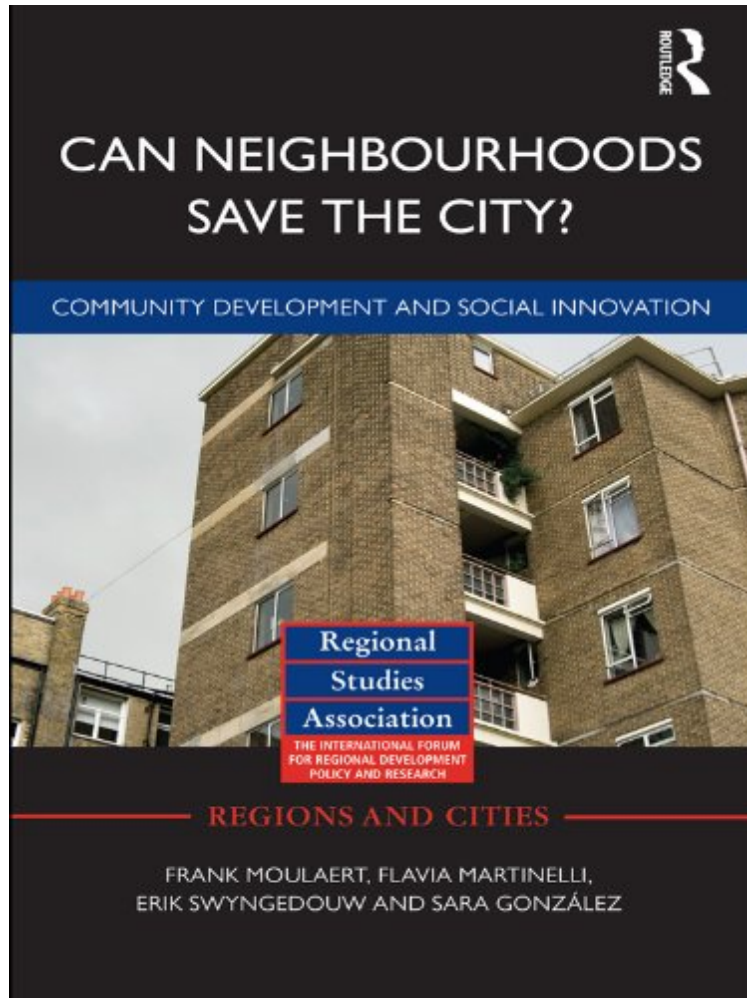


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Can Neighbourhoods Save the City?: Community Development and Social Innovation (Regions and Cities)

From Routledge

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For decades, neighbourhoods been pivotal sites of social, economic and political exclusion processes, and civil society initiatives, attempting bottom-up strategies of re-development and regeneration. In many cases these efforts resulted in the creation of socially innovative organizations, seeking to satisfy the basic human needs of deprived population

groups, to increase their political capabilities and to improve social interaction both internally and between the local communities, the wider urban society and political world. SINGOCOM - Social INnovation GOvernance and COMmunity building; is the acronym of the EU-funded project on which this book is based. Sixteen case studies of socially-innovative initiatives at the neighbourhood level were carried out in nine European cities, of which ten are analysed in depth and presented here. The book compares these efforts and their results, and shows how grass-roots initiatives, alternative local movements and self-organizing urban collectives are reshaping the urban scene in dynamic, creative, innovative and empowering ways. It argues that such grass-roots initiatives are vital for generating a socially cohesive urban condition that exists alongside the official state-organized forms of urban governance. The book is thus a major contribution to socio-political literature, as it seeks to overcome the duality between community-development studies and strategies, and the solidarity-based making of a diverse society based upon the recognising and maintaining of citizenship rights. It will be of particular interest to both students and researchers in the fields of urban studies, social geography and political science.

"A common criticism of edited volumes is that they can sometimes be little more than a loosely connected series of chapters. However, *Can Neighbourhoods Save the City* does not fall into this trap. Not only are the empirical chapters, which form the body of the book, connected through a commonly considered analytical framework, but a solid narrative draws the reader through from conception to conclusion. Ultimately, it is clear that sub-city initiatives provide hugely generative sites of social cohesion that co-exist alongside official state-driven forms of city governance. Many of these initiatives are not new, although the invocation of innovation and enterprise within their analysis may not have been so emphasised in previous eras."

—Professor Anna Davies, Trinity College Dublin

About the Author Frank Moulaert is Professor of Spatial Planning at the University of Leuven, Belgium, and Visiting Professor at Newcastle University (Planning Department) and MESHE (CNRS, Lille, France). Flavia Martinelli is professor of Analysis of territorial systems at the Mediterranean University of Reggio Calabria, Italy. She works on the dynamics of socioeconomic development and disparities; at the local, regional, international scale; and on actions to govern territorial transformations and support the development of depressed areas. Sara Gonzalez is Lecturer in Human Critical Geography at the School of Geography, University of Leeds and the Spanish editor of ACME. Her research focuses on issues around urban political economy, territorial governance and uneven development particularly in European cities. Erik Swyngedouw is Professor of Geography at Manchester University. He has published extensively on urban political economy and urban political ecology, urban governance, and socio-spatial theory.