



Institutions and Planning

Global Course: Institutional Design and Spatial Planning

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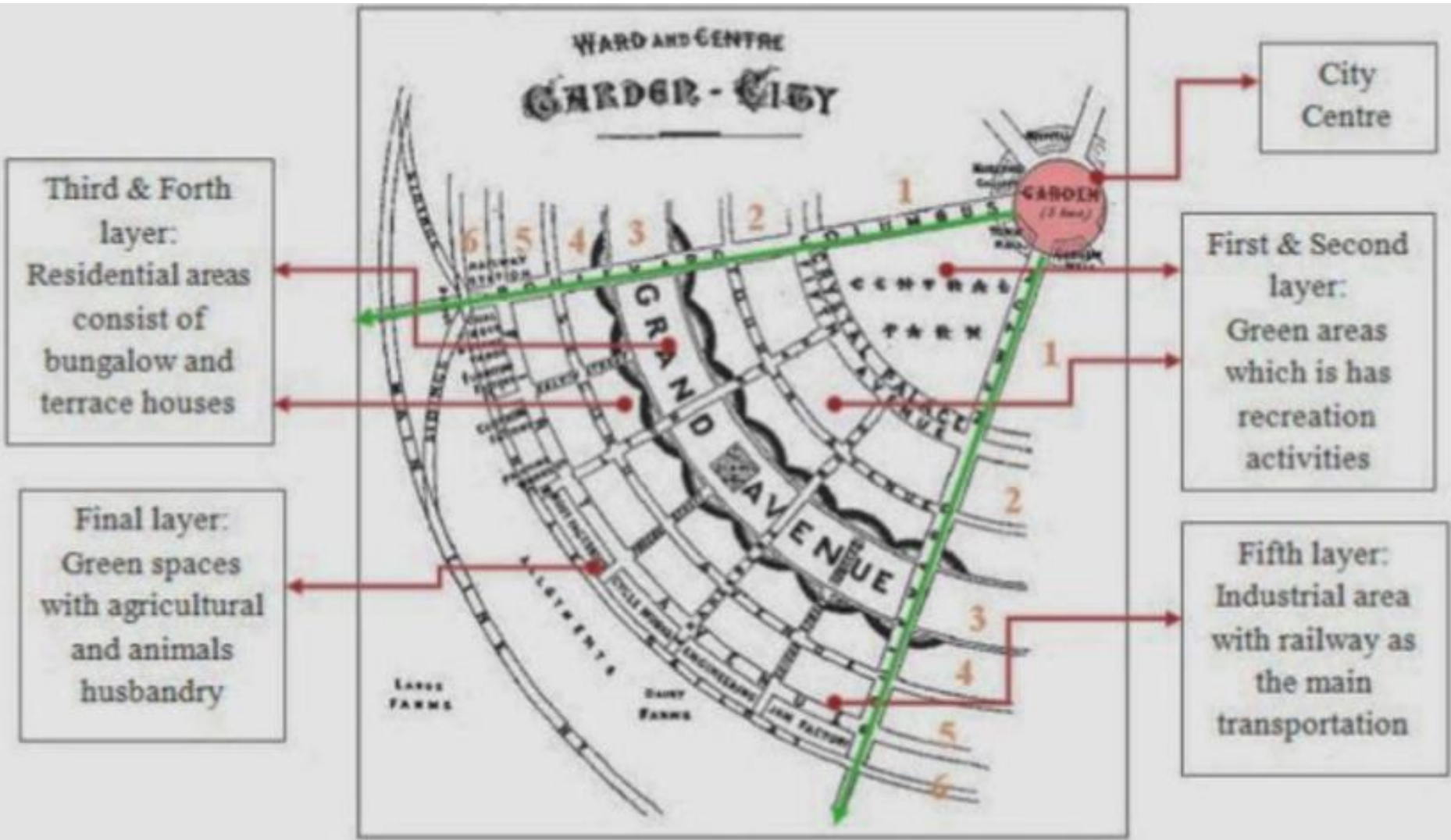
On the program today

- › Spatial planning: more than spatial design?
- › What are institutions?
- › Why do institutions matter for planners?
- › Designing institutions?

Spatial design

- › How to position different functions?
 - Housing
 - Work
 - Leisure
 - Nature
 - Infrastructure
- › Based on various planning paradigms
- › Reference to:
 - Efficiency
 - Social justice
 - Economic growth

Garden City



Modernist planning



Mixed-use development



What about your greenbelt?



And your modernist estate?



Solving social problems?

- › Socio-economic segregation
- › Ethnic segregation
- › New forms of inequality
 - Wealth
 - Housing- / energy related poverty
 - Migrants / natives
 - Gender
- › Effects of climate change
 - Water stress (shortage / floods)

Let's talk affordable housing



Let's talk affordable housing



Explaining differences

› Ireland

- Strong ideology of homeownership
- Dualist rental market
- Council housing

› The Netherlands

- State-support for both housing tenures
- Unitary rental market (not any longer?)
- Housing association

Determining where we build for whom...

Institutions

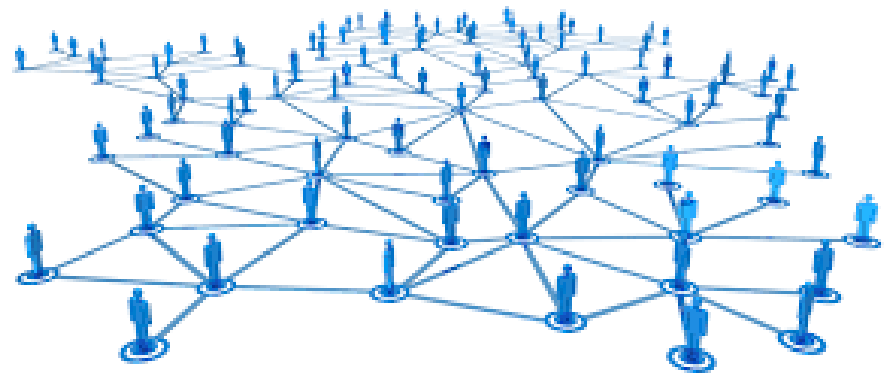
- › Everything that's not the spatial design, explaining why Dutch working class households face another housing situation than Irish.
- › The institutions determine the room for maneuver for planners
- › Where can they plan affordable housing? For whom? Who are their partners? What is the budget?
- › Importantly: it is more than just policy

More than policy

› From government



› To governance



What are institutions?

“Institutions are ‘stable, valued, recurring patterns of behavior’. As structures or mechanisms of social order, they govern the behavior of a set of individuals within a given community”

- › Formal rules (from formal organizations)
- › Informal norms (from communities)
- › Traditions (expected behavior)

Studying institutions (1)

Historical institutionalism

- › Political science
- › From structuralism to political economy
- › Power relations: group conflict
- › Calculus approach vs. Cultural approach
- › Path-dependent trajectories



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Prisoners'
dilemma

prisoner A

prisoner B

confess

remain
silent

confess



5 years

5 years

0 year

20 years

remain
silent



20 years

0 year

1 year

1 year

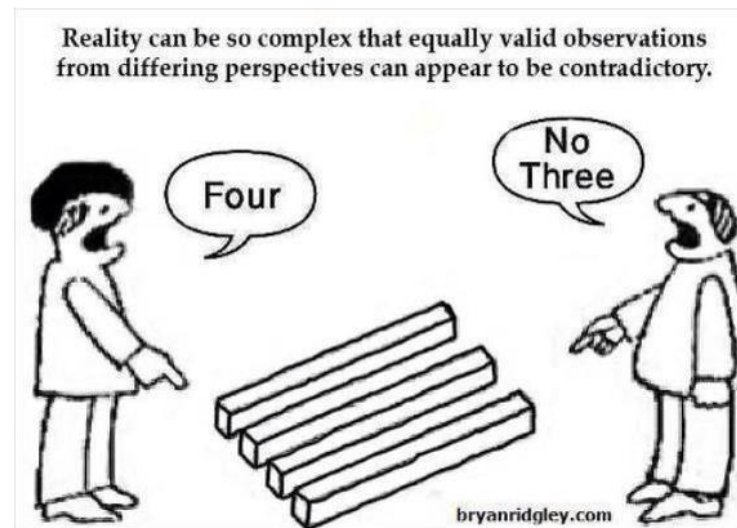
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Studying institutions (3)

Sociological institutionalism

- › Weber: idealtypical bureaucracy
- › Broader: 'frames of meaning'
- › Cultural practice itself is an institution
- › Social legitimacy as mechanism of emergence
- › Rational action is socially constructed



Institutions and Planning

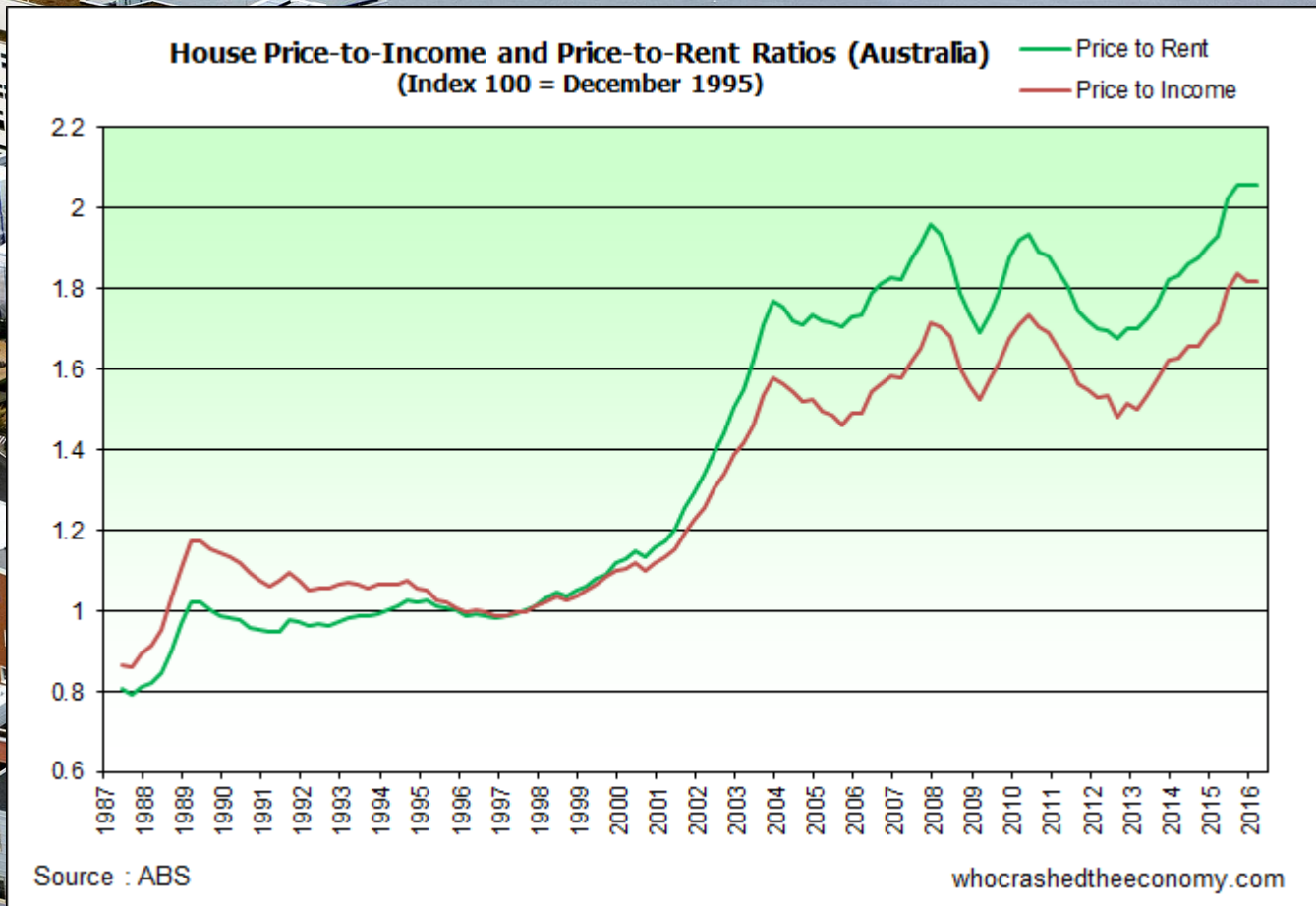
- › Planning system
 - Laws
 - Rules / regulations
 - Standards
 - State-market-civil society balance
 - Scale levels / responsibilities

- › Planning practice
 - Networks
 - Arrangements
 - Norms / habits / world-views

Why should we care?

“If planning is the translation of ideas into action, and the planner’s goal is the transformation of society (Friedmann, 1987), then institutional transformation must be a critical aspect of planning. That is because there is only one way to effect significant and lasting social change: changing the people who make up society. And there are only two ways of changing people: changing individuals, and changing institutions” (Alexander, 2005: 210)

Is this a desired outcome?



Setting the right conditions

Opportunities for policy making

- › Place wars: race to the bottom
- › Fiscal decentralization
- › Limited attractiveness for investors
- › Support from higher-level institutions
- › More public revenues
- › Stronger grip on land supply
- › Having partners such as non-profit housing associations

Institutional design

- › Institutional design
 - Context of the planning process
 - How to deal with a flawed or inadequate planning system for the purpose
- › Designing institutions
 - When the implementation of new policies requires new institutions
 - Reorganization of exiting institutions
 - Establishment of inter-organizational linkages

How to analyze institutions?

- › Ostrom's framework
 - Actor centered
 - Conceptual unit: action situation (actors in an action arena)
 - Example? Observing the decision-making around a large development
 - Which options are considered? And which options are totally off-limits?

The action situation

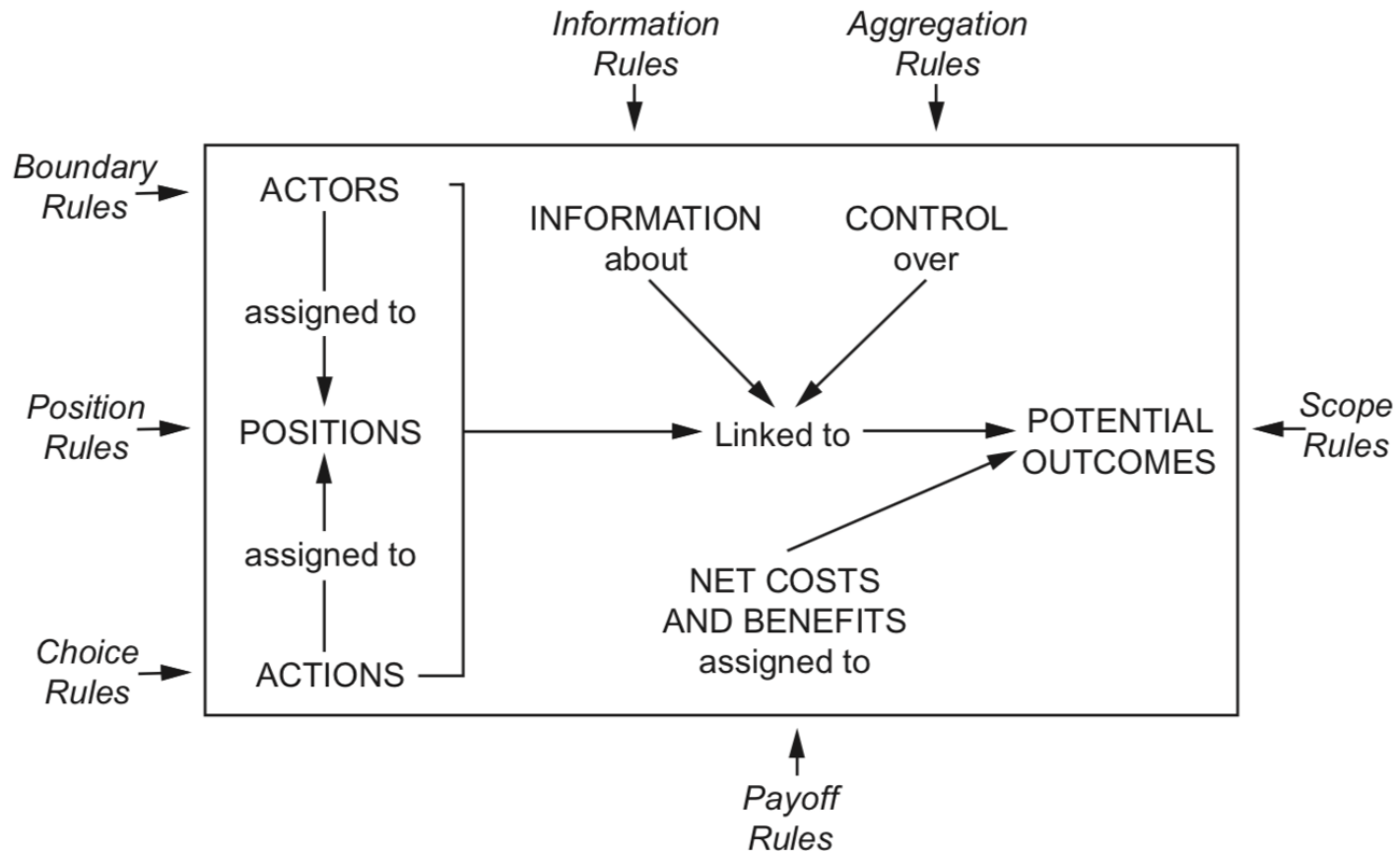
“social spaces where individuals interact, exchange goods and services, solve problems, dominate one another, or fight” (Ostrom, 2011: 11)

1. Resources brought by actors,
2. Valuations of the world and actions,
3. Knowledge contingencies and information
4. Process actors use for course of action



Rules

“The stability of rule-ordered actions depends upon the shared meaning assigned to words used to formulate a set of rules” (Ostrom, 2011:19)



7 types of rules

- › Boundary rules:
 - number of participants, their attributes and resources, whether they can enter freely, and the conditions they face for leaving.
- › Position rules:
 - which members of a community have decision-making power
- › Scope rules:
 - which resources are off-limits?
- › Choice rules:
 - understanding of the spectre of choices to be made.

7 types of rules

- › Aggregation rules:
 - Does something require permission from another authority?
- › Information rules:
 - What needs to be kept secret?
- › Payoff rules:
 - Sanctions for breaking the rules.

The power of comparison

- › Comparisons between cities and countries show the importance of governance
- › Showing approaches that are at one location off-limits
- › Uncovering causal mechanisms behind different models of urbanization
- › Expand imaginations “planning is transforming ideas into practice”
- › Policy mobility



Different perspectives

- › Rational action
- › Political economy
- › Stability and evolution
- › Formal and informal institutions

Recognize them in the other lectures!