

Propositions

1. For regional governments, the keys to success in governance processes are historical awareness, social embeddedness, and creativity (this thesis).
2. Institutional capacity building is typically understood as a cumulative process in which actors accumulate and mobilize social and intellectual capital, while it is actually better understood as a creative process in which existing constellations of actors and ideas are assembled to form new wholes (this thesis).
3. One of the main challenges for public organizations in governance processes is not to kill the momentum that is created in private initiatives, but to harness it for the creation of public value (this thesis).
4. Visions are not only important in orienting future action, but also in consolidating common ground (this thesis).
5. There is a serious lack of scientific methods capable of capturing how stability emerges amidst change (this thesis).
6. To truly recognize the value of regional governmental organizations, we need to judge them by their actions as network brokers, rather than judging them by the effects of their policies.
7. For governmental organizations, the shift from government to governance entails a shift from standing above others to standing between others.
8. Scientists spend a lot of time dissecting objects while they should be spending their time dissecting events.
9. One of the most remarkable insights of Alfred North Whitehead is that you can never step in the same river twice, but still recognize it as the same river.
10. There is a gap between science and practice because scientists tend to mistake the abstract for the concrete (based on Alfred North Whitehead).
11. Some of the most innovative ideas are perfumed with the smell of old books.