

CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE RECHERCHE SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LE DÉVELOPPEMENT









Modeling urban expansion Downscaling urban scenarios under the shared socioeconomic pathways

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Urban forms matter for greenhouse gas emissions...

The Built-up Area of Atlanta and Barcelona Represented at the Same Scale



Lower emissions in Barcelona because of:

1 - Shorter travel distance;

2 – Easier use of public transport:

Barcelona has 99 km of metro line.

To provide the same accessibility to metro in Atlanta, 3400 km would be necessary.

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Urban forms matter for climate-change vulnerability...



Adapting cities leads to specific issues

- Urban forms matter for greenhouse gas emissions
 - Transport, housing, ...
- Urban forms matter for climate-change vulnerability
 - Urban heat island
 - Urbanization in flooding prone areas...
- Urban forms matter for many other policy objectives, e.g., related to social and spatial inequalities, competitiveness...
- Urban forms cannot change rapidly, so we already need to take into account current and future constraints
 - Unprecedented need to anticipate future constraints and objectives and to act with no delay



How does urban shape evolve over time?

Urban shape is the result of 2 forces

- State decisions : Land-use constraints, zoning, urbanism policies...
- Multiple decisions by the inhabitants/the market : Real-estate market and construction
 - It is indirectly influenced by policies, e.g. transport policies
- The second force (the market) can be analyzed through economic models





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Standard urban economics modelling

3 mechanisms :

- 1. Households' tradeoff:
 - Lower transportation costs and shorter commuting time when living close to the city center, and
 - Larger dwellings and lower rent in remote areas
- 2. Local amenities (e.g. a nice view) can locally modulate the rent
- 3. Investors optimize the housing density as a function of rents and construction costs

Key conclusions:

- If there is one major city center, rents will be maximum there, and decrease when moving away
- Same thing for population density





This theory coherent with many cities

Population density



Source: Lemoy and Caruso (2017)



This theory coherent with many cities



Source: Viguié and Lepetit (on going work)



NEDUM-2D model





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Model results: Rents (2008)



Model results: Rents (2008)



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Model results: Population density (2006)

Number of households/km²



Model results: Population density (2006)



Main cities studied using NEDUM model





Example 1: Consequences of new transport infrastructures on housing prices



Example 2: Consequences of transport and land planning on income repartition and slum development

• Share of the households earning less than the median income







THE WORLD BANK



Conclusion

Urban shape plays a key role for environmental issues

- CO2 emissions
- Adaptation to climnate change impacts
- Urban shape evolves slowly : we need to act now to prevent lock-ins

Economic models can inform decision making

- Prospective scenarios about cities expansion/structure modification
- Costs and benefits of urban policies
 - Impacts of transport policies on rents etc.
- Analysis of the city making
 - Role of land prices and finance (speculation)
 - Role of change in households preferences/behaviour
 - Role of changes in global trends (increase in oil prices etc.)

Many open questions

- Spatial repartition of income inequalities
- Commuting choices
- ➢ Etc.

