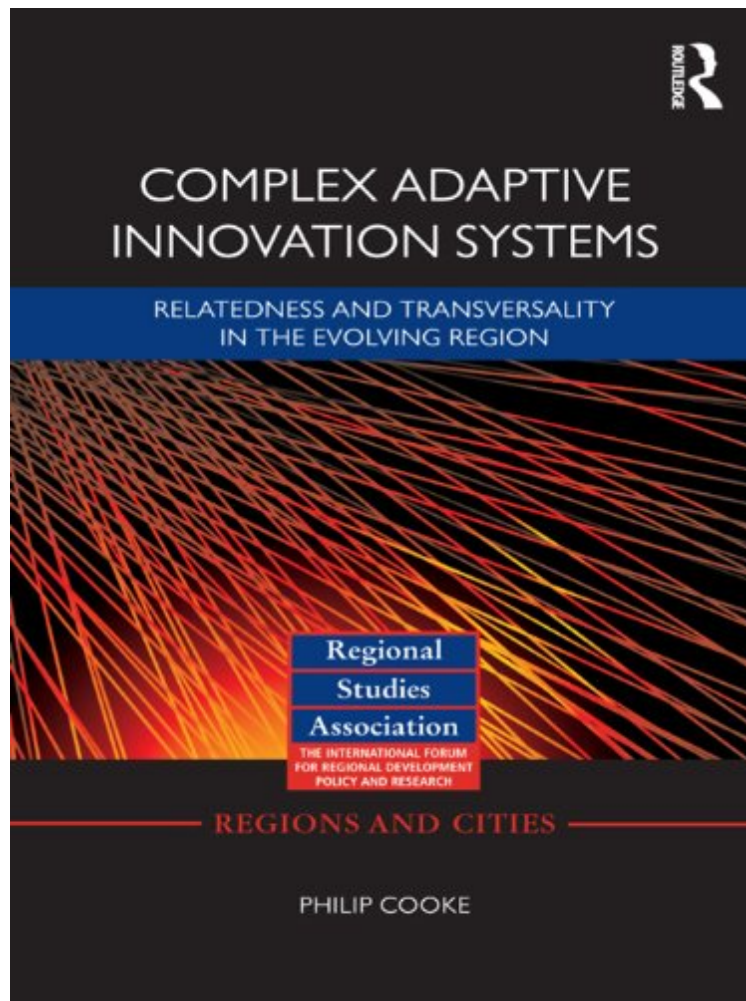


[Mobile library] Complex Adaptive Innovation Systems: Relatedness and Transversality in the Evolving Region (Regions and Cities)

Complex Adaptive Innovation Systems: Relatedness and Transversality in the Evolving Region (Regions and Cities)

Philip Cooke

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Philip Cooke : Complex Adaptive Innovation Systems: Relatedness and Transversality in the Evolving Region (Regions and Cities) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Complex Adaptive Innovation Systems: Relatedness and Transversality in the Evolving Region (Regions and Cities):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Synthesis of Innovation Complexity By William A. Reed Two themes from this book are of particular interest to me and motivated its purchase. First, its treatment of complex adaptive systems (CAS) from a non-physical and non-metaphorical perspective provides fresh insights for how CAS can find a home in organizational and industrial strategy. While this book is not a primer on CAS and only addresses a few CAS constructs, it offers great clarity on topics such as co-evolution and emergence in a geographically regional context. Second, this is a book about innovation which focuses on the dynamics of cooperative

innovation among organizations in geographical regions. This has some parallels with the popular writings about "open innovation" but is more focused on dynamic relatedness and regional effects. As such, it makes a unique contribution in the world of innovation literature, while hinting at a praxis for innovation managers. By way of full disclosure, I lack a detailed knowledge about "economic geography", a topic which is a core theme of the book. Consequently, my review is limited to those aspects which I can articulate and relate to as stated above. Nevertheless, the book is extremely well researched with about 300 (mostly recent) academic references and is written in a conversational style that is pleasant to read. Here are some aspects that I found noteworthy:- The author's treatment of transversality and the horizontal movement from an industrial to a knowledge paradigm.- A relatively extensive discussion about the effects of path dependence in regional innovation.- The co-evolutionary transition model for innovation within a landscape of relatedness and competing forces.- How variables such as relatedness and variety interact in a complex innovation (geographic) system. Take for example, this sample quote: "Relatedness arises from research into regional economic growth where it is found that economics with 'related variety' among industries perform better than those without it. This is called the 'proximity effect', superseding the 'portfolio effect' from the viewpoint of industrial structure. More related variety means more literal 'absorptive capacity' from related knowledge spillovers." (p. 112).- System adaptation and resilience, especially the author's discussion about why human complex systems are different than physical CAS (see pp. 147-161). Perhaps my favorite quote from this book touches on its main contribution: "For those recalling the big theme of this book it is that innovation occurs mainly horizontally as regional path dependence leads to path interaction and new path creation, with implications for business or organizational innovation at the micro-scale and regional (or national) industrial innovation at the macro scale" (p. 142). This captures the broad conceptual space that the author is embracing, while providing the rationale for a complexity approach to explain innovation processes. My only frustration with this book is that the author glosses over some important complexity constructs, for example, those dealing with the relationships among path dependence, attractors, clusters, and emergence within the context of organizational innovation and evolution. For example, the discussion on "strange attractors" is diffuse and sometimes alternates between literal and metaphorical analogies. I would like to see this section clarified and expanded in the next version. There is much more to this book than enumerated here, including numerous detailed examples that help solidify the more abstract principles of CAS in multi-organizational landscapes. It is not, however, a light read or a typical business book. Many readers (including myself) might consider reading this book more than once to fully comprehend its value. If you found this review helpful please click "Yes".

Leading up to the financial crisis of 2008 and onwards, the shortcomings of traditional models of regional economic and environmental development had become increasingly evident. Rooted in the idea that 'policy' is an encumbrance to free markets, the stress on supply-side smoothing measures such as clusters and an over reliance on venture capital, the inadequacy of existing orthodoxies has come to be replaced by the notion of Transversality. This approach has three strong characteristics that differentiate it from its failing predecessor. First, as the name implies, it seeks to finesse horizontal knowledge interactions as well as vertical ones, thus building 'platforms' of industrial interaction. Secondly, it is not a supply, but a demand side model in which needs-driven innovation rather than pure market competition prevails. Finally, it is ongoing through recessionary times, being more robust than over-specialised approaches to economic growth. The intellectual origins of Transversality lie in an aspiration to promote eco-innovation, one of the key hopes of assisting Western regional and national economies to re-balance and escape recession. The policy models of key regional exponents of the concept are explored and their goals achievement is assessed. An array of policy instruments and measures is presented for hands-on policy implementation. The book will be of vital interest to academics as teachers and researchers as well as policy advisers and public servants.

"The book is a must-read for anybody scientifically interested in innovation and complexity theory. It is very inspiring and also challenging in various aspects... The author digests and discusses an impressive amount of literature. As a much-appreciated feature, which makes the book more than a piece of solid theorising, the reader gets acquainted with numerous empirical cases and studies showing that the author is personally highly engaged in eco-innovation issues and is a true expert in the whole regional innovation field." - Petra Ahrweiler, University College Dublin; JASSS (2012) About the Author Philip Cooke is Director and Research Professor in Regional Development at the Centre for Advanced Studies, Cardiff University, UK.