



Boverket

Myndigheten för samhällsplanering,
byggande och boende

National Board of Housing,
Building and Planning



Royal Institute of Technology

Strengthening institutions

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Institutions – in the common sense

Government authorities

Local Governments

International organisations of nations

UN, etc.

International agreements

Paris agreement, etc.

Certain prestigious NGOs

Formal institutions created by entities such as the [government](#) and public services.

Institutions – within institutional economics

A much broader perspective. Besides the formal institutions, also: Informal institutions such as customs, or behavior patterns important to a society.

- Stable, valued, recurring patterns of behavior
- Mechanisms of social order, which govern the behaviour of a set of individuals within a given community.
- A social purpose, transcending individuals and intentions by mediating the rules that govern living behavior.
- Integrated systems of rules that structure social interactions
- Includes all set of rules, organisations, traditions, established communications platforms, experts, respected bearers of expertise, ...

Institutional economics

Emphasizes the legal foundations of an economy

Focuses on learning, [bounded rationality](#), and evolution (rather than assuming stable preferences, rationality and equilibrium)

One strand: The importance of data and measurement. And inductive theory building.

An alternative to standard “neo-classical” economics?

Not anymore. Rather an important perspective, integrated to a varying extent.

Law and economics

Behavioural economics

Institutions of particular interest

Universities

International ranking

Established net-works and exchange programs

Basic educational levels

Churches

Media

Journals

Political parties and movements

National professional organisations

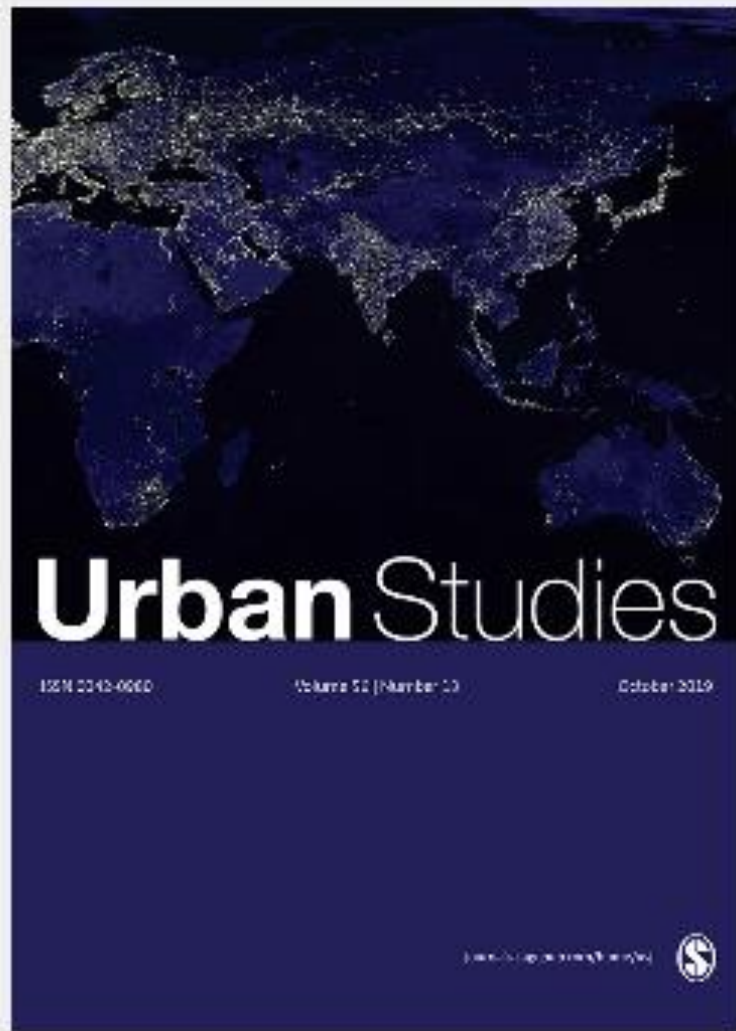
International professional and academic organisations

Annual (or more frequent) conferences

The ones that “counts”

Certain “experts”

Institutions of particular interest



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[Issue 13, Current Issue](#) October 2019, pp. 2611–2844

[Issue 12](#), September 2019, pp. 2391–2607

[Issue 11, Special issue: Cities in an era of interfacing infrastructures: Politics and spatialities of the urban nexus](#), August 2019, pp. 2191–2386

[Issue 10](#), August 2019, pp. 1931–2186

[Issue 9](#), July 2019, pp. 1711–1927

[Issue 8](#), June 2019, pp. 1487–1707

[Issue 7, Special issue: Funding, financing and governing urban infrastructures](#), May 2019, pp. 1291–1484

[Issue 6](#), May 2019, pp. 1075–1287

[Issue 5](#), April 2019, pp. 855–1071

[Issue 4](#), March 2019, pp. 627–851

[Issue 3, Special issue: Transcending \(in\)formal urbanism](#), February 2019, pp. 475–623

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Institutions of particular interest



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Description

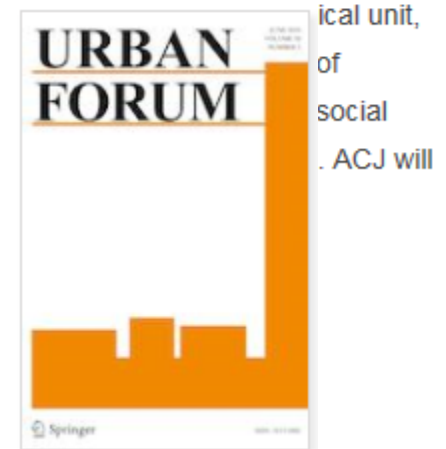
This journal publishes papers, which engage broadly with urban processes, developments, challenges, politics and people, providing a distinctive African focus on these themes. Topics covered variously engage with the dynamics of



ABOUT THE JOURNAL

African Cities Journal aspires to gather existing and future knowledge in the field of urban spaces in Africa through original research articles, as well as more prospective endeavours of theory and methodology.

Interdisciplinarity is the journal's DNA. From urban



Capacity building through all kinds of institutions

Rule of law and democracy is fundamental.

Administrations come and go

Secretaries, Departments and Authorities

But people remain:

Qualified people within the departments end up in other jobs.

Qualified people within the various industries often remain in that industry.

Organisations have survival potential.

Rules differ

Within Governments

- Official records

- National requirements

- Whether documents should be publicly available varies

International standards

- UN organisations

- Funding-providing authorities

Experiences from Sweden

- Swedish standards do not generally apply

- Too good, too poor, too Swedish, ...

Personal strategies (1)

Find people that know how to write applications

Previous success is a good sign

Network

Find good examples

Copy strategy (not documents)

Find people with similar ideas -
but perhaps different background
and different aim

Personal strategies (2)

Be a member – of the right organisations

Participate in the seminars that count

- Give presentations

- Volunteer for discussant or chair

Write papers

- Working papers for conferences

- Papers for academic or professional journals

Write with others

- Some are good at writing, some know what to write, etc

Visit other professionals / study their daily problems / and the institutions that affect their work

Add to your project plan!

Which are the arenas where I should perform?

How should I act there?

What experiences will I get?

What information should be sent?
(And what will the audience hear)?

Institutional memory is built on failure

Knowledge is built on results – but more commonly on failure

Use established institutions to report results

But equally important: Use them to convey insights on what does NOT work.

The process itself is a result.

The problems.

The obstacles experienced.

A failure is also a form of success!

Your problem?

Is often: The solution to someone else's problem!

Personal strategies (3)

The step from being an ordinary civil servant to an established authority may be big, but may also be surprisingly quick.

It is often easier to get recognition at home if you are recognised elsewhere

Let others in!

Be the mentor you would have wanted yourself.

Personal strategies (4)

Remain a loyal, humble servant!

Whistle-blowers are often considered trouble-makers.

Government does a bad job – you complain – you lose your job –
Government goes on.

Alternative approaches: Report – without complaints.

Someone else, at a less vulnerable position, will eventually complain.