Territoriality and Spatiality -
Two paramount concepts in furthering 
European Integration Theory

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...concepts to further European Integration Theory?

Argument:

*In order to understand the multidimensional dynamics of European integration, theory making needs to consider spatial relations and the role of spatial development more explicitly, and vice versa.*
Space matters!

Political developments and peoples’ vote depend to a much greater extend on spatial relations and (perceived) regional development then European integration theory suggest so far!
Spatial Integration and European Integration

EU’s influence on states and political systems

Forms of European integration

EU’s influence on spatial policies and planning

Spatial integration

Territorial integration?
Spatial Integration and European Integration

- EU’s influence on states and political systems
  - Forms of European integration
- EU’s influence on spatial policies and planning
  - Spatial integration

Territorial integration?
Spatial Integration and European Integration

EU’s influence on states and political systems

Forms of European integration

Territoriality

EU’s influence on spatial policies and planning

Spatial integration

United States of Europe?

Territorial integration?
Theoretical elements

European integration theory

- EU's influence on states and political systems
- Forms of European integration
- Multi-level governance
- Scale and Rescaling
- Europeanisation
- Territorial Impact Assessment

Territoriality

- EU's influence on spatial policies and planning
- Spatial integration

Territorial integration?
Space matters!

Political developments and peoples’ vote depend to a much greater extent on spatial relations and (perceived) regional development then European integration theory suggest so far!
Introducing the theoretical debates

Territoriality  

Spatiality  

European Integration theory
EU political project in space
(Spatial significance of EU polity?)

- Territorial scope of EU from a legal perspective (Ziller, 2007)
- Geographical integration can be understood as “graded membership” (Schimmelfenning)
- Bounding EU political project (Agnew, 2005), also from a critical perspective (Balibar, 2004); this process being accompanied by a process of « Othering » in respect to the neighbours (Bialasiewicz & Mamadouh, 2016)
The significance of EU integration process in space

(Spatial implications of EU polity?)

- Europe as a putative space of values on the one hand with territorial integrity on the other side (Bialasiewicz, Elden and Painter: 2005)
- Europeanization: how is it constructed to sustain EU’s political geographies (Clark & Jones)
- Understanding European spatial planning (Faludi) and political objectives (e.g. cohesion policy, Stead 2014).
Political discussions highlights that Brexit is about having a say!
## Territoriality

<table>
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Amended from Chilla et al. 2015
## Territoriality

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# Territoriality

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<td><strong>Spatial configuration</strong></td>
<td>fixed territory, space as ‘container‘ (Taylor 1994)</td>
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Spatial integration

De Boer et al. 1999: spatial integration in a cross-border context.

Spiekermann & Wegener 1994 – Scenarios for 2020

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Spatial integration

1. Non-integration
2. Integration

De Boer et al. 1999: spatial integration in a cross-border context.

Spiekermann & Wegener 1994 – Scenarios for 2020

→ Spatiality?
“Space is usually cast as physical or social space, with the former commonly constituting an effectively invisible backdrop to the complexity and vibrancy of social space.”
(Gregor, J. 2004 Studying spatiality)
“Space is usually cast as physical or social space, with the former commonly constituting an effectively invisible backdrop to the complexity and vibrancy of social space.”
(Gregor, J. 2004 Studying spatiality)

- Spatial reality
- Perception of spatial reality and
- Perceived reality in comparison to perceived reality of other regions (e.g. distance to London)
- Perceived reality of dynamics of spatial development
- Role of space in and spatial reality
Next Steps

Spatialising social and political theory?
Bialasiewicz, Elden and Painter (2005) argue

« there is a need for theorising the European project through a reading of territorial questions » (2015:3-4).

… and rightly point out

« all constitutive/constitutive acts enact a necessary fixing, an ordering of such values in space, they all presume territorialisations of power, security, identity; all are necessarily marked by the modern territorial imagination ».

→ EU polity is almost always implicitly territorialised and spatialised.
The European project set the objective of territorial cohesion!

Yet, European integration theory takes little account of the European geographies.
Thank you!

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Context and Ambition

• Contribute to the « call for a sustained spatial investigation of the EU project » made by Bialasiewicz, Elden and Painter in 2005
• More precisely, these authors argue that « there is a need for theorising the European project through a reading of territorial questions » (2015:3-4). We would go even further by saying that the EU polity is implicitly territorialised and spatialised. As they rightly point out: « all constitutive/constatative acts enact a necessary fixing, an ordering of such values in space, they all presume territorialisations of power, security, identity; all are necessarily marked by the modern territorial imagination ».
• Yet, it is however striking to notice how European integration theory takes few account of the European geographies.
• A decade after constitutionalising ”territorial cohesion” as an objective of the EU (and while no major initiative from the EU has been taken to implement it except maybe in cross-border areas), we look at examples of spatialities and territorialities demonstrating that implicitly EU policy do account a territorial dimension. By doing so, we intend to both observe diverse forms of spatialities and territorialities and to make a contribution to European integration theories