Acknowledgements

Once the idea had occurred to me to turn a paper that seemed to crystallise thoughts formed over the best part of ten years – in fact since before my last one had appeared – into yet another book, I decided to postpone even thinking about publishers. That would come after its outlines had taken shape.

The point of no return came rather sooner than later. Which publisher to ask? On the spur of the moment I decided to try Edward Elgar. I had, albeit indirect, experience of this publisher from a chapter in the *Handbook on Cohesion Policy in the EU*, edited by Simona Piattoni and Laura Polverari and published not too long after submitting the manuscript in 2016. Waiting for your work to appear in print is one of the less pleasant parts of the life of an author. So, on the assumption that the positive experience with that chapter would be repeated, I tried my luck sending an email to Edward Elgar Publishing. On the second try (emails get diverted) I hit the jackpot, hearing that commissioning editor Katy Crossan would come to the Netherlands, including Delft University of Technology where I am a Professor Emeritus of Spatial Policy Systems in Europe and now a guest researcher – which gives me the opportunity to acknowledge the role Delft University of Technology has played in my life ever since my previous university retired me.

Retirement was not my plan, but I gladly acknowledge that Radboud University Nijmegen has been good to me and my research. Only, as far as compulsory retirement is concerned, Dutch universities are still locked in the twentieth century. ‘Science professor refuses to retire from unpaid university post aged 102’, wrote Gabriel Samuels in *The Independent* on 30 August 2016.\(^1\)

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I have seen Dr David W. Goodall, honorary research associate at the Centre for Ecosystem Management at Edith Cowan University, on BBC World News saying: ‘This is my natural habitat.’ Had he been retired at the age I was at Nijmegen, presumably his academic achievements – for which he got a medal later on – would have been fewer.

My own retirement, however, turned into a blessing in disguise. I could continue where I had left my research on European spatial planning as part-time research professor at Delft University of Technology, which appointed me to that post on the day Radboud University had retired me. Presently, I continue as a guest researcher, benefiting from the support offered, including access to the library (which means an almost unlimited supply of journal articles delivered electronically).

I have reservations about universities being over-concerned with publishing records and citation indices, about which I have already complained in the Preface, but in those terms I have paid my dues. I also hope to have been able to engage in the kind of reflection which should be the main concern of academics. Last but not least, I have also enjoyed the continuing conviviality of fellow-researchers.

Which takes me back to Katy Crossan. At our, albeit short, meeting at Delft University of Technology, we hit it off immediately. She was supportive, trusted my instincts, allowed me to proceed with the minimum of hassle, went along with my requests for feedback as and when needed, commenting on my penultimate draft and tactful also in making linguistic suggestions which were very much to the point: My English will never get past that of a certified ‘near-native speaker’. And, now that I am reviewing the edited manuscript, I must say that I experienced the same spirit from all other contacts at the publisher.

My thanks are also due to three reviewers of a preliminary draft. I am grateful for the credit they have given me. If I single out one of them, Jean Peyrony – a polytechnicien and now the directeur-général of the Mission Opérationelle Transfrontalière (MOT) whom I got to know at the French agency Interministerial Delegation of Land Planning and Regional Attractiveness (DATAR) and subsequently at the European Commission – it is because I am particularly grateful to him. This is also, and in particular so, for his friendship and consistent encouragement in my explorations, as a latecomer, of French literature on planning and governance. Our
contact made me appreciate that those of his breed are articulate polyglots, well versed not only in their immediate fields of expertise, but also in philosophy and literature. France can count itself lucky to have its Grandes Écoles!

Jean not only gave his reaction to the publisher, but also directly. The one other person with whom I had intensive face-to-face discussions at one point was a Dutch colleague, Ton Kreukels, a distinguished Emeritus Professor of Planning. One of the most widely read persons I know, I fear I could not follow up on all his leads, which included Carl Schmitt and his concept of the strong state supporting, if I may say so without all the qualifications that would be due in discussing a life’s work, National Socialism. Even without being able to benefit from all of his suggestions, the contact with Ton was stimulating, as always on the rare occasions we meet, for which I owe him my thanks.

In one phone conversation with Katy Crossan, cautious person that I am, I inquired as to what would happen if I were to submit late. ‘You would be one of the 99 percent of authors who do,’ was her answer. Katy could not know that this was all I needed to get me to submit on time.

This, of course, I could not have done without the unfailing support, as always, of Raya, my partner. You cleared the decks and gave me – not for the first time – the room for manoeuvre I needed. I can only hope that I can make up for your support in tackling the projects which you have identified for us for after this one is finished. On past performance – we have been together for more than 50 years – we will succeed. Thank you for everything!

Andreas Faludi
Delft, April 2018