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Kristof Van Assche · Raoul Beunen  
Martijn Duineveld

# Evolutionary Governance Theory

An Introduction

 Springer

Kristof Van Assche  
Strategic Communication  
Wageningen University  
Wageningen  
The Netherlands

Martijn Duineveld  
Cultural Geography  
Wageningen University  
Wageningen  
The Netherlands

Raoul Beunen  
Strategic Communication  
Wageningen University  
Wageningen  
The Netherlands

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*Investigations that are inspired theoretically can always be accused of a lack of 'practical reference'. They do not provide prescriptions for others to use. They observe practice and occasionally ask what is to be gained by making such a hasty use of incomplete ideas. This does not exclude the possibility that serviceable results can be attained in this way. But then the significance of the theory will always remain that a more controlled method of creating ideas can increase the probability of more serviceable results - above all, that it can reduce the probability of creating useless excitement.*

*Luhmann 1989*

*We must walk on the razor's edge, eschewing the extremes of representationalism (objectivism) and solipsism (idealism).*

*Maturana and Varela 1987*

*Ch-ch-ch-ch-changes. Turn and face the strange.*

*David Bowie 1971*

# Preface

*Evolutionary Governance Theory: An Introduction*, offers the reader a remarkable new perspective on the way markets, institutions and societies evolve together. It can be of use to anyone interested in market and public sector reform, development, public administration, politics and law. Based on a wide variety of case studies on three continents and a variety of conceptual sources, the authors develop a theory that clarifies the nature and functioning of dependencies that mark governance evolutions. This in turn delineates in an entirely new manner the spaces open for policy experiment. As such, it offers a new mapping of the middle ground between libertarianism and social engineering. Theoretically, the approach draws on a wide array of sources: institutional and development economics, systems theories, post-structuralism, actor-network theories, discourse theory, planning theory and legal studies.

Wageningen

Kristof Van Assche  
Raoul Beunen  
Martijn Duineveld

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