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

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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

- **Time/Chronology**
- **Spatial Scales**
- **Territorial Specificity**

**Social exclusion dynamics:**
- Labour markets, real estate markets, migration and commuting processes, schooling system (see URSPIC website; URSPIC on Google)

**Deprivation of human needs:**
- food, clothing, shelter, education and culture, participation in social and political relations

**Organizational and institutional dynamics**

**Social economy initiatives**

**Resources:**
- human, organizational, financial

**Social inclusion dynamics:**
- list as previous PLUS focused public and private strategies

**Visions of social innovation**

**Culture and Identity building**

**Social innovation:**
- turning exclusion mechanisms
- favours inclusion strategies: institutional innovation, human needs satisfaction
- social progress movements, empowerment
References

• URSPIC and SINGOCOM websites