

**Geraint Ellis, *Discourses of Objection: Towards an Understanding of Third-party Rights in Planning* (W kierunku zrozumienia uprawnień podmiotów trzecich w planowaniu przestrzennym), „Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space” 2004, vol. 36, DOI:10.1068/a36176, p. 1549–1570**

The author analyses third party rights in planning and their consequences. Firstly, he points out that jurisdictions around the world are moving towards an increasing role of public participation in spatial planning. The scale and scope of research on public participation also covers the issue of balance between law and democracy, as well as between individual and collective interests. There are voices that the increased share of social factors in spatial planning does not serve the benefit of the general public, but the pursuit of particular interests, which in turn leads to chaos.

The objective of public participation in planning is commonly understood as acting in belief that everyone should be aware that they can influence the shape of their community. Most jurisdictions seek to strengthen the significance and position of the social factor in spatial planning, but their number and scope are still unsatisfactory.

The author indicates that there is a focus on enabling citizens to participate in the spatial planning procedure, through specific tools, such as public consultations at various stages of planning, without taking into account the purpose for which such participation was enabled. The goal of social participation, which was balancing the interests of all participants in shaping space, has disappeared from the horizon.

The article presents a case study of third party claims in the Republic of Ireland and identifies five distinct social discourses. The said discourses highlight the complex factors that stimulate third party rights/claims and illustrate how they can be related to values such as citizenship, public interest and property rights. The main difficulty is that such discourses tend to emphasise rights as vehicles for expressing interests, rather than to emphasise the values that they seek to protect.

Finally, the author concludes that even if citizens exercise their claims aiming to secure the right to protect their particular interests, it is not their lack of collective thinking that should be blamed, as they simply enjoy the rights granted to them

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as such. It is necessary to study the factors which provide for such outcomes and indicate which of them shape such an individualistic attitude in the field of spatial management.

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