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Territorial development: new challenges in a fragmented world

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In the face of global upheavals, the increase in war episodes and the return of Empires, the notion of territorial development appears to be a safe haven: the process by which people can continue to exert an influence on their own existence and steer individual or collective projects. Having been for a long time associated with actions and policies carried out by local authorities or by decentralised public bodies, it is now giving rise to an increasing number of academic researches taking into account all the stakeholders present on the territory.

Territorial development tells the story of a human group, with its systemic perspective; its social, economic and cultural dimensions; as well as its environmental and land issues. Its strength lies in the fact that it is based on two engines: the relations of production but also the modes of governance. Territorial innovations of all kinds (technological, organisational, social, institutional) are at the origin of the project dynamics that determine the past and future evolution of local systems and stakeholders' relations within their territories, and in relation with other territories.

This collection presents different facets of territorial development processes with their two engines: production and governance. It starts from the iconic example of industrial districts and goes as far as post-industrial, touristic or agro-industrial experiences, in urban or peripheral territories, with illustrations in terms of organisational, employment or monetary dimensions.

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