

# From Rationalism toward Humanity: Review of the Notions Evolution in Urban Planning

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## Abstract

By this time, there has been a trend in the direction of devolvement in governance and planning. This trend presents a role for inhabitants, a considerable lot of whom have found an opportunity to express their interests for self-assurance; struggling that current governance structures do not satisfactorily outfit their needs and interests. As planning is inseparably connected to power, this feature definitely helps encouraging or limiting the advancement of which governance shapes. In this manner, the heading of planning practice warrants genuine thought about power, policy and people. This paper disposes the historical positions of planning, in perspective of deciding how the discipline develops and influences by rationalities. The investigation follows the paradigmatic advancement of the discipline to review the regular planning speculations. Eminent perspectives are then investigated and lined up beside transformative planning theories with focus on social approach development. Finally, the study of transitions in both areas of paradigm and rationality, indicates that viewpoints are changing fast from rationalism toward value based humane normative approaches, quantity to quality, and determinism to intuition.

**Keywords:** Urban, Planning, Paradigm, Rationality, Humanity.

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## 1. Introduction

currently, we can hear that planning discipline is at the edge of a paradigmatic transition. The rationalist-comprehensive paradigm that has carried professional practice for several decades is now increasingly giving way to models of communicative and collaborative approach, because there is growing concern in the planning discipline with regards to the democratic discrepancy, a term used to describe the conceptual split between state and society (Moroni, 2001). Attention to the democratic insertion has arisen as existing governance forms, in their modernist and rationalistic approaches, have not managed to ensure extensive social equity in the public sphere, mostly in reason of globalization. Seemingly, the planning discipline is geared to supporting the interests of people and places (Simmie, 1974). Therefore, there is mounting guesswork that social policy construction must be supple, meaning it should be prepared more responsive to the citizens, it is envisioned serve. In view of this statement, theorists have recently built a progressive discourse on communicative and participatory governance (Moroni, 2004; Davidoff, 2012). It is contended that social policy assembly may best be advanced over the active engagement of civil society itself. As these new attitude relocate those of past, and cause the thought of paradigm shift in urban planning, it turns out to be necessary to gage how planning rationalities have been exchanging to take human in deliberation.

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## 2. Statement of the Purpose

Based on many studies, it seems obvious that there has been a tendency towards evolution in urban planning and governance. This trend presents particular promise for cities populaces, many of whom have deepened their appeals for self-rule, quarreling that present planning and governance assemblies do not adequately accommodate their exclusive needs and interests. As planning is inseparably linked to authority, the discipline assists in enabling or confining the development of decentralized governance methods. Consequently, the direction of planning rehearsal merits severe contemplation. This paper seeks for the present position of planning in view of defining how the discipline can assist in structuring the profession approach, with emphasis on more humanity based on new thoughts. The study traces the paradigmatic development of the discipline during past decades from 1960s till now over scrutinizing paradigms and different rationalities in a chronological way, to discuss how conformist, rational planning concepts have commonly failed to produce new beliefs and what next is. Up-and-coming perspectives on planning are then explored and aligned with transformative theories in an attempt to do futurology of urban planning paradigm.

## 3. Research Methodology

The core part of this study builds on subjects settled in the literature review, mainly those associated with growing concepts. The literature review of research collectively provide for a description and inspection of planning theory in practice. The literature review sets the factors for a scrutiny of paradigmatic progress from a definitely

theoretical standpoint. The research emphasizes more explicitly on connecting planning theories together, merging embryonic abstract lookouts with the analysis of present planning substructures. Consequently, the primary method of research was descriptive-analytic to illustrate a sequential view of urban planning thoughts alterations during time.

#### 4. Literature Review

##### 4.1. Planning Paradigm

This is premised that current trends in the planning discipline may best be understood in view of the discipline historical development. This concept follows the reason that, if current movements or practices in planning are to be supposed and measured, they should be considered in combination with those of precedent periods. It is tough to identify or evaluate changes in proficient spheres if there is no relative basis or grounds upon which those evaluations can be made (Polsby, 1984). In as much as this paper seeks to be informed by the planning discipline development, it draws upon Thomas Kuhn's (1962) work for constructing a logical framework. In the construction of scientific revolts, Kuhn utilizes a paradigmatic style for illuminating the improvement of scientific disciplines. He states that the behaviors of scientific societies are uttered by the worldviews- or paradigms- over which those communities observe phenomena; additionally, variations in the performances of scientific groups relate to the shifting conceptions of actualities held by those people (Galloway and Mahayni, 1977) which means novel rationalities rise to answer questions, solve dualities, and give proper reasons for activities; while theories support them intellectually. Figure 1 shows the Kuhn's thought about cycle of paradigm.

It is time that planning discipline is observed as a scientific community that Kuhn's effort attaches with it

imminently. Progress in planning discipline can be perceived in relation to the paradigm that have focused practices based on the sequence of time. The paradigmatic exemplary of development aids a suitable means of drawing the actions of professional self-controls together with the prevailing fundamental assumptions of particular terms. When carried into critical consideration, paradigms may function to contextualize professional performance. It is the contextualizing function of paradigmatic evaluations that are of significance to this paper. Also, there are vulnerabilities inherent in applying Kuhn's language to researches out of the philosophy of science, like planning (Taylor, 1998). The most palpable of these would be misreading Kuhn's crucial hypotheses. Though, as his notions have circulated throughout the academy, numerous disciplines have enthused to construe Kuhn for their own pedagogical resolutions. The forms of political discipline, sociology, history, and many other fields have all involved in discourses on Kuhn's thoughts of paradigmatic variation. These disciplines have regularly redefined or adapted the paradigm conception to brighten the procedural subjects opposing their professional performs (Heyl, 1975).

In planning, there have been frequent efforts made to relate Kuhn to the discipline (Galloway and Mahayni, 1977; Innes, 1995). The evidence from planning and other disciplines is that the revision of paradigmatic sight requirement not be constrained to the philosophy of science. Kuhn has provided interdisciplinary readings with both a language and a technique for observing expert practices (Heyl, 1975). Planning scholars can style understandings of the paradigm outset to suit their necessities, in an effort to achieve a sharp understanding of their own discipline (Taylor, 1998).

Figure 2 illustrates the levels of knowledge abstraction and Figure 3 shows the relationships between discourse and knowledgebase.

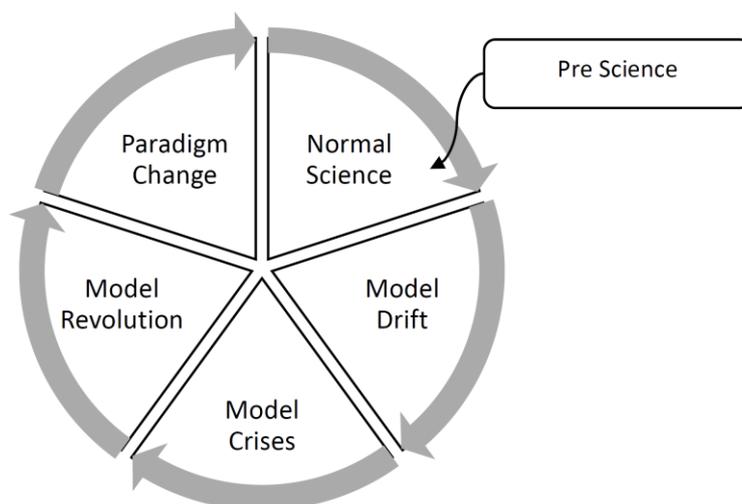


Fig. 1. Kuhn's cycle of paradigm change (Source: Kuhn, 1962)

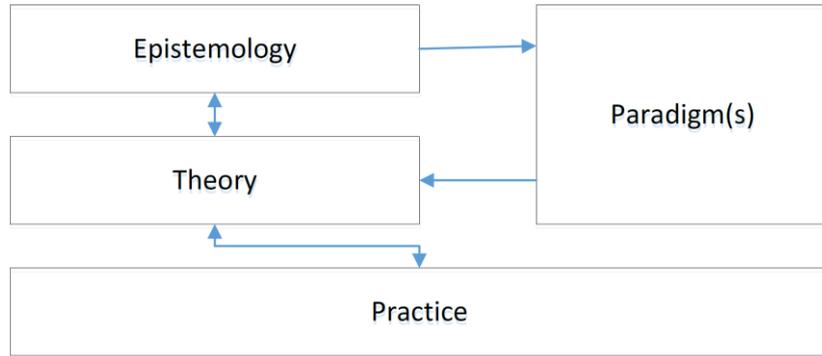


Fig. 2. Levels of Knowledge Abstraction (Source: Hazlett et al. 2005)

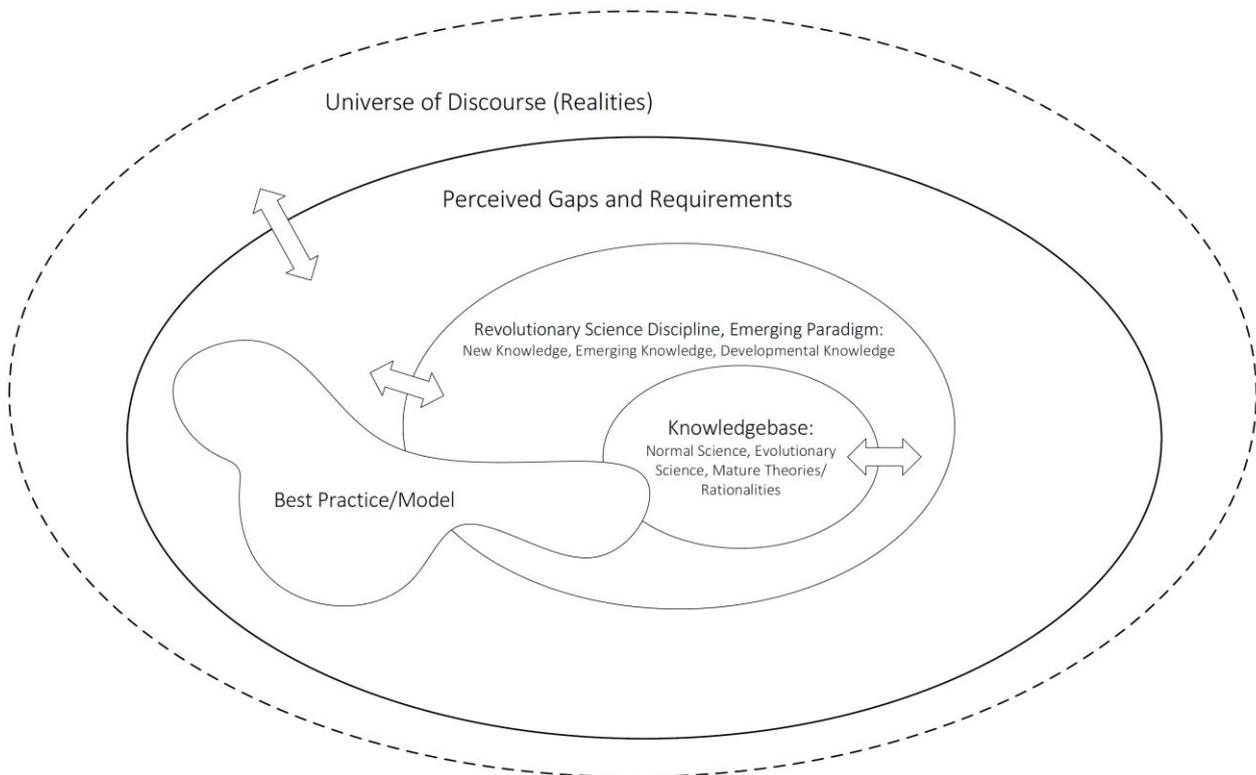


Fig. 3. Relationships between Discourse and Knowledgebase (Source: Albrecht, 1968; Bommel, 2004; Author, 2019)

#### 4.2. Paradigm Evolution

Paradigms may be deliberated similar to procedure attitudes. In this view, the paradigm conception is related further with normative ethics than it is by the advance of meta-theoretical outlines (Pieterse, 1998). That is to assert that the paradigm idea is understood in the wide and overall logic of an 'intellectual framework' (ibid), one that is closely related to political plans and practices. This stands rather in contrast to Kuhn's clear explanation of paradigm as a descriptive basis defining the actions of

scientific groups. From a diagnostic position, the paradigm as policy approach notion links with Kuhn. It is fixated on discovering changeovers or variations in thought (rationality) and practice over the sequence of time. Howlett (1994) struggles that essential long-term policy changes initiate in the deviations of the basic beliefs and attitudes to the nature of social matters (public interest). The procedure of alteration in these primary social beliefs, is where the idea of social learning relays on paradigmatic advancement and vice versa. The preparation of new policy lines is deliberated learning because these

approaches return an overall upsurge in the awareness of a community which are around certain policy subjects (Howlett, 1994). It shadows that this cultured understanding is reflective of the appearance of new opinions in the policy ground. At origin in the previous debate is the concept that important changes in social beliefs track a sequential process (ibid).

There is indication to propose that the planning discipline is currently within a paradigmatic changeover. It delivers an opening through which it is probable to detect how planning organizations apt with prevailing and emergent rational contexts. Besides, it harvests vision into how structures may be adapted, such that they can come to be more responsive to the growing theoretical ideas guiding the discipline (Roberts, 2000). The discipline has been strapped into a discourse on the likelihood of its existing operational ethics. Paradigmatic strain remains insofar as straight practices are being preserved with caution, in light of fresh and evolving viewpoints movement.

In recent times, planning has come upon outsets of that differ from those that the discipline has usually documented, understood, and performed. As the discipline has moved to classify and reverence these marginal notions, it has been accommodated to begin a process of reexamining its vital strokes. The planning discipline has naturally perceived in physical or geographic terms, while it should not necessarily (Armstrong, 1978; Page, 1986; Young, 1995; Robertson, 1999). In critics we can see many assert that planning has not essentially operated in the top interests of populations. For instance, Schmidt (2000) reasons that the discipline has demarcated in such a way as to enable a policy assembly that disrespects the requests of peoples. Moreover, Rees (1987) condemns planning for its overcrowding of concepts. He declares that the ideas enforce limits on the policy sets, confirming that planning attends private as opposed to wider public interests.

Particularly, the latest understandings in planning regarding criticism, has been involved to those who convict the outline for its instinctive upkeep of place (Young, 1995; Myers, 2000); those who grumble the basis nurtures dependence associations (Usher, 1982; Ross and Usher, 1986; Elias, 1995); and those who struggle the framework often step over the kernel of socio-cultural motion (Berger, 1985; Lonner, 1986; Wismer, 1996). Academics correspond that the discipline has been trapped by its ineffectiveness to expansively categorize contributors.

#### *4.3. Paradigm Evolution*

Over basic structures and participating methods with broader societal alterations of the existing state during the past period, urban planning has experienced continuous reinterpretations regarding the theoretic understanding of how its purposes should be deliberated, and what it should consequently do (Hall, 2002; Feinstein and Campbell, 2012). While the technical planning discourse may be conquered by explicit thoughts for certain periods of time,

this has in practice not unavoidably occasioned in a sequence of sweeping paradigm shifts. Rather, past elucidations have become covered, recombined and united with new thoughts, therefore influential complex forms of urban planning rationalities accepted within nationwide and indigenous institutional environments, and connected to diverse sets of (state) competencies and instruments based on objectives. This infers that such outlines differ significantly in their conformation and articulation between places and countries – and may so attend to ascertain an urban planning form in a given city-region. It also recommends that urban planning in practice tracks dissimilar rationalities concurrently and self-sufficiently, thus unavoidably contributing to development inconsistencies and struggles (Sager, 2001; Healey, 2010). Without asserting completeness in the notable development of urban planning rationalities, the accompanying segments briefly sketch key points of view that keep on surrounding how urban planning is comprehended and moved toward now.

##### *4.3.1. Rationalism*

With regards to historic backgrounds, urban planning has obviously deep roots in rationalism. Rationalist philosophy considers of planning as a scientific process that aids to assist political or ideological objectives. Based on facts attainment, analysis and reason, rationalist planning states to be able to realize the ‘rational mastery of the irrational’ (Mannheim, 1951), and construct structure and instruction within urban realisms supposed as untidy and muddled. Likewise, it is frequently depicted by attributes such as ‘comprehensive’ or ‘synoptic’.

Rationalist planning endeavors to track a linear process that primes from the requirement of operational objectives through info gathering and investigation, in the direction of option preparation and calculation, plan application, and succeeding estimation. The prominence is on efficiency and on the optimization of aim attainment as said by standardized tools (e.g. cost/benefit). This indicates a conception of ‘the planner’ as a fundamental specialist that delivers the know-how required and is accomplished of leading this procedure. Hierarchy and specialism within planning administrations are consequences of this understanding. It is also principally the planner who requests to learn from any letdowns occurring to improve forthcoming enactment. From a rationalist point of view, urban modification turn out to be bordered as the operation of the plan (Wolfram, 2018).

This conception of rationalist planning and its almost universal practical implementation have led to rising disapprovals since the 1950s, remain in the light of the progressively ensuing attentiveness of difficulties in cities that the approach proved incompetent to solve (Jacobs, 1961; Hayek, 1967). Based on Simon’s analysis of ‘bounded rationality’ (Simon, 1947), the statement of inclusive knowledge and growth control was probed by reason of the restrictions documented in realism (data obtainability, knowledge and understanding, time for

decision making, interest conflicts). Strict and inefficient procedures, the systematic prohibiting of any options that stay against the optimum objective, and the absence of feedback tools were acknowledged as key impediments for making regulations to fluctuating conditions, or coping with uncertainties. Additionally, also the innately technocratic and authoritative atmosphere of rationalist planning was uncovered meanwhile value alignments are just 'adopted' from political choices, thus eliminating all actors, their interest and approaches from the planning process (Wolfram, 2018). These issues exemplify that rationalist thinking is also basically at odds with key angles of transition management.

#### 4.3.2. Incrementalism

Incrementalist ideas arose in the 1950s from the recognition of rationalist planning limitations, claiming that main radical change in urban cannot be prearranged, neither centrally nor comprehensively. In place of adhering to the chase of an optimum prospect, planning was directed to emphasize on 'second-best' and short-term movements for which the necessary agreement could be obtained. This understanding of planning as a 'science of muddling through' (Lindblom, 1959) also infers to permit for decentralized proficiency and direction-finding, knowing how shareholders line up their strategies through 'mutual partisan adjustment'. Planning should therefore remain open to nonstop revisions, by means of 'windows of opportunity' to decisively join means and ends (ibid). The way of 'disjointed incrementalism' suggested by Lindblom (1979) demonstrates how such philosophy interprets into planning. It demands the following actions to acquire critical intuitions about modification choices and their viability (ibid, p. 517):

- Bond the study of goals/values with actual problems perceived;
- Recognize problems to solve, not goals to reach;
- Analyze only a few common choices;
- Discover only critical consequences of an option;
- Pilot options and reread in case of failure;
- Let several participants do the analysis (Wolfram, 2018).

This methodology presented new ideas into planning that are similarly imperative for change management. The purpose of connection between normative aims and these days' conditions, to involve in research and learning by performing, along with an apprehension for the variety of knowledge and interests, can be recognized complicatedly. Though, simultaneously incrementalist thinking correspondingly delivers orientations that are very challenging with a view to sustainability moves. This distresses particularly the premeditated restraint put on the radicalness of choices measured, the precedence given to existing problems over upcoming goals, and the implied dependence on current institutions and performer positions. These features obviously contribute to strengthening pathway dependences though concurrently fading the aptitude to chase a long-term and joined viewpoint. Consequently, whereas refining liveness and

reworking, incrementalist planning rehearses have been criticized for their intrinsic opportunism and inability to move outside short-term and disjointed resolutions (Rosenhead, 1980; Weiss and Woodhouse, 1992).

#### 4.3.3. Participation and Advocacy

Meanwhile the 1970s, disquiets referring to the legitimacy discrepancies and depoliticizing practices of both rationalist and incrementalist lines come to be increasingly contagious. Planning was accused for deficient of needed citizens' participation in the decision-making process, and to subsequently discount their respective interests and concerns. So as to make planning more democratic and transparent, key demands were taken in place of appropriately inform and involve the general public, and to sufficiently integrate the primacies stated in this procedure into plans (Arnstein, 1969; Fagence, 1977). Further critics known that wherever planning practice comprised some sort of public participation, certain stakeholders, values and knowledge, endured understated, ironically the poor and ethnic minorities.

Therefore, they proposed to deliberately generate advocacy for such omitted groups through chosen professionals that could give them a voice in the planning course. Through apprising these peoples in proper arrangements and language, and by serving them to eloquently express their worries and thoughts, advocates should assist to preserve their values and interests in front of authorities and other public or private influential actors (Davidoff, 1965). These disapprovals and demands have informed the formation of new approaches multitude to participation and advocacy in urban planning, both official and informal. From obligatory 'public consultation' procedures for official plans, or 'public hearings' and options for making petitions, to more collaborating methods such as 'civic fora', counting also far-sightedness fundamentals (e.g. visions, scenarios) various efforts have been commenced to improve both depiction and democratic legitimacy in planning. Although this is noticeably realized contrarily by the approaches in different places, the overall tendency has been towards a cumulative institutionalization of participatory and advocacy performs in urban planning, comprising the more recent spread of methods building on ICT, the dispersion of the internet and social media (e.g. 'participatory mapping', 'crowdsourcing') (Bryson et al., 2013).

So far, there is plenty of room for upgrading to reliably evade distortions and manipulations in participatory practices. With a glance to the wide-ranging discussions and legitimacy required for sustainability moves, though the current set of procedures for involvement in policy-making and their institutional waterfront can be gotten as a significant strength to draw upon. Urban planning correspondingly diverges from transition management and its somewhat selective attitude to participation and representation; which has harmoniously been criticized for

its negligence of the politics involved (Meadowcroft, 2009).

#### *4.3.4. Communication and Collaboration*

Outside the distress for participation and equal demonstration, particular qualities of communication procedures and their consequences established actual care in planning theory since the 1990s. Alongside the background of globalization and economic change, sustainability clashes in cities commenced to worsen, rising gradually essential questions about how to resolve the challenge of economic growth beside environmental health concerning social equity. The institutions of urban planning by itself were consequently called into question, aiming to the requisite of base act on more diverse values, knowledge and practices. Encouraged by Habermas' concept of 'communicative rationality' in 1981, a 'communicative turn' (Healey, 1992) was assumed for urban planning that should point toward some issues as below:

- Distinguish the social structure of knowledge both in science and practice;
- Allow for diverse methods of evolving and cooperative knowledge within social contexts (e.g. including study along with storytelling and artistic expression);
- Spread possession and the range of knowledge and reasoning ('shareholding');
- Move from competitive interest haggling to collaborative consensus building;
- Pinpoint various interests and their relegation through dealings of power;
- Diagnose planning movement as being rooted in everyday associations and place (Harris, 2005).

The purpose was not only to democratize decision-making, but also the knowledge construction involved in urban planning, so enabling processes of social learning and urban change that would touch values, practices and institutions (Innes and Booher, 1999). As a result, the role of the planner became reframed as that of a professional moderator, helping to ensure equity in the society, improve critical feedback and interpret thoughts into actions. The acts and processes of planning were theme to review and edition, leading to new practices of 'community planning' and the creation of various new communication layouts such as 'planning workshops', 'planning cells' or 'charrettes' in which miscellaneous stakeholders could express themselves, mature common problem borders and purposes, and the communal and political capital required to exchange from reflection to practical implementation (Wolfram, 2018).

On the other hand, the normative ambition of collaborative planning for guiding "how political communities may organize to improve the quality of their places" (Healey, 1997) yet are hard to reach in practice. Even with hard

work devote to open communication procedures, more considerable alteration remained limited by standing institutions and overriding interests. The optimistic claim of collaborative planning to empower 'ideal speech situations' became broadly criticized, emphasizing that the envisioned departure of discourse from power finally formulates a delusion (Flyvbjerg, 1996). Campaigns, unseen agendas and power actions of stakeholders can misrepresent the anticipated equity in communications whenever, other than the start of consequences into formal plans and policies. But, with its emphasis on relating cooperative knowledge creation, open processes, combined discourse growth and social learning, collaborative planning has successfully contributed to launch key directions correspondingly dyed by changeover supervision.

A difference force the robust pressure on collaborative planning to put it on place as a dominant category for ascertaining difficulties, resolutions and stakeholders to be convoluted, as opposed to transition management with its direction at socio-technical system relationships.

### **5. Current Urban Planning**

Corresponding to the worries about the collaborative approach, the doubts inborn to intricate sustainability complications and probable planning replies to them expected snowballing consideration since the 2000s drawing on former works in management, policy and organizational studies dealing with the role of strategies in societal change (Etzioni, 1967), some academics recommended to reconsider urban planning as a method of strategy making in order to deal with the essential uncertainties in describing urban problems, solutions and urgencies (Healey et al., 1997; Salet and Faludi, 2000). New planning principles were thus acknowledged: unambiguously accounting for exterior surroundings and their effect on local developments would help urban actors recognize broader dynamics of change and their scope for maneuver, and supplementing formal planning ways through cognitive and motivational tools (e.g. mind maps, visions) would permit to provoke stakeholder values and navigate through their self-commitment and in distributed decision making contexts (public, private, civil society), instead of command and control (Cerreta et al., 2010; Hillier, 2011). Above principles are similarly vital to transition management. Though, the strategic planning viewpoint considers them as an integral part of the 'public authorities' planning methodology, not as necessarily detached from them in afresh shaped setups; the objective is to launch a 'enduring process' that progressively integrates any novel layouts into mainstream planning (Albrechts, 2004). Respectively, strategic planning holds both extensive involvement and alliance forming with selective key players, so make hesitation between utilizing representation and interests at pole as main criteria for participant assortment, yet without articulated disquiets for knowledge mixture and probable innovation as in transition management. The subtle equilibrium between participating efforts and new forms of choosiness has also

involved parallel criticisms concerning the politics underemphasized (Newman and Thornley, 2011). Analogous with the upsurge of strategic planning, a foremost contribution to the evolving rationalities of urban planning caused from the reaction of social geography and governance studies which derive from the requirement to better apprehension of the 'external forms' of local development. Two facets of a shifting appreciation of stakeholder communications are renowned as concepts of multi-level governance for the flowing distribution of capabilities, and resources between levels of power (Hooghe and Marks, 2001) have carried the role of national and regional governments in urban development

to the forefront (Healey, 2007). Innovative forms of state strategies have been acknowledged, pointing to activate main urban grounds as a key reserve of domestic effectiveness (e.g. through state-driven large-scale urban projects) (Brenner, 2004). Oppositely, recognition of native private sector actors role, proposed that new procedures of urban governance were developing in reply to both, forces for urban competitiveness and for undertaking various urban sustainability challenges that fled the large city scale (Wolfram, 2018).

Diagram 4 display the process of changes in urban planning and design discipline during time.

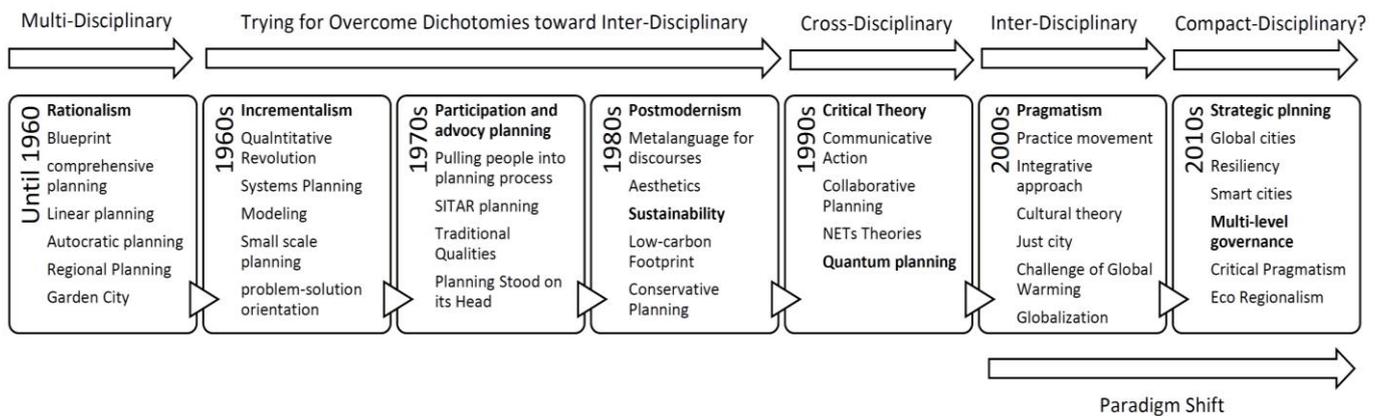


Fig. 2. Main changes in urban planning discipline

### 6. Conclusion: Critical View Will Change

During time, a widespread variety of new methods have been shaped for governance and planning, especially in urban field of study. These approaches typically mark several institutional holes for harmonizing action, between the city and its surroundings, between the public and private sector, and between various levels of government. To a smaller scale this occasionally comprises efforts for broadening the participation and demonstration of civil society. This positioning of urban governance as a new area of cooperative action infers a comparative faintness compared to the extremely institutionalized planning rehearses. The funds used and activities chased in this situation are essentially subject to conciliation between the concerned parties, and then mostly in need of ascertaining shared interests and producing new legitimacy. It is because of governance power position that turned into a key field of research with new methodologies directed by values of collaborative and strategic planning (Jouve and Lefe`vre, 2003), so far basically rely on complexity, uncertainty and normativity factors of urban phenomena. Regardless of wide diversity of primary objects and contributing performers in practice, specific cases of governance and planning may reproduce amazing resemblances, while they evolve based on critiques, and however still depending on regional and managerial frontiers, they often comprise a modification from a spatial towards a systemic perspective, to find clumsy

solutions for wicked problems. New collaboration layouts are formed to provoke communal problem views and images together with the stakeholders alarmed so as to outline an agenda for long-term fundamental transformation, along with strategic projects for immediate action. On the other hand, key variances still exist particularly in the scope to which arrangements are intentionally opened up for new facts and innovators, the feedback system made in these setups and schemes (monitoring, social learning), and the inclusive motivation to accomplish radical revolution more willingly than relative enhancement.

All differences and interdependencies request to consider of a dialectic relation between urban planning and evolution management in which both lines stay necessarily distinct, nevertheless involved in a critical argument and replication. This allows stimulating democratic politics and thought-provoking its legitimacy rights (Nilson, 2004). One current dialectics of urban planning and change management proposes that intrinsic tensions should not necessarily be resolved, but somewhat needs to nurture sustainability innovations in power and planning practices (e.g. pragmatism, practice movement by Innes, 1999), also improving wider dimensions for transformative intelligence and action in the middle of urban sponsors. Transition management can discourse critical breaks and roughness in planning associations or else continue undisputed on their path. On the other side of coin, urban planning procedures, tools and methods

could develop refined to raise and impose fundamental systemic modification, minus challenging an official ground shift as a requirement (e.g. resiliency/sustainability, convergence/ divergence, integrative/divertive by Bahrainy and Bakhtiar, 2016). As a result, establishing a dialectic correlation of harmonized liberation between transition management and urban planning may offer a capable future scheme for learning to escort urban alterations towards something better with a common language for network power, interactive policy, and more people engagement with training and education.

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