



Expert Advice? Assessing the Role of the State in Promoting Privatized Planning

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INTRODUCTION

Over the last two decades, non-state actors, especially corporate players like consultants, have emerged as much more central to and visible in contemporary urban and regional planning processes. Often, as Weinstein (2010) notes, they help to legitimize developmental agendas and policies that the state feels both obliged and constrained to pursue. The failure of the state to “control the city” has led to demands for increased private involvement and control of city building and infrastructure from middle and upper-middle-class urban residents (Shatkin, 2011).

There has also been a shift globally toward an increasing and active presence of hybrid actors, and private or quasi-private authorities that are often enabled by, but are also increasingly taking the place of, local and regional state agencies in erstwhile state-managed planning and governing processes (Balakrishnan, 2019; Anand and Sami, 2016; Sami, 2013, 2017; Shatkin, 2017; Kundu, 2011; Vogelpohl and Klemp, 2018). There is a

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