

Bridging the Social-Technical Gap: Creating Not Only Resilient and Sustainable Cities, But Resilient and Sustainable Societies

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SUMMARY

In the recent years, there have been many discussions on how to build resilient and sustainable cities. The need for this is obvious, ranging from raising climate change issues to wasting natural resources at a high rate. Cities play a big role in these global problems, such as pollution, but also problems like disparities of wealth and life quality. This social and technical side are often viewed apart, but spatial planning bridges the two by technically planning spaces in which societies will inhabit. This consequently means that cities, and spatial planning as well, have unintentionally locked society into structures and lifestyles that are neither sustainable nor resilient. However, cities are a vast source of sustainability solutions too.

So, in this new era of building and designing systems and resilient and sustainable societies, when and where does spatial planning and development come in? How do we turn planning from invisible to visible? This paper discusses current trends and future efforts in designing sustainable societies and social change, as well as offers some implications on how, according to many academics in the fields and their predictions, the social part affects it. It provides a new way of thinking for spatial planning, suited for strengthening our sociotechnical systems and make sure to build more resilient and sustainable societies while doing the same for the built environment.

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