

Overcoming contrast/opposite opinions/contradictions between cities and rural areas:

The case of Accessibility

October 19th, 2023

Prof. Vincent Marchau

The urban – rural accessibility paradox

Welvaart groeit in steden veel harder dan op platteland (Rabobank, 2022)

Toenemende sociaal-culturele kloof tussen stedelijke en landelijke gebieden(Volkskrant, 2020)

..... Nuance in debat over 'de kloof' tussen stad en platteland nodig..... (UvA, 2023)

Bereikbaarheid stad en platteland verschillen, maar beleving is hetzelfde (KIM, 2023)

Het gaat helemaal niet zo slecht met de voorzieningen op het platteland, vinden inwoners zelf (RUG, 2023)

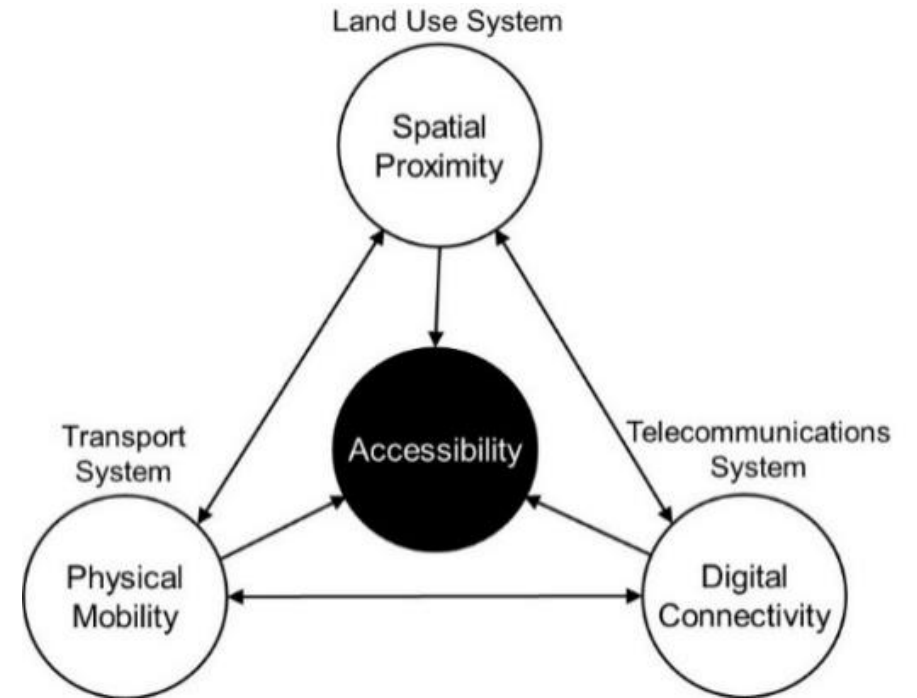
**Accessibility discours varies with perspective:
social, environmental, economical!**

Reconsidering accessibility

- From being able to access to a destination (**transport**)
- To move destinations closer to origins (**proximity**)
- And even provide access to activities (**connectivity**)

Bridging the Urban-Rural Gap: Triple Access Planning

The tripartite consideration of fulfilling society's access needs in pursuance of social, environmental and economic outcomes, in which actions are cognisant of and seek to influence the inter-related mechanisms of physical mobility, spatial proximity and digital connectivity (Lyons, 2016).



A way of thinking

“A **seemingly simple idea**, that goods and services and other activities should be easy to reach, is somehow **difficult to implement in practice**”

“I also worry that the **intense focus on accessibility measures** might be distracting us from **the power of the concept of accessibility itself**”

“Even if we have trouble defining it in a generally comprehensible way, **everyone knows it when they see it and especially when they experience it**”

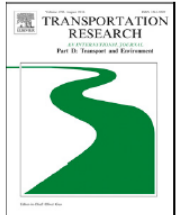
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Is accessibility an idea whose time has finally come?

Susan Handy

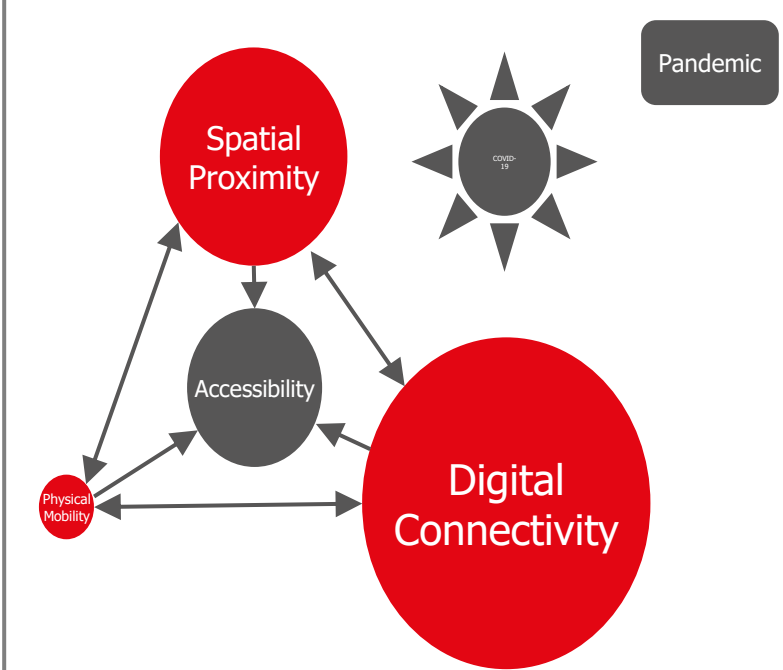
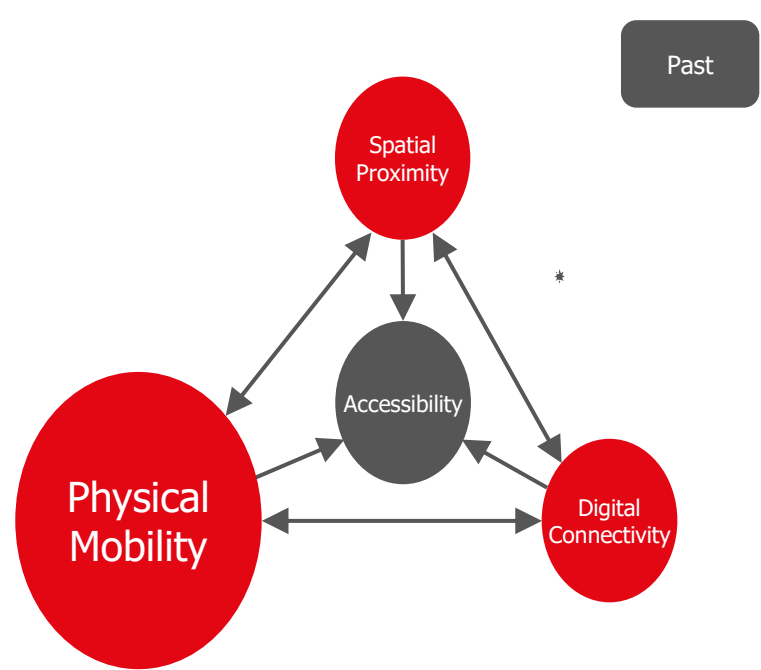
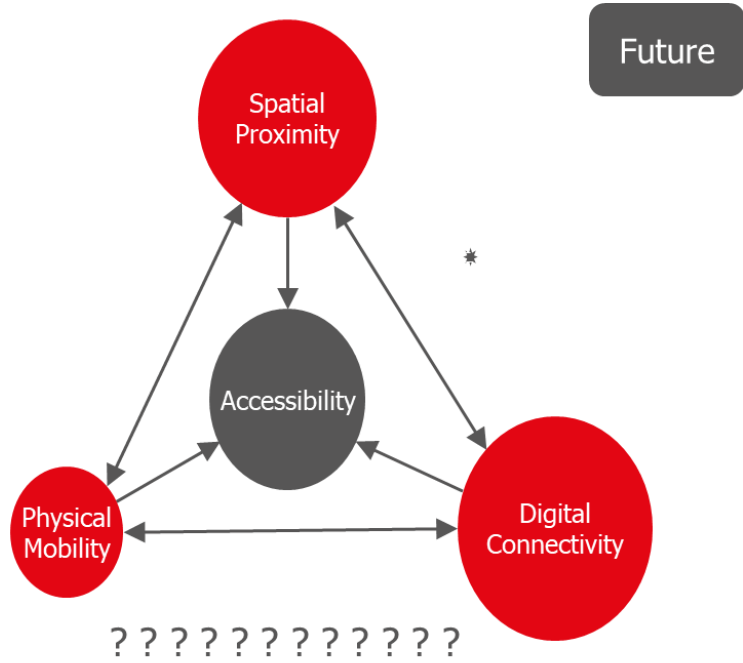
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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trd.2020.102319>

Examples





Why now?

- The strong **imperatives** – sustainability emergency
- The sufficiently **compelling offer** – digital connectivity as the third-leg of the stool
- The **harness** – a way of thinking (coupled with simple measurement)
- The **psyche** – an awareness, rethinking and reapplication of accessibility thrust into many personal and professional lives by social, economic and environmental needs
- The **application** – part of the prepare and adapt planning paradigm



Symposium Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: grand challenges

What is the critical importance of DEI for a sustainable future?

Dr. Friederike Landau-Donnelly

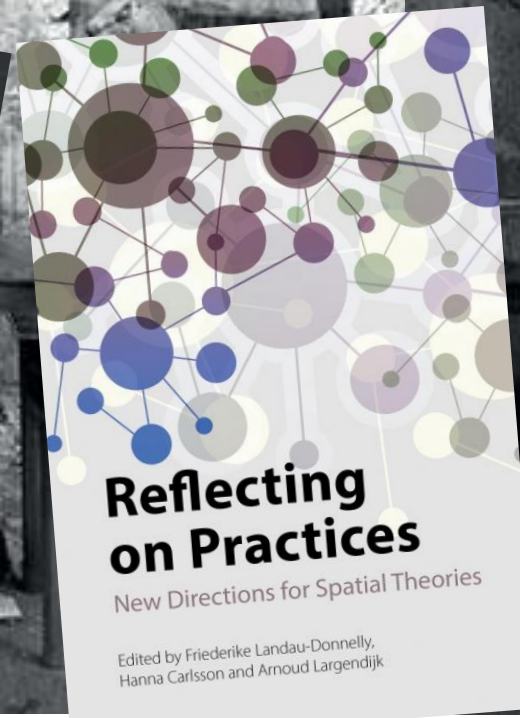
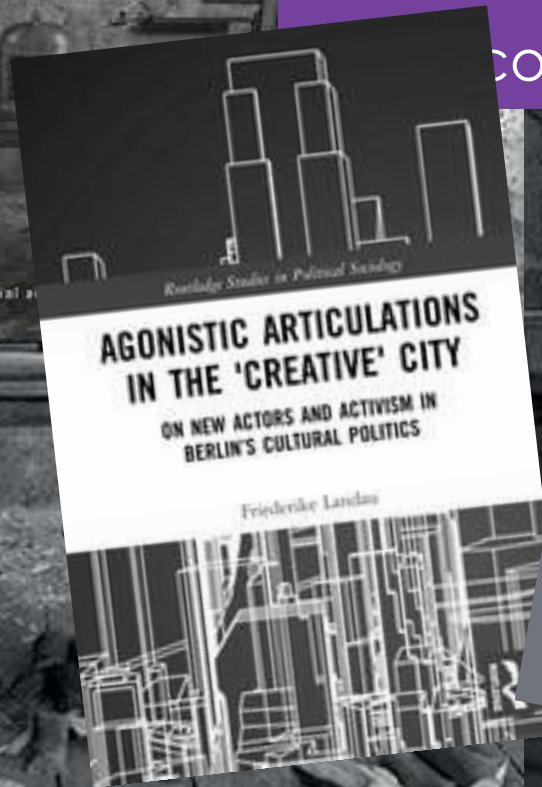
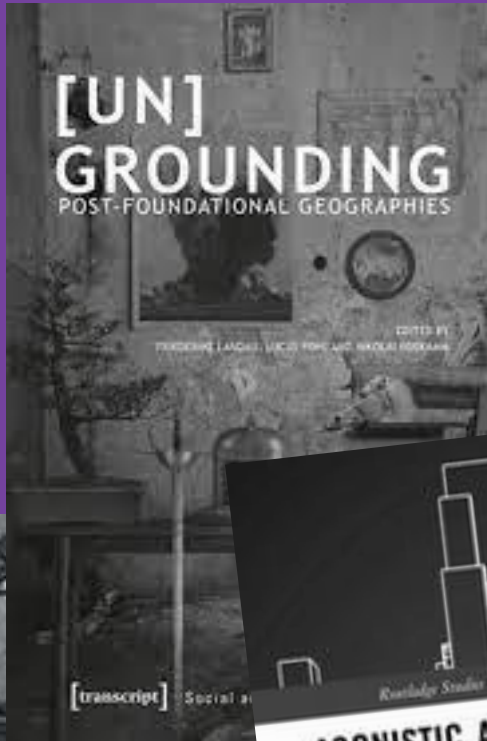
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Research foci

artistic activism
spatial theory
conflict theory
politics ≤ "the political"
contested public space
art in public space
(contested) participation processes



DEI ∞ INTERSECTIONALITY

“the **interconnected nature** of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating **overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage**”

Oxford Dictionary

- **inclusion & intersectionality are not an optional**, ‘special interest’, ‘nice to have’ or luxurious dimension of organizational culture
- ignoring DEI concerns can be problematic & painful

PLANETARY URBANIZATION

“paradoxically, that even spaces that lie well beyond the traditional city cores and suburban peripheries—from transoceanic shipping lanes, transcontinental highway and railway networks, and worldwide communications infrastructures to alpine and coastal tourist enclaves”

Brenner and Schmid 2011

☐ There might be a risk in universalizing frameworks of economic, cultural and social globalization, and leveling differences instead of embracing & celebrating them

URBAN ∞ RURAL ∞ SPECTRUMS

metronormativity:

queer lifestyles are more accepted in urban contexts

Halberstam 2005

- Who feels safe in which (urban-rural) environments?
- Who has access to which forms of sustainability (economic, social, cultural)?
- Who experiences which kind of intersectionality in urban-rural contexts?

OUTLOOK: INTERSECTIONAL DEI ∞ JUST URBAN FUTURES

*Whose futures?
Whose sustainability?
Whose access?*

- DEI as cross-cutting lens that concerns everybody
- Intersectionality affects everybody in different ways
 - Learning to live with difference