

Principles & strategies for studying/enabling city-region sustainability

| Operational Principles | Exemplary Strategies |
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| Place-based; takes into account complexity, multiscalar flows & networks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate multidisciplinary, place-based, and comparative research that explains how local, regional and global forces interact. Highlight urban-rural interdependencies by making hidden resource and energy flows/transfers more apparent. |
| Integrative and multidisciplinary; weaves together ecologies of knowledge, creates synthesis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link new regionalism, new ruralism, new institutionalism and planning theory with sustainability science and advances in information and communications technologies. Create incentives for integrating increasingly diverse types of data, information and knowledge (e.g., physical, biological, socio-technical, expert and non-expert). Federate distributed intelligence (scattered silos of knowledge) into meaningful and useful information resources/tools/applications at the regional scale. |
| Normative; articulates critical standpoints while avoiding fundamentalism; promotes justice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the three E's of sustainable development (equity, environmental stewardship, and economic efficiency) in a whole systems approach aimed at eradicating root causes of poverty, social injustice and environmental degradation. Raise consciousness of normative theory and asymmetrical power relationships (calling into view the sociology of knowledge, justice, ethics and the philosophy of science). |
| Historical and Forward-looking; action-oriented | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articulate historically-informed views of alternative futures (i.e., actionable "Vision") sensitive to issues of class, race, gender & ecology. Pursue a core set of pressing problems/projects that require regional-scale intervention. Establish multi-sector constituencies (including university-community partnerships), networks and cultural bridges necessary to advance agendas for the common good. |
| Collaborative and communicative; embraces values of inclusiveness, transparency and accountability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster relationships and networks driving the shift from "planning for the public" to "planning with the public" (good governance). Devise creative ways (e.g., multimedia narratives) to improve the co-production of knowledge, research translation and communication for the common good. Build sustainable cyberinfrastructure that supports the continual improvement of participatory regional information systems, and planning and decision support systems. |
| Comparative and evidenced-based with metrics for evaluation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage comparative methods in research and education as a way to foster global-mindedness in regional planning theory and practice Support efforts (often led by non-profits and regional planning organizations) aimed creating regional indicators and informatics for measuring progress toward sustainable development. Establish performance-based measures to foster learning and continual improvement in sustainable city-region planning and development. |

Source: Keith Pezzoli (2008) Regional Ecology and Ivory Gardens for the Global Good