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**THE POVERTY OF
TERRITORIALISM:**
Neo-medieval Spatial Planning

Urbanism Seminar
6 April 2016

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**THE POVERTY OF
HISTORICISM**



- Preliminaries
- Territorialism
 - Definition
 - Notions of Space
 - The Case For
 - Issues
- Territorialism in Action
- The Alternative
- Conclusions

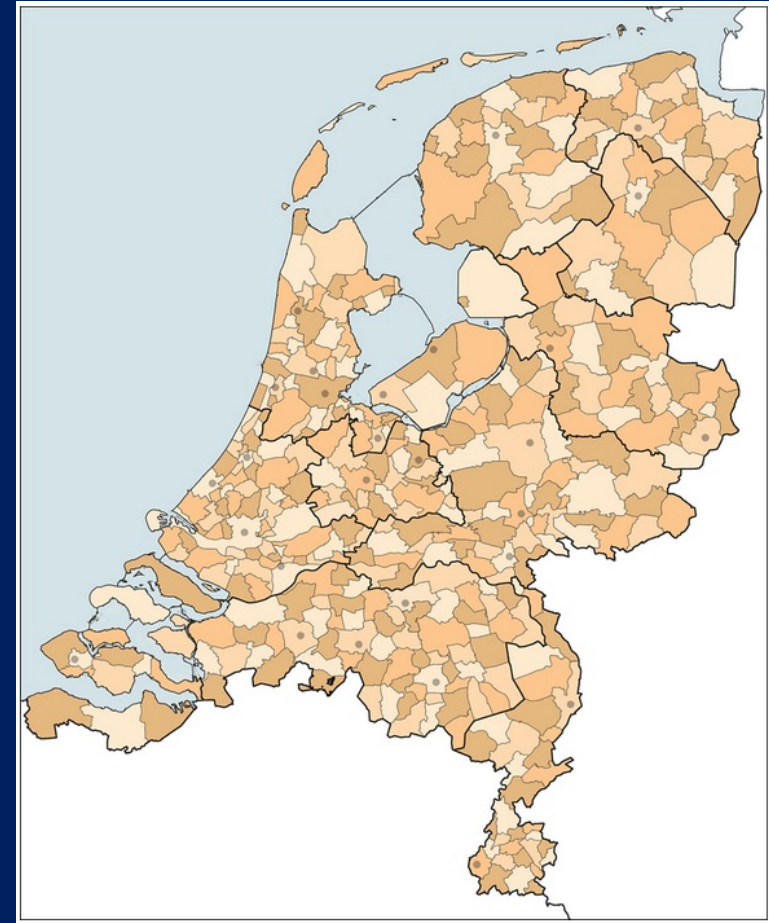
Preliminaries:

My fortunate situation

- Pursuing truth wherever it takes you
- The mad chase for European spatial planning
- Understanding the EU and its distractors
- Entry points:
 - Subsidiarity, Multilevel “Governance”
 - State territoriality
 - Representative democracy
-  Territorialism unifying concept

Territorialism: Definition

Implies macro social space being
“...wholly organized in terms of units
such as districts, towns, provinces,
countries and regions. In times of
statist territorialism more particularly,
countries have held pride of place
above the other kinds of territorial
realms.” (Scholte 2000, 47)



Territorialism: Notions of Space

Administrative space:

Land use planning, public works

Municipal, regional, national, EU territory

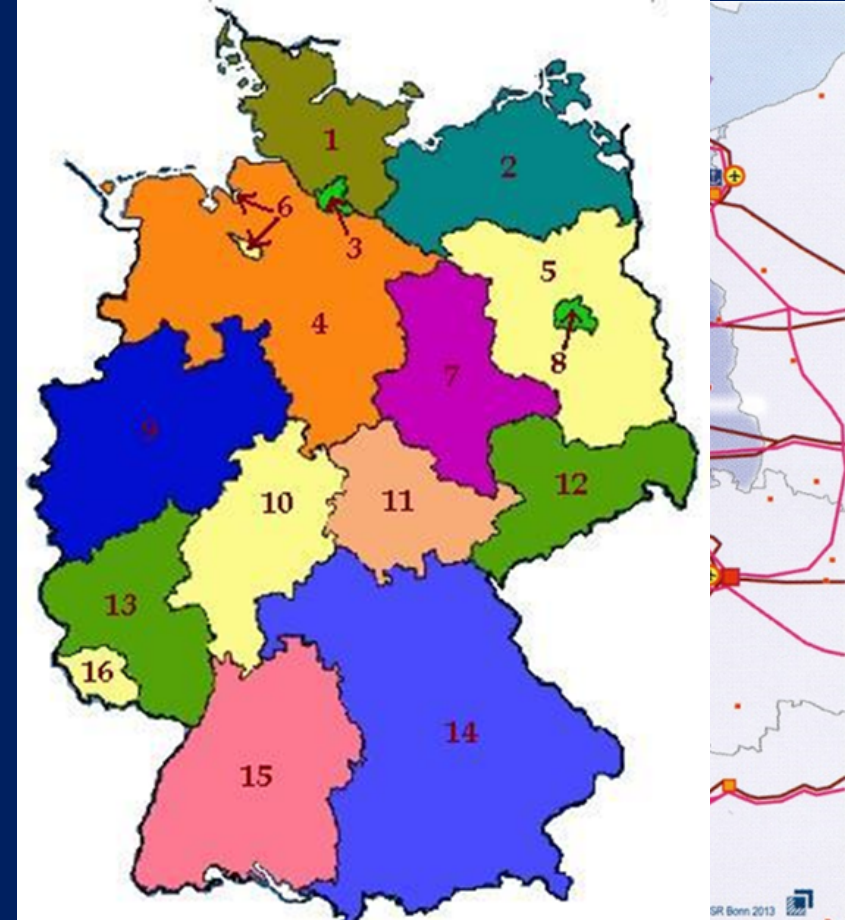
→ Pursuing policies of public
administrations

Real, lived space:

Place-location-ensemble: soft borders

Taking networks into account

Overcoming borders



Territorialism: The Case For

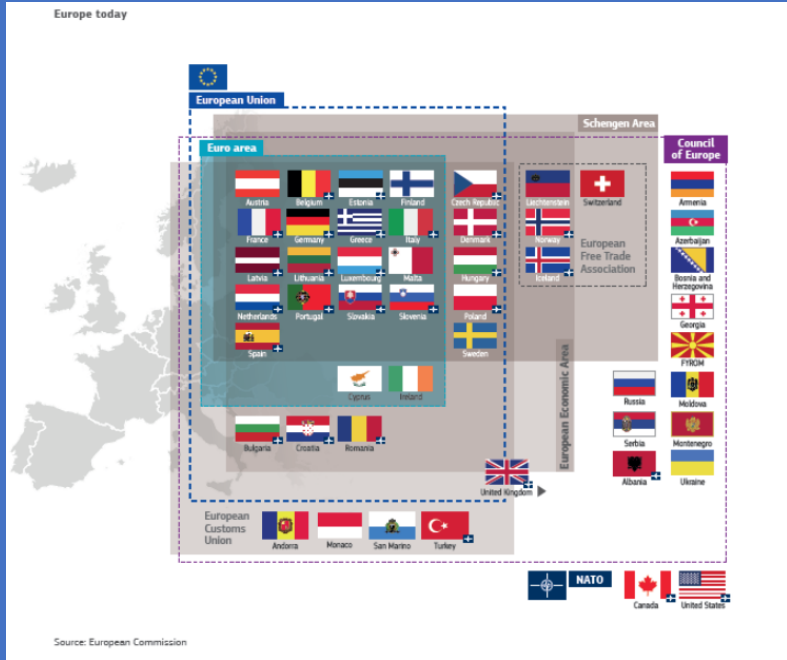
- Territorialism and territoriality in animals and humans
- “My home is my castle”
- Principle of social organisation
- Security, emotional satisfaction
- Bases for solidarity
- States epitomes of territorialism



Territorialism: Issues

- **National territories** as frames **product of modernity**
- Also true for **production of democratic legitimacy**
- **'People'** (Rosanvallon 1998) replaced princely **sovereigns**
- Needed: **homogeneity, common language and culture**
- Inventing **ancestors, histories, traditions** (Thiesse 1999)
- State system replaced by **more complex arrangements**
- **Cooperation networks** mitigating territorialism
- Many non-state actors involved





Pierre
Rosanvallon

Le peuple
introuvable

ANNE-MARIE THIESSE

La création
des identités
nationales

Europe XVIII^e-XX^e siècle



Territorialism in Action: Multi-level “Governance”

Type I

Cooperation between hierarchical levels = multi-level **government** (CoR)

Critique of **state** territorialism

Lower-level, but **also** (public and private) **service providers** etc.

Type II

Cooperation between service providers = governance, but **not multi-level**

Critique of territorialism *pers se*

Territorialism in Aciton: Subsidiarity

Type I

Assumes territorial **hierarchy**

Operates within multi-level **government**
(CoR)

Sidelines **non-state actors**

Type II

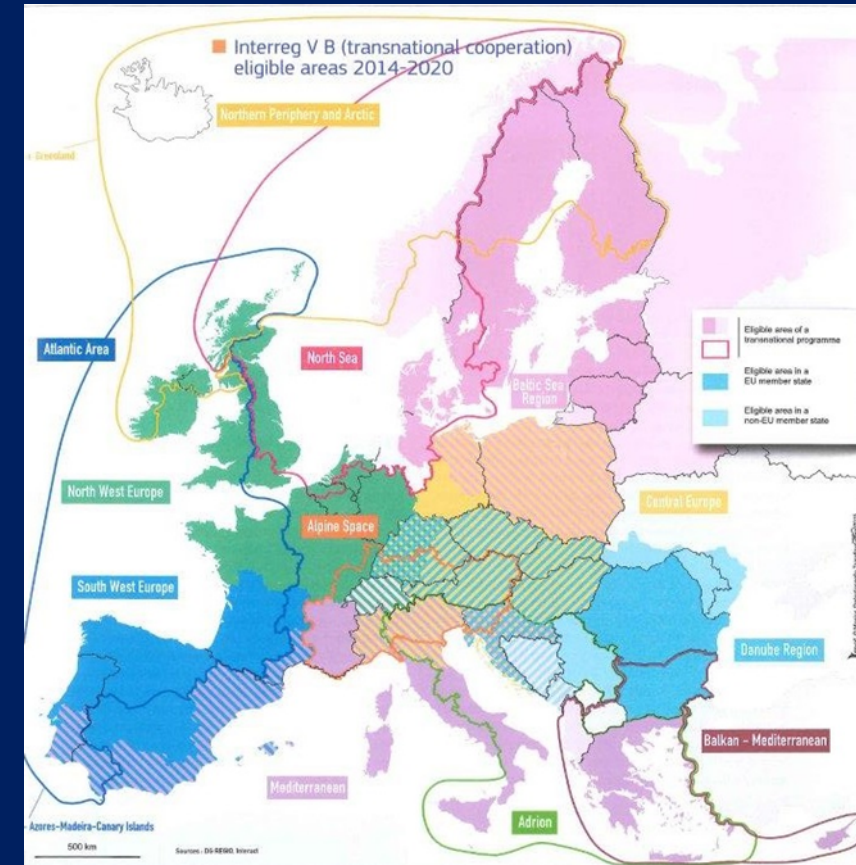
Recognises **non-state actors**

Operates within multi-level **governance**
including **non-state actors**

Questions privileging **governments**

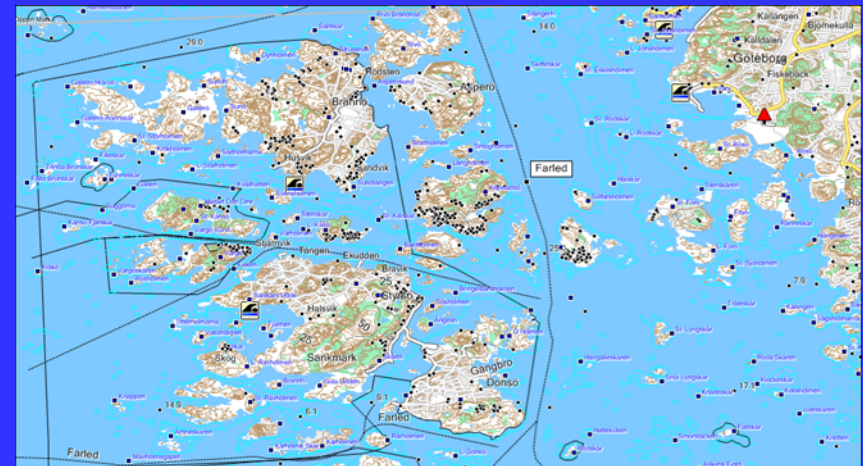
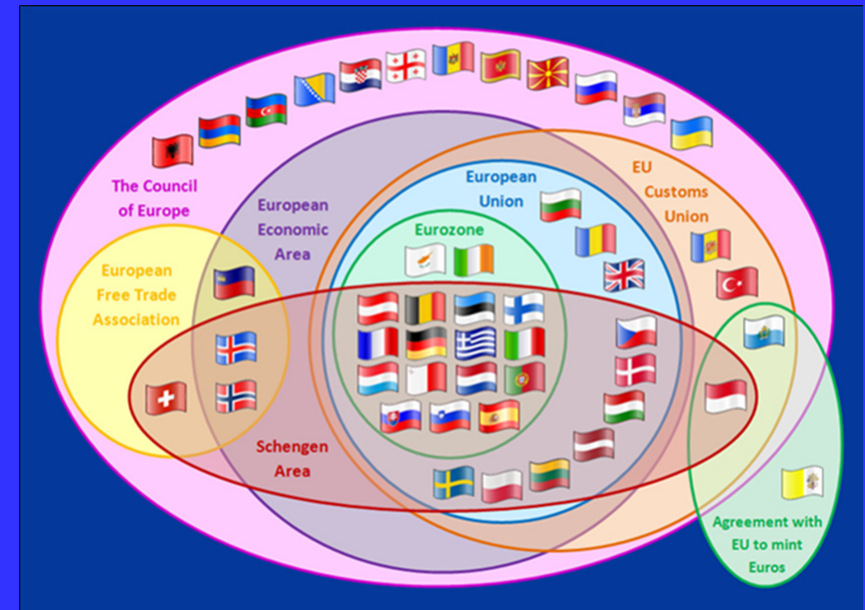
The Alternative: Neo-medieval Spatial Planning

- Abandon spatial – territorial - integration
- Parallel & overlapping plans
- Ever-more-complex configurations (Harrison 2013)
- EU policies address spaces **cross-cutting** boundaries
- **Metaphors:**
 - Europe an **archipelago**
 - Europe a **cloud**



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Conclusions

- Territories will become **less exclusive**
- Territorial actors will continue to **pursue interests of their constituencies**
- **Exclusiveness of state territories** on grounds that they harbour sovereign nations in a world of networks is a **misfit**
- How to secure **democratic legitimacy without states** as containers?

