

Urban social sustainability: North - South perspectives

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(OISD)

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Background

This presentation draws upon our research entitled 'Measuring Social Sustainability: Best Practices From Urban Renewal in the EU'

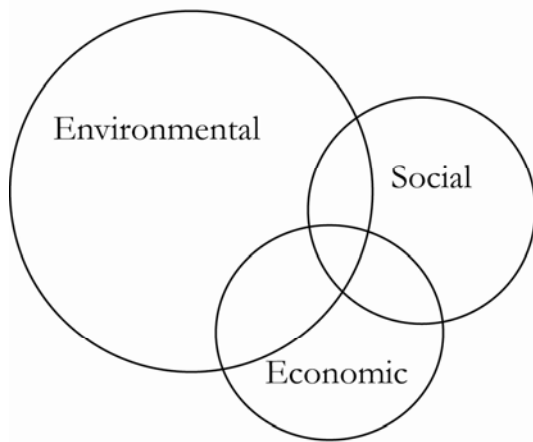
The research is funded by the European Investment Bank University Research Sponsorship (EIBURS) Programme

The screenshot shows the website for the Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development (OISD) at Oxford Brookes University. The page is titled 'European Investment Bank EIBURS Programme' and features a navigation menu on the left with categories like 'Overview of OISD', 'Environmental Assessment & Spatial Planning Group', 'Urban Policy & International Development Group', and 'Sustainable Urban Environments Group'. The main content area is titled 'Measuring Social Sustainability: Best Practice from Urban Renewal in the EU' and includes a section for 'The research' which discusses the focus on 'sustainable communities' and the 'social dimension' of investment projects. There are two images: one of a hand holding a small house model and another of a dense urban neighborhood. The right sidebar lists the research team, including Professor Tim Dixon, Dr Andrea Colantonio, and other staff members.

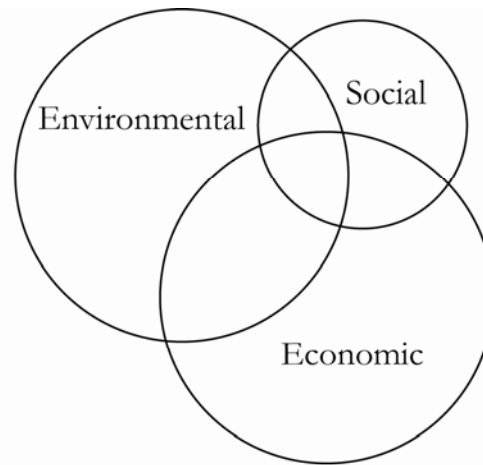
http://www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/be/oisd/sustainable_communities/

Urban Social Sustainability

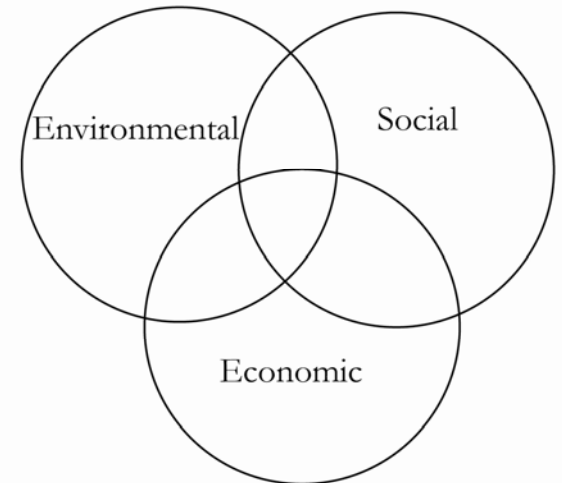
Our understanding of social sustainability is still fuzzy and limited by theoretical and methodological constraints stemming from its context and disciplinary-dependent definitions and measurements



1980s /mid-1990s



late 1990s

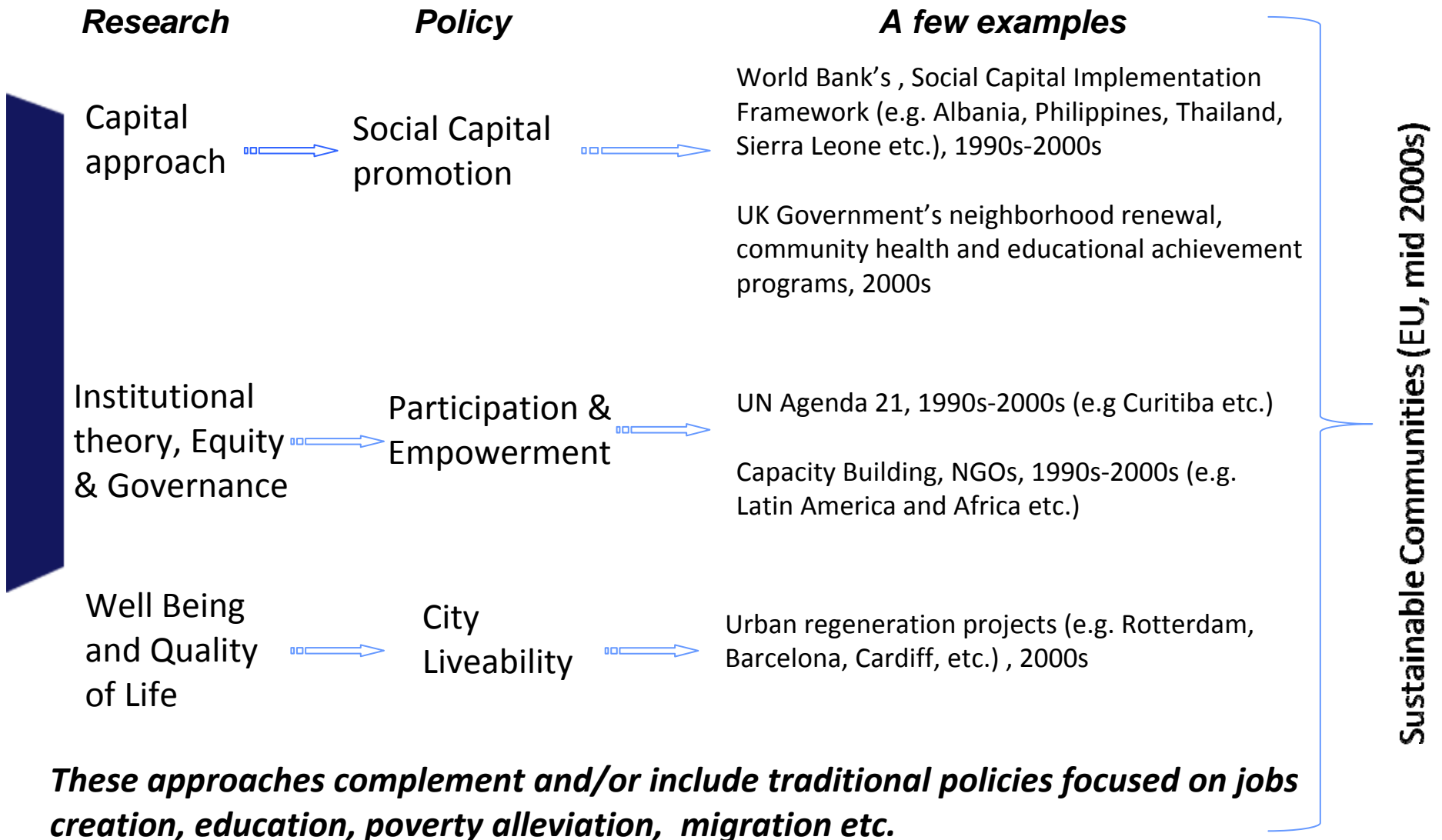


2000s, balance?

Theoretical Research Approaches to Social Sustainability

Approach	Examples of main authors	Timeline
Capital (e.g. Social Capital, Environmental capital equity and cities' footprint)	Coleman (1988), Putnam (1993), Rees and Wackernagel (1996)	Since late 1980s
Equity and Human Rights (e.g. poverty studies and unequal development)	Sen (1985, 1992) Sachs (2001)	Since late 1980s
Institutional Theory and Governance (e.g. participation and stakeholder analysis)	Chambers (1992) Healey (1992)	Since early 1990s
Business and Corporate studies (e.g. Triple Bottom Line, Corporate Social Responsibility)	Elkington (1994)	Since mid 1990s
Behavioural and Welfare Economics (Capabilities, well-being, health and happiness perspectives)	Nussbaum (1995) and Sen (1993) Layard (2005)	Since late 1990s

Research and Policy linkages



Urban Social Sustainability Themes and Discourses

Southern Cities

'Hard' Themes

Basic needs, including
Housing

Empowerment

Equity

Human rights

National migration

Poverty

Social justice

Northern Cities

'Soft' Themes

Demographic change (aging and
international migration)

Participation

Sense of safety

Social mixing and cohesion

Social Capital

Well being, Happiness and

Quality of life

Urban Social Sustainability Themes and Discourses continued 1

Examples of Northern cities*



Turin, Italy

Urban Regeneration

Competiveness

Social Mixing and international migration

Participation



Rotterdam, Holland

Social Mixing and Gentrification

Image

Safety

City-liveability and well being

* The lists are not exhaustive

Urban Social Sustainability Themes and Discourses continued 2

Examples of Southern cities*

Havana, Cuba

Economic opening up and FDI

Urban Infrastructure

Housing

Social impact of tourism



Mexico City, Mexico

Slumps and basic needs

Housing

Poverty

Crime

National Migration



* The lists are not exhaustive

Social sustainability policy

Experimental (e.g. social mixing)

Local (e.g. sustainable communities)

Fragmented (e.g. multiple stakeholders at different levels in the sustainability arena)

People or Place-based? (e.g. measurement issues)

Directions in social sustainability research and policy

- Integration and comprehensiveness of themes and measurements in sustainability assessment research
- Southern and Northern cities and city-regions' development paths: lessons to be learned from a social sustainability perspectives
- Impacts of the current economic outlook on social sustainability research and policy?

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