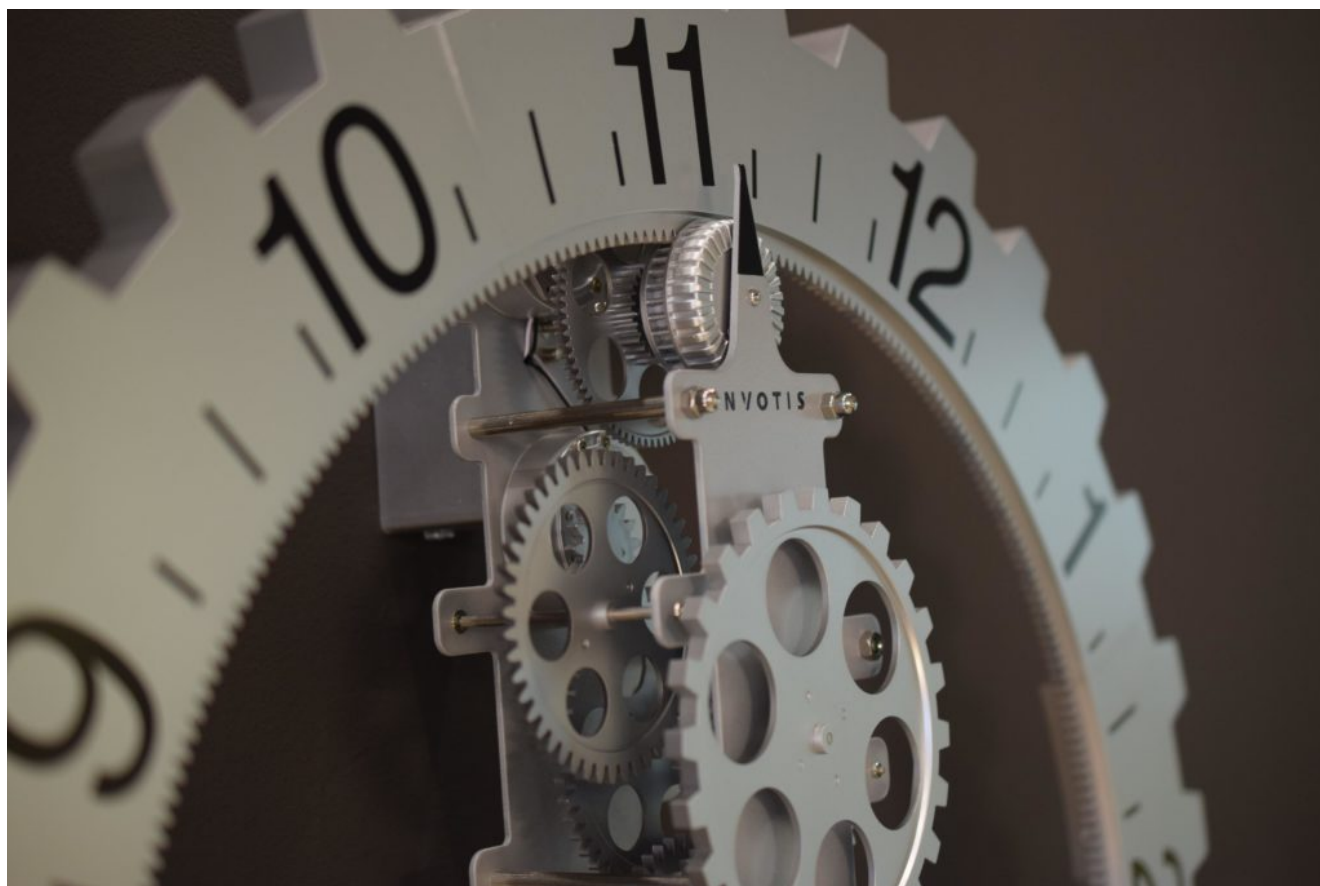


Book review: Levelling Up Left Behind Places



This is a summary prepared by Regions ezine Editorial Team based on the Foreword of Regional Studies Policy Impact Books by Diane Coyle - Volume 3, 2021 - Issue 2: Levelling Up Left Behind Places: The Scale and Nature of the Economic and Policy Challenge

Addressing the gap in employment and incomes, in opportunities, between and within different places, has become the defining challenge in UK politics and policy, as in some other Western countries. As this important contribution demonstrates, the policies implemented during the past four decades have—at best—failed to limit or reduce spatial inequalities, while some (such as infrastructure investments and privatizations) have helped increase them. Yet policy, active intervention by the state, is the only way to level up, given the spillovers and market failures inherent in the process of economic growth.

The UK faced these significant challenges before March 2020, having experienced stagnant productivity and growth since the 2008 global financial crisis. The

Covid-19 pandemic has made them more acute, having exacerbated all the spatial inequalities scarring our society. It has also made us more aware of the likelihood of further crises, whether future pandemics, climate-related extreme weather, technological disruptions, or other shocks unimagined. The questions addressed in this book, therefore, could not be more important or urgent, and both the analysis and policy issues discussed herein make a key contribution to the “levelling up” debate.

About the author

Diane Coyle, is Bennett Professor of Public Policy, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

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