

# Scope of Urban Management Revisited

In the inaugural volume of JUM, we argued that the scope of urban management is likely to include understanding and improving cities and management. In particular, for the cities part, it is aimed at understanding how cities work; for the management part, it is focused simultaneously on plans, governance, regulations, and administration as action modes to improve built environment. This definition of the scope of urban management is in line with the Illinois School of thinking about plans (Hopkins, 2014).

The Illinois School of planning thought is distinct from that of others in at least five aspects: plans as the object of research, analytical modeling, intentional shaping of the future through actions, plans as signals, and land use and infrastructure planning practice (Hopkins and Knaap, 2013). In particular, the Illinois School addresses dynamics failures, in addition to market failures. The latter include mostly regulatory and governmental actions to amend failures due to externalities and collective goods, whereas the former deal with urban development processes and multiple stakeholders through plan making. These action modes correspond to regulations, governance, and plans in urban management respectively. In order to manage urban complexity effectively, urban managers must be acquainted with how cities work which has been addressed traditionally by analytical modeling. With the rise of complexity science, urban management seeks to understand urban systems by viewing cities as composed of numerous adaptive agents with associated interacting behavioral rules, without pre-specifying the condition of an equilibrium. In other words, urban management views complex urban systems as ones far from equilibrium, constantly evolving. Finally, distinct from the planning field which emphasizes plans, urban management emphasizes both decisions and plans as well as their relationship. In essence, it seeks useful action modes of plan-based decision making in the face of complexity.

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## REFERENCES

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