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Planning for flood resilient cities

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Planning for Flood Resilient Cities – From Promise to Practice?

Britta Restemeyer

1. The initial challenge with resilience is to make sense of a multi-interpretable concept, but the even trickier challenge is to implement a flood resilience strategy into practice. (This thesis)
2. The concept of resilience offers an opportunity for new ways of thinking about flood risks in urban areas, but only if an evolutionary resilience perspective is applied. (This thesis)
3. A flood resilient city should be robust, adaptable and transformable; yet an emphasis on robustness limits the transformative capacity of a city. (This thesis)
4. While long-term flood risk management strategies make uncertainties a central theme, a technical-rational interpretation of adaptability prevails. (This thesis)
5. If dikes are considered 'adaptive' and framed as 'spatial concepts', adaptive capacity behind the dike will hardly increase. (This thesis)
6. Different places lead to different resilience challenges: while English flood risk management risks to overburden the local level, Dutch flood risk management risks to ignore local capacities. (This thesis)
7. The redevelopments in Hamburg HafenCity, and to a lesser extent the London Royal Docks, show that flood resilience measures can be implemented in profitable areas; yet the question remains how this would work in less profitable existing neighbourhoods. (This thesis)
8. Despite its increasing popularity and usage, the concept of resilience has not (yet) produced a paradigm shift in flood risk management. (This thesis)
9. More transformative approaches are hindered by 'physical-spatial stickiness' and 'social-institutional stickiness'; if more transformation is desired, it needs to start in the social-institutional system. (This thesis)
10. As a female social scientist in a predominantly engineering field, a certain degree of 'outsiderness' is guaranteed during the data collection.
11. Although the North-West of Germany and the North-East of the Netherlands might have more in common with each other than they have with the respective Souths of their countries, they are still divided by a clear and tangible border.
12. In 2002, the song '*Ohne Holland fahr'n wir zur WM*' was sung with malicious joy; in 2018, it is sung melancholically, as we seem to have lost one of our favourite rivals.