Critical Reflections on Interactive Governance

Self-organization and Participation in Public Governance

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In many countries, government and society have undergone a major shift in recent years, now tending toward ‘smaller government’ and ‘bigger society’. This development has lent increased meaning to the notion of interactive governance, a concept that this book takes not as a normative ideal but as an empirical phenomenon that needs constant critical scrutiny, reflection and embedding in modern societies.

‘This excellent volume offers new insights into contemporary civic engagement by exploring the expansion of “civic-induced”, as opposed to “government-induced”, interactive governance. At the same time, the volume’s critical (though not skeptical) stance towards interactive governance illuminates inherent limits and tensions and usefully organizes key debates about this expanding mode of governance.’
– Christopher Ansell, University of California, Berkeley, US

‘This volume presents a much-wanted and comprehensive overview of the phenomenon of interactive governance between governments and citizens, which many see as a remedy for the problems of effectiveness and democratic legitimacy with which governments in our current network society wrestle. It compiles theoretical ideas, concepts and critical reflections from authoritative authors, skilfully assembled by the editors. A must-read for scholars, students and practitioners who try to make sense of this increasingly salient governance practice.’
– Joop Koppenjan, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands