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Richard D. Knowles
Céline Rozenblat *Editors*

Sir Peter Hall: Pioneer in Regional Planning, Transport and Urban Geography



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Editors

Sir Peter Hall: Pioneer in Regional Planning, Transport and Urban Geography



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This book is dedicated to the life and work of Sir Peter Hall, a true Pioneer in Science, who was an intellectual giant, city visionary and polymath of international renown with deep roots in both geography and planning.

Whilst best known by the public as a spatial planner for most of his career, he retained a deep interest in and enthusiasm for urban and transport geography.

The International Geographical Union's (IGU) Commission on Transport and Geography and the IGU Urban Commission (Urban Challenges in a complex world) decided to jointly recognise Peter Hall's immense contribution to the understanding of city functions, planning, structures, regeneration and futures by inviting a series of expert researchers, including several of his co-researchers, to write and reflect on Peter's key research themes.

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Chapter 1

Introduction: Professor Sir Peter Hall, Pioneer in Regional Planning, Transport and Urban Geography

Richard D. Knowles and Céline Rozenblat

1.1 Life and Academic Career of Peter Hall

Appointed as Professor of Geography at the University of Reading in 1968 at the early age of 36, Peter developed a unique international dimension to his understanding of cities (Box 1.1). He soon recognised the dynamism of Asian cities through association with the University of Hong Kong in the mid 1970s and of American cities as Visiting Professor in Planning at University of California, Berkeley in 1974. For nine years from 1980 he became a transatlantic commuter simultaneously holding professorships in the UK in Geography at Reading University, and in the USA in Urban Planning and Regional Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, continuing the latter role until 1992, before becoming Professor of Planning at University College London in 1992.

Box 1.1: Sir Peter Geoffrey Hall: Personal Data, Education and Professional Positions

Personal Data

Born March 19, 1932; London, England.

Died July 30, 2014

Married, no children.

Nationality: British

Richard D. Knowles, Professor, University of Salford, UK, Emeritus Professor of Transport Geography; r.d.knowles@salford.ac.uk.

Celine Rozenblat, Professor, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, Associate Professor of Geography; Celine.rozenblat@unil.ch.

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Education

- 1943–50 Blackpool Grammar School
 1950–56 University of Cambridge (St. Catharine's College)
 1952 Geographical Tripos, Part 1: Class 1 and Philip Lake Prize
 1953 B.A., Geographical Tripos, Part 2: Class 1
 1957 M.A., University of Cambridge (St. Catharine's College)
 1959 Ph.D., University of Cambridge (St. Catharine's College).
 Thesis entitled:
 The Location of Industry in London: 1851–1939

Professional Positions

- 1957–60 Assistant Lecturer, Birkbeck College, University of London
 1960–65 Lecturer, Birkbeck College, University of London
Main teaching responsibilities: Regional Geography of Germany; Historical Geography of the British Isles; Applied Geography
 1966–67 Reader in Geography with special reference to Regional Planning, London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London
Main teaching responsibilities: Applied Geography; M.Sc. Regional and Urban Planning Studies
 1968–89 Professor of Geography (Head of Department, 1968–80), University of Reading (Emeritus, 1989)
Main teaching responsibilities: Postgraduate: M.Phil. Environmental Planning; Supervision of Ph.D. students. Undergraduate; Basic Historical Geography; Basic Population and Urban Geography; Basic Contemporary Problems; Cities; Development
 1971–77 and 1983–6 Chairman, School of Planning Studies, University of Reading
Main administrative responsibilities: Course Coordination; Academic Development; Faculty Liaison; Publicity
 1974 Visiting Professor, Department of City and Regional Planning, College of Environmental Design, University of California, Berkeley
 1975–78 Dean, Faculty of Urban and Regional Studies, University of Reading

1980–92	Professor, Department of City and Regional Planning, University of California at Berkeley (Emeritus, 1993) <i>Main teaching responsibilities: Graduate Courses: The Planning Process; Metropolitan Planning in the Developing World; Research Seminar</i>
1980–8	Associate Director, Institute of Urban and Regional Development, University of California at Berkeley <i>Main administrative responsibilities: Faculty Liaison; Grants and Contracts Development</i>
1983–6	Member of Board and of Management Committee, Joint Centre for Land Development Studies, University of Reading/College of Estate Management <i>Main administrative responsibilities: oversight of research programme; research development; financial management</i>
1989–92	Director, Institute of Urban and Regional Development, University of California at Berkeley <i>Main administrative responsibilities: Overall control of budget and research program; overall management of the day-to-day work of the Institute; coordination of the Institute's seminar and publications programs</i>
1992–2005	Bartlett Professor of Planning, University College London <i>Main administrative responsibilities: Direction of research</i>
2005–14	Bartlett Professor of Planning and Regeneration, University College London <i>Main teaching responsibility: M.Sc. course in Urban Regeneration</i>

Peter Hall's academic prowess first came to public notice with publication in 1962 of his Cambridge University Doctoral Thesis in Geography on *The Industries of London since 1861* (Hall 1962), an incisive analysis in urban economic and historical geography. Peter's sought to understand how cities function and his enthusiasm for urban planning, interests in transport and new technologies, his global perspective, and a willingness to embrace the future shone through, starting with his books on *London 2000* (Hall 1963) and his far-seeing *The World Cities* (Hall 1966), which established the concept of world city regions 30 years before it became mainstream. Whilst advocating urban regeneration and post-industrial urban renaissance, Peter was never hesitant about highlighting planning failures and

his book *Great Planning Disasters* (Hall 1980) predated more recent critiques by Flyvbjerg, Priemus and others by more than 20 years (Flyvbjerg et al. 2004; Flyvbjerg 2014; Priemus et al. 2008; Priemus/van Wee 2013).

Peter single authored 13 books, many best sellers with second or more editions and some also translated into other languages (Hall 1962, 1963, 1966, 1970, 1974, 1977, 1980, 1988, 1989, 1998, 1999, 2007, 2014), and co-authored or edited 38 books, contributed to more than 160 books, published about 200 articles and research journal papers (see Chap. 8 for details) and also produced hundreds of other papers and conference presentations and numerous short contributions to the journals *New Society*, *The Planner* and *Town and Country Planning*. He was also closely involved with the editing of seven journals: *Built Environment and Regional Studies* as Editor, and *Environment & Planning C*, *Futures*, *New Society*, *Planning Perspectives* and *Journal of Transport Geography* as Editorial Board member.

Peter Hall's breadth of intellectual curiosity and endeavour was enormous, reflecting his roots in urban, economic, transport and historical geography, deep interest in urban and regional planning, and continuing fascination with London. Tewdwr-Jones et al. (2014) classified Peter's prodigious research output into five distinct categories and nineteen themes:

1. History of Cities and Planning. This encompassed *Urban and Regional Planning*, *Great Planning Disasters*, *Cities of Tomorrow*, and *Cities in Civilization*;
2. London's Growth and Development. This comprised *London's Economy*, *London's future in 2000 and 2001 from a 1960s and 1980s perspective*, and *London as a Working Capital*;
3. Spatial Planning. This included *Regional Planning*, *the Containment of Urban England*, *Sociable Cities*, *Regeneration—the Inner City in Context*, and 'Non-Plan' Enterprise Zones;
4. Connectivity and Mobility. This encompassed *the Information Age and Technological change*, *Technopoles of the World*, and *Transport and Planning*;
5. Globalized Urbanization. This comprised *The World Cities*, *The Polycentric Vision*, *Europe 2000* and *Urban Futures*.

Peter Hall's hallmark as a polymath and intellectual giant is that he was able to research and publish in such a diverse range of thematic areas for over 50 years. But his great genius was his ability to link all these five aspects in a complementary way to build a holistic comprehension of the dynamic of cities (and mobility as a part of this dynamic) in the late 20th century and the beginning of the new millennium. He was able to create original visions of urban society development with precocity and clear-sightedness, helping planners and decision makers to identify the crucial tendencies and to evaluate the limits of possible actions.

Through his numerous publications, Peter sought to engage with planners, politicians and the wider public beyond the narrow confines of the academic world. This was recognised and rewarded by both Conservative and Labour UK government appointments including as a member of the South East Regional Economic Planning Council 1966–1979, Special Adviser on Strategic Planning 1991–1994,

member of London Development Agency's Thames Gateway International Design Committee, Lord Rogers' Urban Task Force from 1998–1999, the Planning Research Network from 2003, the 2006 Barker Review of the planning system and the Eco-Towns Challenge Panel 2008, and Chair of Blackpool Urban Regeneration Company 2005–2008 and appointed to undertake an *Independent Review on Better Rail Stations* (Green/Hall 2009). He was also appointed to many official committees in the UK, and in Europe, Germany, Singapore, South Australia and Stockholm (Box 1.2). Peter also published 30 planning consultancy reports for organisations in the UK, Spain, Malta, Mexico, South Australia and Stockholm.

Box 1.2: Peter Hall: Other Professional Responsibilities

Membership of Government, Official, and International Committees:

American Academy of Arts and Sciences and Aspen Institute: Committee on Future of the Automobile (1990–92)

Built Environment journal—Joint Editor (1980–)

Centre for Environmental Studies Governor (1975–80)

Member, Research Committee (1975–80)

City of Stockholm

Adviser, Economic Aspects of the “Dennis Package”, 1994

Commission of the European Communities

Chairman, Information Committee (1977–80);

Member, Study Group on New Tendencies of Socioeconomic Development (1975–77)

Member, President Delors' Carrefour on Urban Development (1993–5)

Communities and Local Government

Member, Eco-Towns Challenge Group (2008)

Department of the Environment

Member, Planning and Transport Advisory Council (1971–73)

Member, Environmental Board (1975–79)

Chairman, Subcommittee on Environmental Education (1976–78)

Special Adviser to Secretary of State on Strategic Land Use Planning (1991–4)

Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions

Member, Urban Task Force (1998–)

Department of Transport

Member, Advisory Committee on Trunk Road Assessment (1977–79)

Member, Standing Advisory Committee on Trunk Road Assessment (1979–80)

Federal Republic of Germany

Moderator, *Weltkommission* on The City in the 21st Century (1998–2000)

Government of South Australia

Adviser on Strategic Review for Metropolitan Adelaide, 1990–2

H.M. Treasury, Barker Review of Land Use Planning
 Member, Expert Advisory Committee, 2006

House of Commons
 Organized Special Symposium for Select Committee on Transport, Berkeley (1988)

European Commission, Interreg IIIB Programme
 Director, *POLYNET: Sustainable Management of European Polycentric Mega-City Regions*

London Development Agency
 Member, Thames Gateway International Design Committee

Ministry of Housing and Local Government
 Member, Research Advisory Group (1965–66)

Ministry of Transport (Department of the Environment)
 Member, Urban Motorways Committee (1969–72)
 Member, Bus Demonstration Projects Committee (1969–73)

Nature Conservancy Council
 Member (1966–72)

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
 Member Planning Research Network, 2003–

ReBlackpool (Blackpool Urban Regeneration Company)
 Chair, 2005–8

Social Science Research Council
 Member (1975–80)
 Chairman, Planning Committee (1975–80)
 Joint Chairman, Planning and Human Geography Committee (1975–80)
 Member, Research Initiatives Board (1975–80)
 Chairman, Inner Cities Working Party (1978–80)

South East Regional Economic Planning Council
 Member, Council (1966–79)
 Chairman, Research Group (1969–79)
 Member, Planning and Environment Committee (1972–79)
 Chairman, Structure Plans Monitoring Group (1975–79)

South East Region Passenger Transport Coordinating Committee
 Chairman (1967–69)

Transport and Road Research Laboratory
 Member, Research Committee on Road Traffic (1966–72)
 Member, Advisory Committee on Transport (1973–)

Peter Hall was awarded numerous national and international honours and prizes including the Royal Geographical Society's Founder's Medal, George Stephenson Medal by the Institution of Civil Engineers, London, the Ebenezer Howard Memorial Medal by the Town and Country Planning Association, Prix Vautrin Lud ("Nobel de Geographie"), Royal Town Planning Institute's Gold Medal, the Balzan International