing amongst others on design, culture, tourism and recreation – nowadays under the heading of Emscher Park. Brinkhuijsen et al. (2007) observes, however, that this can take parasitic forms when such developments emerge in or near attractive but fragile places, and relations with surroundings are purely functional and matter mostly in terms of location. In these cases functionality can be dominant combined with a focus on quantitative, economic growth over landscape qualities. This is spatially manifest in places that are devoted predominantly to mono-functional development to support leisure complexes such as some forms of hotels, theme parks, bungalow parks as well as suburban neighbourhoods, business parks and agricultural production. To indemnify places from potential negative perturbations, a traditional planning approach is to spatially separate different types of land use through zoning (Hartman & De Roo, 2013).

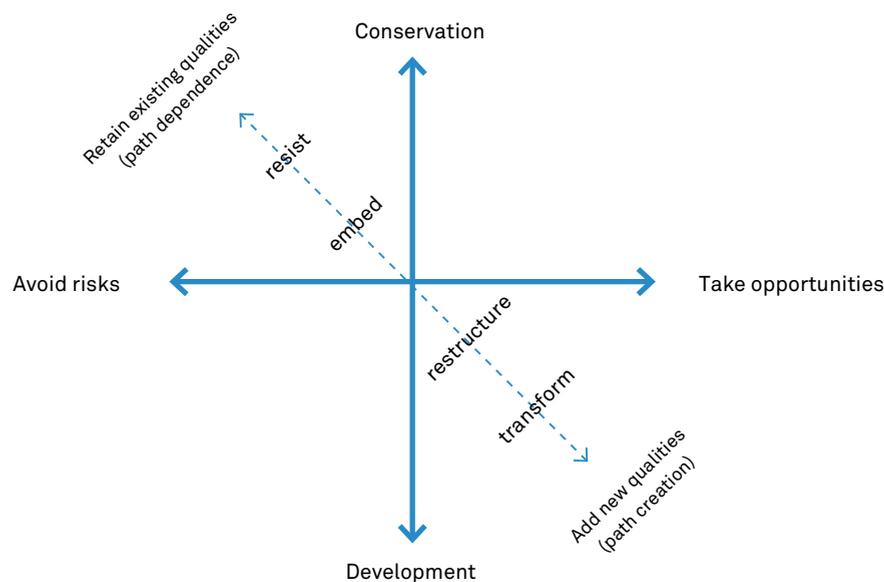


Figure 1: Spectrum of relations between leisure and landscape (Source: adapted from Hartman et al., 2011)

At the other end of the spectrum developments can be located that harmonize with place-based qualities. This could benefit places where land use is mainly devoted to nature, landscape or heritage (Holmes, 2008). However, leisuring

processes can be considered incompatible with nature and heritage when causing deterioration. In addition, impacts may be considered negative when hampering the vested interests coupled to development abilities of agriculture (for example, limiting up-scaling, rationalizing landscapes), forestry (for example, co-use, amenity values), and alter rural communities (gentrification, exclusion) and lifestyles (Theobald, 2005). Through planning interventions perturbing developments may be completely avoided or limited to low impact initiatives to protect particular landscapes or activities.

The hints at the fact that interacting (f)actors on multiple spatial scales and governance levels form a highly complex process that affects how the leisure economy evolves and how leisuring processes become spatially manifest. In this context, planners increasingly acknowledge that the way in which development trajectories unfold towards the future is at least partly uncertain (Albrechts, 2006b; De Roo & Silva, 2010). Some dynamics are (becoming) too complex to comprehensively understand and plan for (Healey, 2007). Moreover, the relevance of (subjective) perceptions related to place quality and the variety of actors involved in spatial development processes limit the control of planners over the outcomes of development processes. This should make planners modest with respect to their ability to control development trajectories of places (cf. Urry, 2003). Alternatively, planners become challenged to guide places in their evolution (Loorbach and Rotmans, 2006).

Is the world is getting more complex or are we learning about its complexity?

We could say that the world is getting more complex. Over the last decades the world has become highly interconnected and interdependent. Physical and virtual networks stretch across the globe, and allow moving people, goods, and thoughts to every corner of the world. This is facilitated by a variety of factors, such as technological innovations in communication and transportation and the relative ease of cross-border movements. Graham & Healey (1999, p. 11) observe that “cultures, economies, social worlds, politics and environments all become driven by logics of increasingly intense interconnections and flows, over larger and larger geographical scales”. Because of the high level of interconnectivity and intensity of interactions the world seems to be in flux, constantly changing, whereby it is rather impossible to say whether someone is in control. These dynamics come with implications. First, it offers opportunities for development, which is amongst others demonstrated by the emergence and dynamics of the leisure economy. Second, due to the impact of or inspired by global trends and events, actors at local, regional as well as national levels (are forced to)

anticipate and adapt to processes they cannot influence directly (Urry, 2003). To continue to participate in the globally interconnected economies and societies mean that actors (have to) conform and adapt to the international 'rules of the game'. Third, the increased interconnectivity gives rise to complex constellations in which it is difficult to distinguish how things are related, how things are organized, and how interactions take place. In such cases it may become difficult to command-and-control how such constellations evolve over time. A recent example of this is the financial crisis and its effects on housing markets, investment plans, governmental budgets, employment rates, etc. Whereas a complex world provides many opportunities for socio-economic, spatial, and socio-cultural development, it also comes with a range of consequences and implications, amongst others for the planning and governance of regions that are leisuring.

At the same time, we are learning about the world its complexity. For instance, in various planning-related academic fields, there is an emergent interest in dealing with and managing phenomena that are fundamentally dynamic. Many scholars pursue an understanding of their complexity, their capacity to adapt to changing circumstances, and try finding strategies to deal with their dynamics. In this context, complexity theories are increasingly explored. Complexity theories include literature amongst others on complex adaptive systems (Wolfram, 2002; Holland, 2006; De Roo & Silva, 2010, De Roo et al., 2012; Gerrits, 2012), socio-ecological systems (Gunderson and Holling, 2002; Folke et al., 2005; Gerrits, 2008), organisational dynamics and change management (Axelrod & Cohen, 2000; Weick & Sutcliffe, 2007), socio-technical systems (Geels 2010, Geels & Schot, 2007), climate change (Pahl-Wostl, 2007; Gupta et al., 2010), socio-economic systems and evolutionary economics that focuses on the innovation of firms and industries (Simmie & Martin, 2010; Martin 2010; Boschma & Frenken, 2006), socio-spatial systems (Portugali, 2012), evolutionary transportation planning (Bertolini, 2010). These fields have emerged to learn about complexity, about the behaviour and characteristics of complex (adaptive) systems and to find ways to deal with them and guide them in their evolution. Whereas it might be true that the world is getting more complex, many scholars and practitioners are determined to learn about and deal with its complexity.

Towards guiding places that are 'leisuring' in their evolution

The above provides first insights into the context wherein the development of the leisure economy is situated and provides an understanding of the dynamics to which places that are leisuring are subjected. It highlights that spaces and places are likely to be dynamic, to a greater or lesser extent, being produced,

reproduced and adapted over time – which is confirmed by the fact that many places are engaging in leisuring processes.

In this thesis I interlink the line of thought that regions are embedded in and persistently respond to dynamic (contextual) situations with the line of thought that regions are leisuring. Empirically, I examine the ways in which leisuring processes become spatially manifest, how this relates to changing (contextual) circumstances, and how such processes are shaped by spatial planning strategies and interventions. Analytically, I clarify how planning shapes the evolution of regions that are leisuring and discuss how planning strategies may be enhanced to anticipate dynamic situations and harmonize with the evolution of the leisure economy. Theoretically, I turn to theories on complex adaptive systems which offer a frame of thought that emphasizes nonlinearity and discontinuous change. As such, these offer various concepts and mechanisms to recognize, characterize and make sense of issues that progress in a nonlinear way. These ingredients are combined to raise the insight that guiding regions that are leisuring in their evolution entails a call for a more adaptive approach to spatial planning and development.

1.2

Scope of the thesis

The thesis examines the implications of regions that are leisuring for spatial planning and development and explores the design of institutional frameworks and planning strategies, as means to guide such regions in their evolution. The research questions that guide this thesis are as follows:

- What implications and issues do regions that are leisuring raise for spatial planning and development?
- How is the process of leisuring shaped by institutional frameworks?
- How can the leisuring of regions be stimulated through spatial planning?

It is by no means my intention to claim that the insights presented in this thesis provide a comprehensive overview. For instance, in exploring the design of institutional frameworks and planning strategies I had to be selective – mainly due to time constraints – and focus on particular themes (spatial quality) and approaches (strategic storytelling). Nevertheless, I do believe that the insights presented in this thesis provide a thorough and enhanced understanding of the underlying processes that drive regions that are leisuring, the implications for spatial planning and planning, and the challenges and possible strategies

for designing institutional frameworks and planning approaches. In section 1.3 I further discuss the choices made with regard to case study selection, their analytical focus and methodological approaches.

1.3

Structure of the thesis

The thesis consists of three parts. In the remainder of the first part, being this introduction, I present the research strategy that guided this research (section 1.3). I elaborate on the analytical framework as well as the focus of, and the methodologies used for, the articles that are part of this thesis. The second part is the main body of this thesis and consists of five chapters – which are either reprints from journal articles or submitted manuscripts (for an overview see page 24):

- Chapter 2 analyses on the basis of theories on transitions for the uttermost northern part of the Netherlands how leisuring processes are facilitated and how they are inhibited by means of spatial planning. This allows a discussion on how to guide regions that are leisuring in their evolution.
- Chapter 3 presents a case study on the evolution of peri-urban areas in the metropolitan region of The Hague, the Netherlands. It discusses the transition of peri-urban areas evolving from predominantly rural areas to ‘leisure landscapes’ that are extensively integrated into the urban fabric of the metropolitan Greater Hague Region. Specific attention is paid to the institutional influence on the evolution of these areas.
- Chapter 4 analyses the design of the institutional framework that is put in place in the Dutch province of Friesland to stimulate spatial quality. Spatial quality is a key factor in the context of leisuring as a spatial and socio-economic development process.
- Chapter 5 examines two projects that revolve around strategic storytelling. The chapter contains an analysis of the extent to which these strategic storytelling project serve as transition catalysts for regions that are leisuring.
- Chapter 6 is a theoretical paper that explores theories on adaptive capacity. This provides a perspective that may help to better understand the implications, complexities as well as potential strategies to deal with regions that are leisuring.

Table 1 summarizes how the individual papers contribute to the research questions. The chapters are ordered as such to first provide insights into the issues and implications for spatial planning and development that are

QUESTIONS	What issues do regions that are leisuring raise for spatial planning and development?	How is the process of leisuring shaped by institutional frameworks?	How can the leisuring of regions be stimulated through spatial planning?
CHAPTERS			
Chapter 2: Towards managing nonlinear regional development trajectories	X	X	
Chapter 3: Planning for peri-urban development: towards guiding dynamic periurban areas in their evolution	X	X	
Chapter 4: Stimulating spatial quality: unpacking the approach of the province of Friesland, the Netherlands	X	X	X
Chapter 5: Strategic storytelling: a development catalyst for ‘leisuring’ regions?	X		X
Chapter 6: Towards adaptive tourism areas? A complexity perspective to examine the conditions for adaptive capacity	X		X

Table 1: How chapters contribute to research questions (table design based on Wilkinson, 2012)

accompanied by regions that are leisuring. This serves as a background to the chapters on the design of institutional frameworks (chapter 4) and planning strategies (chapter 5). Chapter 6 is a theoretical paper that builds on the insights derived from the other chapters, and explores theories on adaptive capacity as a potential perspective to deal with emergent implications that accompany

regions that are leisuring. In section 1.4 a more elaborate explanation of the focus of the articles and the methodological approaches is given.

The third part of the thesis is the conclusion (chapter 7). In this chapter I take the theoretical framework and empirical insights presented in the thesis to address the research questions. Furthermore, I reflect on the theoretical framework and discuss along which lines the insights presented in this thesis may help forward other regions that are leisuring.

1.4

Research strategy

The research questions that guide this thesis are addressed through empirical research on the basis of multiple case studies. The approach of case study research enables to study in-depth the implications of regions that leisuring for spatial planning and development, and to examine the design of institutional frameworks and planning strategies that aim to guide this emergent phenomenon in their evolution. In this section I first introduce the analytical framework to provide a background to the analytical focus of this thesis. Subsequently, I clarify for each chapter the methodological approach and research focus.

Analytical focus

In planning theory and practice there is an increasing awareness that the ways in which space and place develop over time can often not be adequately managed by means of command-and-control approaches. Processes driving spatial and socio-economic development are often highly complex as they include multiple actors, sectors, levels, time scales, objectives, and options (Dewulf et al., 2009). Such complex processes can have unpredictable outcomes and give rise to a sense of uncertainty concerning the ways in which places evolve over time. In other words, development trajectories do not necessarily progress in a linear manner, which are predictable and controllable, but may evolve in a nonlinear manner, being more unpredictable and uncontrollable. With nonlinear we mean that the object of planning (e.g. a neighbourhood, city, region) is not only dynamic, it also implies that characteristics, usages, meanings and values attributed to places may change fundamentally over time. We take the perspective that the process of leisuring embodies an example of such nonlinear development, as it entails that new meanings and values are attributed to landscapes and gives rise to new conditions for its development.

Whereas this thesis further explores this phenomenon, it examines in particular how nonlinearity and strategic spatial planning mutually influence each other: how do development trajectories evolve nonlinearly, what are implications for planning, how does planning shape the nonlinear evolution of development trajectories? In short, the main analytical foci of this thesis are strategic spatial planning and addressing nonlinearity.

Strategic spatial planning

The chapters in this thesis address the relations between strategic spatial planning and regions that are leisuring. In literature, strategic spatial planning is understood as follows. For instance, Healey (2004, p. 46) describes strategic spatial planning as the “self-conscious collective efforts to re-imagine a city, urban region or wider territory and to translate the result into priorities for area investment, conservation measures, strategic infrastructure investments and principles of land use regulation”. She adds that “strategic...implies selectivity” and “implies that it is possible to decide between appropriate actions” (ibid., p. 46). Elsewhere Healey (2007, p. 8) highlights that strategic spatial planning concerns “encouraging the emergence of particular development trajectories”. Albrechts (2006a, p.1152) argues strategic spatial planning concerns processes that “shape and frame what a place is and may become”. In these quotes we find words such as prioritize, selectivity, appropriate, particular, shape and frame to describe the purpose of strategic spatial planning. These words imply, in essence, that strategic spatial planning concerns shaping and governing the ways in which places evolve. As such, we could say that it is a process that involves the design and introduction of governance strategies and institutional structures to, as Jessop (2005, p. 48) puts it, “privilege some actors, some identities, some strategies, some spatial and temporal horizons, some actions over others” as a means to steer and shape how development trajectories unfold.

In a dynamic context, however, strategic planning may be problematic. In case situations change development options may emerge as well as disappear over time, for example due to new technologies, economic crisis, lifestyle changes, emergent markets, etc. This could affect the ways in which places evolve over time. As a result, planning interventions (policies, institutional frameworks, governance structure) that steer and shape the evolution of development trajectories in a particular direction could become less efficient, obsolete or even obstructive. They may need to be revisited, replaced or removed for the benefit of regions their progression. In line, Wilkinson (2011, p. 595) emphasizes that “in face of turbulent change and a spectacular failure to address wicked problems such as sustainability, urban poverty and climate change...[m]ore

open, dynamic and adaptable modes of strategic spatial planning practice are called for under such conditions”. In this thesis I demonstrate that regions that are engaged in leisuring processes also benefit from more adaptive planning approaches.

This thesis focuses specifically on how nonlinearity and strategic spatial planning mutually influence each other. Chapter 2 and 3 examine how institutional (macro) forces shape the ways in which regions are leisuring. Chapter 2 focuses on transitional processes in the uttermost northern part of the Netherlands and discusses how leisuring processes are facilitated as well as inhibited by means of spatial planning. Chapter 3 elaborates on the development of peri-urban areas in the Greater Hague Region, and how their evolution from predominantly rural areas to ‘leisure landscapes’ is shaped by planning. Chapter 4 and 5 examine how planning (institutional frameworks and planning strategies) reinforces regions that are leisuring in their evolution. Chapter 4 concerns strategies to stimulate spatial quality and chapter 5 examines whether strategic storytelling serves as a transition catalyst for regions that are leisuring. Chapter 6 examines the insights theories on complex adaptive systems raise for stimulating the adaptive capacity of regions that are leisuring.

Addressing nonlinearity: theories on complex adaptive systems

Theories on complex adaptive systems are explored to develop a frame of thought that emphasizes nonlinearity and discontinuous change. Complexity theories offer various concepts and mechanisms to recognize, characterize and make sense of dynamic spatial phenomena that progress in a nonlinear way. These theories clarify how complex adaptive systems are able to adapt to changing circumstances, which may raise valuable insights for emergence and progression of leisuring regions as these are subjected to persistently changing (contextual) circumstances. In planning literature, theories on complex adaptive systems are used amongst others to address the evolution of cities, peri-urban areas, urban regions and infrastructure systems (Portugali, 2012; Rauws & De Roo, 2011; Bertolini, 2010; Batty, 2005; Batty, 2008).

Complex adaptive systems are understood as open systems, being interconnected to and in constant interaction with its contextual environment that comprises of other systems, subsystems and system that are of larger scale. For instance, an urban region is connected to other regions and therefore affected by the ways in which other regions evolve. Its evolution is also affected by subsystems (e.g. political, planning, ecosystems) as well as by larger scale systems (e.g. related to ecology, culture, economy, climate). Complex adaptive systems feature the capacity to adapt responsively to dynamics in

other systems. Through this adaptive capacity, systems co-evolve in response to one another (Gerrits, 2008). The capacity to adapt involves a process of change, renewal and transformation. These are processes that occur through self-organisation and without central control, whereby the parts or agents that constitute a system are changed over a period of time in terms of their character, relations and interdependencies. Heylighen (2008, p. 4) explains that “an action by one agent will in general trigger further actions by one or more other agents, possibly setting in motion an extended chain of activity that propagates from agent to agent across the system”. Out of these local interactions macroscopic patterns may arise that are understood as emergent structures (Epstein & Axtell, 1996; Heylighen, 2001; Allen, 2012). As systems are always interacting, they are “out-of-equilibrium” (De Roo, 2012, p. 153), the emergent structures of systems are continuously produced, reproduced and adapted. Development trajectories may therefore evolve nonlinearly.

The concepts, mechanisms and underlying principles of complex adaptive systems are addressed frequently and more in-depth throughout the chapters of this thesis. I also connect these insights to the concept of *transitions*, a connection that is explored for instance by Rauws & De Roo (2011) and Rotmans & Loorbach (2009). The concept of transitions is used to elaborate in more detail how socio-spatial systems such as peri-urban areas and (urban) regions evolve. The concept expands the complex adaptive systems perspective by conceptualising that the emergence of structures – in our case the process of ‘leisuring’ – requires actors, decision-making and development processes, as well as requires regimes in different domains to interlock and reinforce one another. We use the insights that transition theory brings, amongst others, to discuss that the emergence of socio-spatial patterns relates to and depends on the interplay between spatial-economic, socio-spatial, organisational and institutional (sub)systems.

The combination of the analytical foci of this thesis, being complex adaptive systems and strategic spatial planning, provides leverage on guiding regions that are leisuring in their evolution. For this thesis, theories on complex adaptive systems provide a perspective that elaborates on mechanisms that enable systems to adapt to changing circumstances. It raises insights on the factors that provide for the ability to move towards a better fit. The focus on strategic spatial planning provides a perspective that dynamic situations and persistently changing planning objects come with far-reaching implications for planning. It raises the insight that strategic spatial planning is increasingly about shaping and governing the ways in which places evolve, focussing on conditions that enable regions to respond adaptively to changing circumstances.

Methodological approach and research focus

The research questions that are raised in this thesis are addressed by means of multiple research methods. Table 2 provides an overview of the methodological approaches used for each chapter and the research focus that served as a guide for the presented findings. Chapters 2 to 5 contain either a single case or multiple cases (Table 2). The case studies presented in chapters 2, 3 and 5 revolve around the analysis of development trajectories. This approach allows discussing the interactions and interrelations between regions that are leisuring and spatial planning over a period of time. Chapter 4 is largely a cross-section in time, as it focuses on the institutional framework put in place in the province of Friesland to stimulate spatial quality. The factor time is included, however, as we discuss the relevance of dynamic situations and how this may impact on the design of institutional frameworks. The approach to focus on development trajectories and include the factor time allows us to reveal the ways in which regions are leisuring and discuss the factors that influence how this process becomes spatially manifest. In this context, as table 1 highlights, the focus is particularly on the role of institutional factors (the planning system: laws, zoning plan, policies, routines and traditions, strategies and approaches, etc.) whereas chapter 4 on stimulating spatial quality and chapter 5 on storytelling also elaborate on organisational aspects. These chapters explicitly focus on planning strategies that aim to stimulate processes of leisuring.

The data to outline, explain and analyse the evolution of development trajectories is derived from reviewing academic literature about the case study areas, analysing documents, and using semi-structured, in-depth interviews with key informants. The review of academic literature serves the purpose of revealing a background on recent dynamics, emergent issues and tensions, and possible implications for spatial planning and development. This also provided the input to create an (preliminary) outline of a region its development trajectory. Document analyses were used to enrich the insights on forces driving spatial development and the ways in which these shape how places develop over time. These analyses included a range of documents that could provide information about the evolution of development trajectories, such as policy plans, laws, guidelines, advisory reports, press releases, etc. Interviews were used to supplement and cross check findings, but more importantly to examine transformations in governance and planning and to elaborate on planning issues and solutions. Interviewees for this research were selected on the basis of their knowledge about the development of the region under study and the underlying driving forces. The selection focussed on key informants or persons of significance that hold a comprehensive overview of developments and/or

could provide an in-depth perspective on a particular series of events, as a result of their position and/or the actions to which they have contributed to. Appendix A includes the list of interviewees for this research.

Chapter 6 is based on a literature review. A review of academic literature fits the research focus of this paper, as it aims to explore what insights complexity theories, and the concept of adaptive capacity in particular, raise for the spatial planning and development of regions that are leisuring (see Table 2). A literature review is selected as a means to reveal relevant insights and connect to recent discussions. Literature on complex adaptive systems was systematically analysed. First, principles, concepts and mechanism that relate to complex adaptive systems are systematically introduced, discussed and linked to the phenomenon of regions that are leisuring. Second, we examine transition management and adaptive (co)management, two main approaches that set out to deal with the dynamics of complex adaptive systems, to derive suggestions for planning and governance approaches.

CHAPTERS	METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH	RESEARCH FOCUS
Chapter 2: Towards managing nonlinear regional development trajectories	Case study research, semi-structured in-depth interviews, document analysis	What issues and implication for spatial planning and development accompany regions that are leisuring?
Chapter 3: Planning for peri-urban development: towards guiding dynamic peri-urban areas in their evolution	Multiple case study research, semi-structured in-depth interviews, document analysis	How do institutional interventions affect the evolution of peri-urban areas, as they increasingly become leisure landscapes?
Chapter 4: Stimulating spatial quality: unpacking the approach of the province of Friesland, the Netherlands	Case study research, semi-structured in-depth interviews, document analysis	What are conditions for institutional frameworks to stimulate spatial quality, and what are its governance implications?
Chapter 5: Strategic storytelling: a development catalyst for 'leisuring' regions?	Multiple case study research, semi-structured in-depth interviews, document analysis	How can storytelling serve as a transition catalyst for regions that are leisuring?
Chapter 6: Towards adaptive tourism areas? A complexity perspective to examine the conditions for adaptive capacity	Literature review	What insights do complexity theories raise for the spatial planning and development of regions that are leisuring?

Table 2: Overview of chapters and the methodological approach and research focus