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# Operationalising holism in social exclusion and innovation analysis.

With examples from URSPIC and  
SINGOCOM

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# Outline

- The links between collective action and analysis
- Comparative case-study analysis
- The role of theory
- The preference for holistic theory
- From holistic theory to empirical analysis
- The role of qualitative and quantitative data
- Example: URSPIC (SINGOCOM)
- ALMOLIN as a holistic pattern model
- References

# The links between collective action and analysis

- Collective action: rational, leadership, programmes, agencies, social dynamics, movements, policy, ...
- Analysis: as design of collective action, as problem solving, as method to reveal needs and preferences, as norm setting process, ...
- No collective action without analysis?
- Research as problem solving (research as design)
- The role of experience, contextualization and comparison, part-whole relationships (echoing holism)
- The role of feedback relationships with experience, policy and planning (echoing pragmatism)

# Comparative case-study analysis in planning

- Why comparing cases? Commonalities and diversities, context matters, similarities among diversity
- Guaranteeing comparability:
  - Planning and policy oriented research questions
  - Selection of research themes
  - Mobilizing concepts
- General explanations, specific features

# The role of theory

- Which theory?
- Positivism and theory
- Structuralism and theory
- Structural agency and theory
- Holistic theory: between theory, empirical analysis and action research

# The preference for holistic theory - The production of holistic knowledge

- Systems, subsystems (parts)
- Analytical theme (generalization)
- Theme 1 in part A; theme 1 in other parts...
- Theme 2, connected to 1,...
- Linkages, interconnectedness: theme-wise, part-wise,... (figures 1 and 2)
- Validated themes and linkages: a 'pattern', pattern model (holistic theory)
- Improve the pattern model
- Identify universals ... General theory
- Role of pragmatism: planning and policy actions as 'themes'

# Holism and pragmatism

- Ethics of pragmatism
- Pragmatism and collective action
- Social holism
- Collective action and public policy making in holistic analysis
- Feedback links from praxis to theory-making

# The role of qualitative and quantitative data

## Qualitative

- Themes
- Attributes
- Theory-instructed: role of culture, place, institutions, ...
- Ethics and action
- History and place dependent
- Type of planning, action, ...

## Quantitative

- Measurements of quantities
- Ranking of qualities
- Quantifying nominal scores
- Role of multi-variariate analysis
- Time-space analysis



# An example: URSPIC

## URSPIC

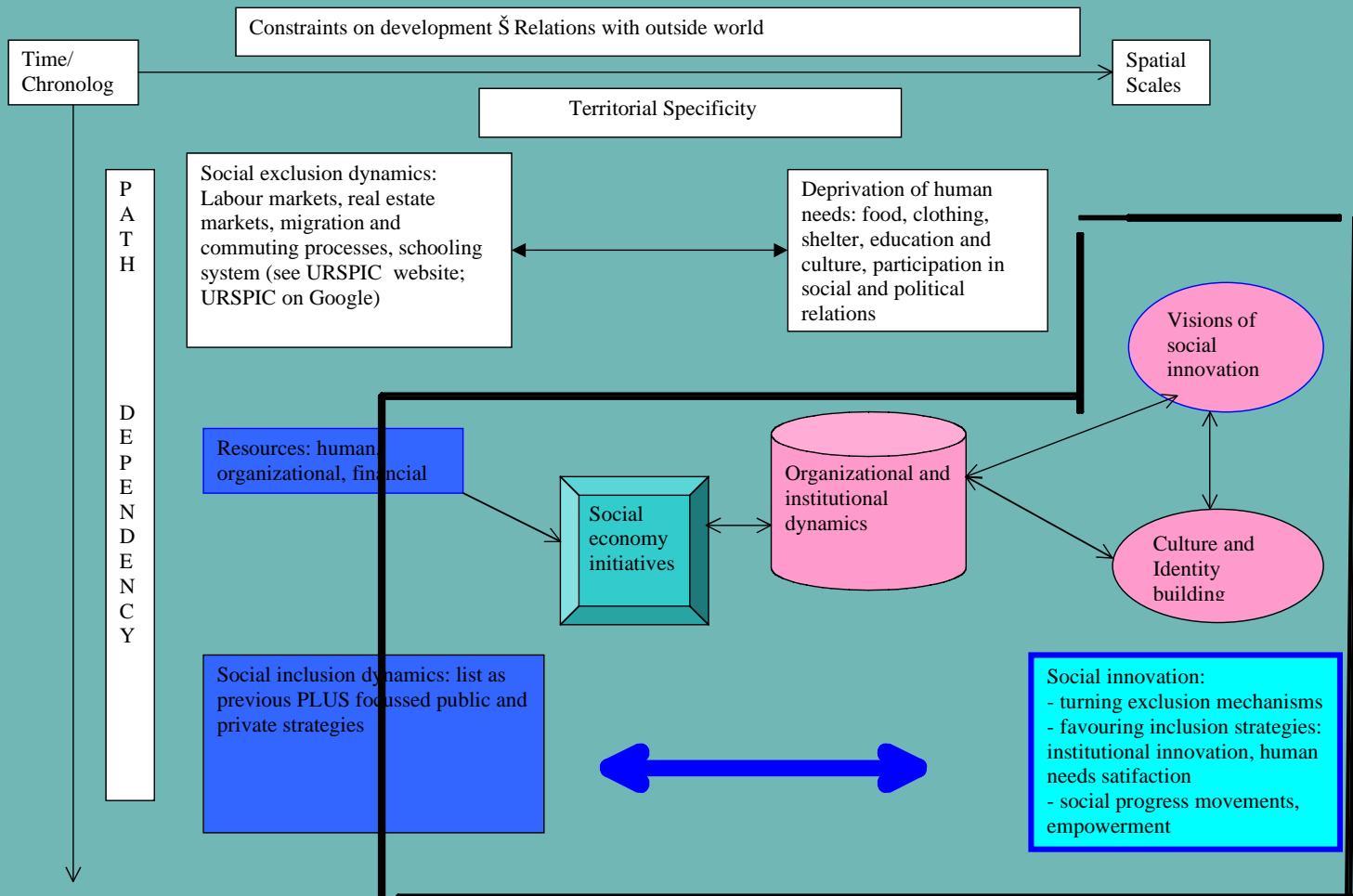
- Urban Restructuring and Social Polarization in the City
  - Theory...
  - Research themes
  - Details
  - From monographs to transversal analysis
- Theme 1: social housing stock
  - Subsystems, Parts: neighbourhoods...
  - ...
  - Theory: housing as a reproduction system - Role of planning
  - ... linking to Theme 2
  - “Structured stories”
  - Lessons for governance and planning

# An example: Integrated Area Development

- Theory instructed story telling of neighbourhood development...
- What did urban planning and policy (or their absence) do to neighbourhood development?
- Production and reproduction of neighbourhoods
- Links with urban regimes (Antwerp)
- Planning as an embedded collective practice

# ALMOLIN as a holistic pattern model

Figure 2 Dynamics of social exclusion/inclusion and social innovation



# References

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