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Book review

Sustainable Logistics, Cathy Macharis, Sandra Melo, Johan Woxenius, Tom van Lier, Emerald Group Publishing Limited, £91.99 hardback, ISBN: 978-1784410629

This book is Volume 6 in the Transport and Sustainability series from Emerald. I shall review it with an eye on it's utility for teaching and research, and the likely longevity of the work presented. The book is structured around editor Macharis' suggested four A's of sustainable logistics: Awareness, Avoidance, Acting and shifting, and Anticipation. This structure is then used to form the four sections of the book, providing thematic harmony to the book. This is primarily a European book, the authors are *almost* all from Europe and are respected contributors to the body of research partly funded by the EU in pursuit of greenhouse gas emission reduction and cleaner air quality in cities both through a move to more sustainable logistics. This is a book of an "almanac" style, with multiple authors in multiple chapters addressing issues or case studies separately. As overviews of the state of the art, longer reads of case studiesthat may not suit the austerity of journal papers, or guidance on methodology and practice, such composite volumes can be very useful for the researcher. The degree to which they fade in utility over time is, to my mind, a balance between the maturity of the research domain, and the focus of the chapters.

The first section, "Awareness", begins well with Smokers, etal. exploring evaluation options, followed by Cullinane deploying her known expertise in the mitigation of negative impacts and complementing the opening chapter. Wygonik and Goodchild, as North Americans, deliver a quantitative analysis of freight in the US using GIS modelling and this is followed by a qualitative case study from Sweden by Björklund and Forslund. Well structured, this would work well for students offering examples of the two main methodological routes into research.

The second section, "Avoidance", works less well. It lacks an overiew and explanation of the multiple avoidance approaches that have, can or could be deployed to reduce freight transport. The first chapter, an interesting piece on group decision making from Gonzalez-Feliu and Morana, may have been better placed in the follow chapter on "Acting".The final case study by Molina-Besch and Pålsson is on packaging, and quite appropriate, but on its own it cannot carry this sparse section. If one were to structure teaching around the 4 A's, one would have to supplement this section with broader material at the start.

"Acting and shifting" has always appeared to me to have a redundant word: shifting. This seems an explicit nod to policy objectives from a EU sponsor keen to see modal shift mentioned. In doing so it biases the approach towards modal shift rather than the many other options for sustainability. Putting that on one side this chapter is the logical place for case studies and this section has four: revealed preference surveys in New Zealand; an application of the Osterwalder Canvas framework for own account transport businesses; a price based analysis on the 300 km break-even point for intermodality in Europe; and a literature review of cargo trams combined with a case study of a potential cargo tram in Brussels. These quite specific enquiries in these chapters reward reading by an informed researcher and a student looking for extended essay topics.

I have always been fond of "Anticipation" and slightly in awe of those futorologists who break free of the consensus whilst maintaining a grip on probability. Both of these chapters, one by Quak and Nesterova, one by Melo etal., focus on the challenges, costs and effectiveness of electric freight vehices in cities. Both pieces are sound, with the first providing the overview and broader view that counterpoints the latter case study in Oporto, Portugal. It is probable that the exclusive focus on electric vehicles (EVs) is a reflection of where research funding and policy flows in the EU. There is no outlier forecasting here, however this is sound material that would provide a core introduction to the nascent analysis of freight EVs.

In summary this is a volume that adopts a coherent structure, the 4 A's, and in three of these parts delivers a good mix of overview, case studies, examples of different methodologies, and authors. It is weak on "Avoidance" but one need not overly critique a book for section headings. I enjoyed reading it, I could see utility for adding research to teaching, to guide students to for their own work, and I feel that the book will continue to have utility into the 2020s.

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