

“endgame” strategy in tobacco legislation in order not just to control the tobacco use, but also to achieve a smoking prevalence less than 5%. Finland, along with other Western Countries, is currently at the stage of tobacco transition in which the number of smokers is decreasing in all socioeconomic groups and among both men and women. However, the book *Smoking Geographies. Space, Place and Tobacco* by Ross Barnett and his colleagues is a thorough reminder of the continuing importance of tobacco use as a major burden for public health at the global level. It also unfolds a compelling case of the current problematics of smoking by showing how it is intimately tied to experiences of deprivation and disadvantage in everyday-life contexts.

The authors are scholars of human geography, a research field that focuses on the relationship between people and the environment they live in. For a sociologist the approach is not difficult to digest. On the contrary, the book’s perspective is highly compatible with sociological approaches, especially as it draws extensively on social scientific health research. It is thus at times hard to see what is distinctive about the announced geographical approach of the book in relation to other fields of social scientific health re-

search. The book covers a wide range of factors that affect smoking behaviour, such as the macro level of global smoking trends and tobacco markets, tobacco control policies, area-effects in terms of how smoking related inequalities develop, and the role of places and social norms. The uniting concept of *geography* is used to highlight the interconnections of macro, meso, and micro level factors that constitute the local-level contexts and spatial determinants of smoking behaviour.

In the book, the examination of smoking geographies starts with a view on the structural factors affecting tobacco consumption: smoking transitions at global and national levels, but also subnational scales “to highlight the sociospatial nuances of the global tobacco epidemic” (p. 16) and the economic geography of tobacco, which includes considering the role of global tobacco industry and its actions in the face of increasing regulation and changing retail environment. These two sections lay the groundwork for explaining the localized patterns of smoking, relating to the history of tobacco products and how they were spread across countries, the global and national shifts in smoking prevalence and the socioeconomic, ethnic, and gender differences within countries.

Global and Local Contexts of Smoking

Ross Barnett, Graham Moon, Jamie Pearce, Lee Thompson & Liz Twigg: *Smoking Geographies. Space, Place and Tobacco*. West Sussex: Wiley Blackwell, 2017. 301 pp. ISBN: 978-1444361926

Finland was among the first countries to implement an

After the global and structural perspective, the book turns to the more local level perspectives. Socioeconomic stratification of smoking behaviour is used as a starting point for observing how smoking is not only a consequence of individual social status, but a product of an environment. Neighbourhoods, cities, as well as local and national political contexts all affect the ways in which smoking spreads across local populations. Most importantly, local-level factors have a major impact on the success of anti-smoking policies. The authors present a body of research on the contextual effects of neighbourhoods on smoking behaviour, going beyond the conception of an area as merely a composition of individuals with differing social characteristics. However, the authors do not conclude with any theoretical remarks of the pathways that link areas with certain behavioural patterns. The community-level influences on smoking behaviour remain to a great extent a “black box,” as the authors themselves also note.

The next section on smoking as a place-based social practise provides a more theoretically driven notion of the relationship between place and smoking. It draws from concepts such as social capital, resilience, re-

sistance, and social contagion. Other considered factors of the place effect are neighbourhood liveability and tobacco availability. The authors' study shows, broadly in accordance with other studies, that high levels of neighbourhood liveability and trust are associated with lower levels of smoking. However, the probability of smoking was higher among individuals reporting higher levels of local social capital, thus indicating that that deprived, socially bounded neighbourhoods with tightly knit communities are likely to promote smoking. However, studies of sociospatial influences are not conclusive and the authors therefore call for further replication studies especially in low-income countries.

In the next chapter, the attention shifts to the denormalization of tobacco consumption and especially to the unintended consequences of anti-smoking policies. The geographical point of view is to examine “smoking islands”, in which smoking remains normalized despite the wider processes of denormalization and even stigmatization of smoking, as well as virtual spaces in which anti-smoking attitudes are actively challenged. This kind of analysis is especially important for anti-smoking efforts to highlight that well-intended aims to

improve population health may actually worsen the situation of many smokers characterized by poverty and diminished life chances by heightening the stigma and creating a space for resistance and pro-smoking attitudes.

The next chapter makes use of the metaphor of the “gateway” to show how smoking actually leads to poor health and connects to other health-related behaviours. In a socio-spatial sense, the gateway can be seen as a pathway to other social spaces and networks relating to other behaviours. In the final chapter before conclusions, a closer look is taken at the limitations of traditional tobacco control policies especially in reducing smoking prevalence among disadvantaged smoking populations. Building on the perspectives presented in the book, the authors stress the importance of socioeconomic and cultural environments in shaping smoking behaviour and patterns.

Smoking Geographies gives an extensive overview of not just geographical, but also social scientific tobacco research. At times, the geographical terminology feels a bit forced as most of the book's themes have been extensively covered in previous social scientific literature. Nevertheless, the

central arguments are well-grounded: general patterns and trends, tobacco-related policies, as well as individuals' smoking practices are spatially mediated, and social scientific tobacco research should make a further effort to contextualize research settings and findings more thoroughly. While the book does not bring forward a comprehensive theoretical perspective of the linkages between place and smoking behaviour, it does present a variety of theoretical views to understand these linkages and suggests several streams for further empirical research.

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