



## *The Evolution of Planning Thought*

### **Barrie Needham, CV**

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Barrie Needham (1942) studied economics at the University of Cambridge and his first work was with a planning consultancy in London. This was followed by university appointments in London and in Birmingham, and in 1978 a position as lecturer at the University of Nijmegen (now the Radboud University) in the Netherlands, with the Department of Spatial Planning. There he got his PhD in 1982, and there he was appointed Professor of Spatial Planning in 1994. In 2007, he took retirement as emeritus professor. He is still active academically, writing and tutoring PhD researchers. His research and teaching interests arise out of the wish to understand better the activity of spatial planning (land-use planning, physical planning, town and country planning) by using ideas and theories from economics. So, much of this work has been on land policy and on the connections between real estate (landed property) and spatial planning. This work led to an interest in instruments for achieving the goals of spatial planning, in instrumentation theory, and in law in its instrumental function. This way of understanding spatial planning can be applied to any country. His position in the Netherlands coupled with his knowledge of the British planning system enable Needham to describe the Dutch planning system and planning policies for English readers, and many of his publications have been on that topic. This approach has been extended to much cross-national research.