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Brownbag Series, ETH Zurich, 6th June, 2024

Governing informality in public spaces and its implication for food supply

What is informality?

Introduction

“To paraphrase Friedrich Nietzsche, informality is a term that has history rather than a definition”

Ledeneva, 2018:1

“It can mean **relationships that are not formalised or that take place outside formal contexts**; it can mean **relaxed or casual manners in the absence of protocol**; it can also stand for **natural, or local, ways of getting things done that precede formalisation or resist articulation in dominant discourses**”

Global encyclopedia on informality, 2018

Introduction

Pioneer studies on informality conducted in Ghana (Hart, 1973) and Kenya (ILO, 1972)

Hart used the term **Informal economy** to describe alternate forms of income earning in Ghana's capital, Accra

Despite the initial conception, the study of informality has spread to all **geographic regions, disciplinary boundaries** and from economies to sectors including the **use of space**

(Herrle and Fokdal, 2011)

Different interpretations of informality

Modernist

(Rostow, 1960; Lewis, 1954; Harris and Todaro, 1970; Rauch, 1991)

Legalist

(Hart, 1973; Tokman 1978, 1990, Loayza, 2018)

Neoliberalist

(De Soto, 1989; 2000; World Bank and IMF)

Structuralist

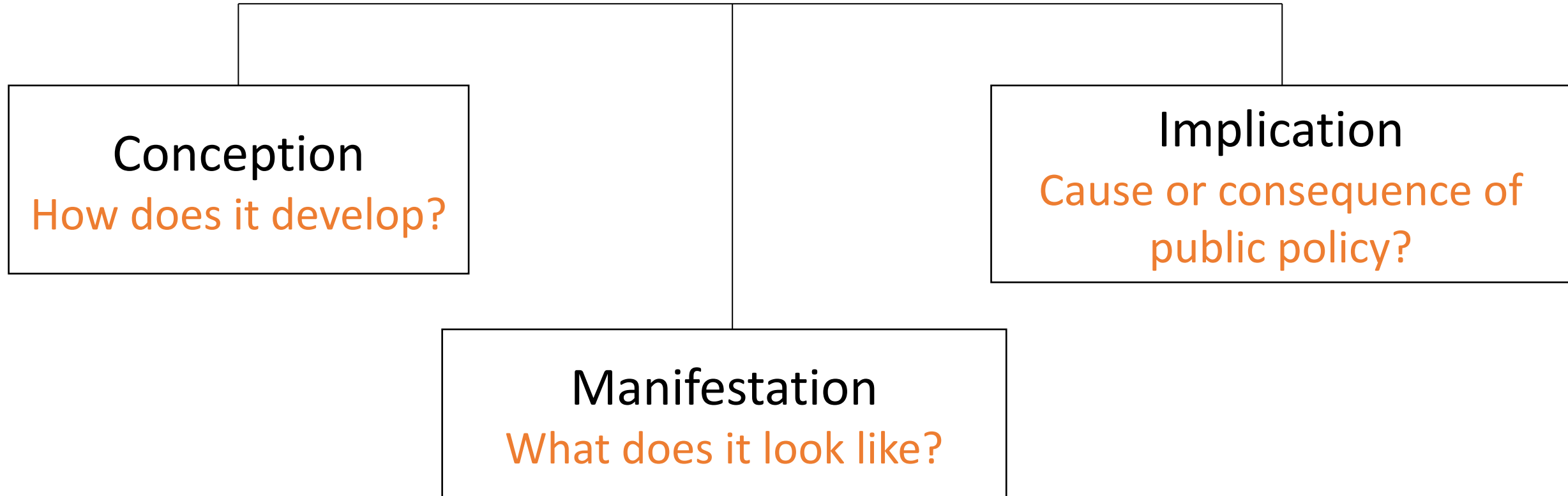
(ILO, 1972; Maloney, 2000; WIEGO)

Critical urbanist

(Watson, 2009; Roy, 2005; Al Sayyad, 2005; Yiftachel, 2011)

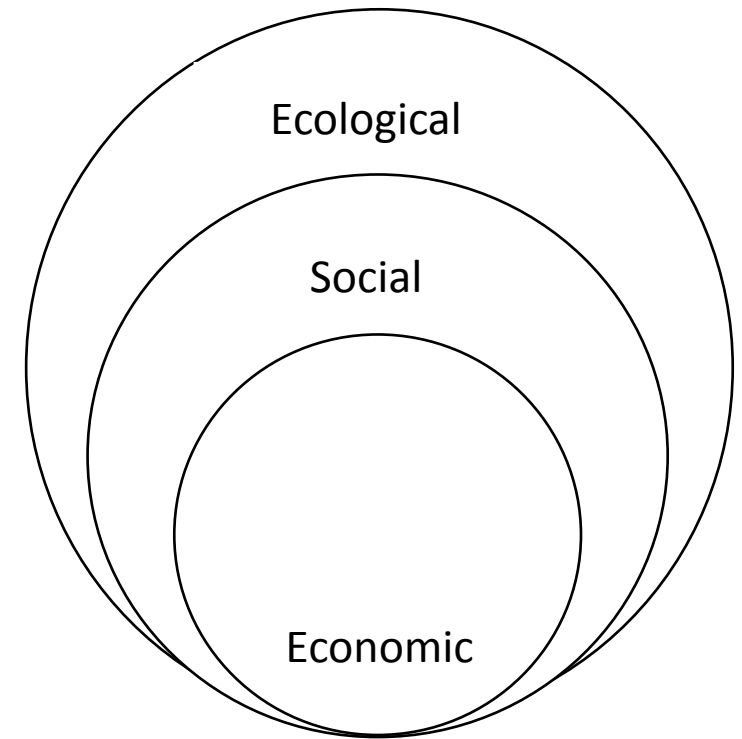
Rakowski, 1994; AlSayyad 2005; Yussuf, 2011

Informality as an organising process



How does political ecology perspective help to understand informality as a phenomena?

- ❖ Capable of capturing the complexities
- ❖ Informality in cities comes with ecological changes that must be addressed for sustainable urban development
- ❖ Spatial planning is used as public policy tool for combating informality



Spatial planning as a political process

Conflicting uses of resources by different actors drive land use change

Spatial planning is intervention medium of public actors

Actors: Making, interpreting and implementing rules on resource use

Interpreting compliance



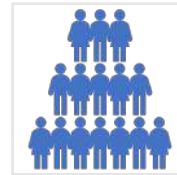
Prepares public policies and dictate institutional framework which results in multiple rules

State government



Implements policies and regulate resources through instruments i.e zoning plans which excludes some users' claims

Local government



Organise to use resource according to public policy dictates (formally) or local arrangements (informally)

Local resource users



Provides and accrues entrepreneurial potential of resource which heightens inequalities

Private Investors

Working definition of Informality

Informality is a relational process of organising access to and use of **resources** through social interaction

- ❖ Public space (Land)

- ❖ Labour

- ❖ Food

- ❖ Housing

- What is a Public space?

Public spaces as all places publicly owned or of public use, accessible and enjoyable by all for free and without a profit motive

(UN Charter on Public Space, 2013)

“A generally open area accessible to and used by the public including resource lands, urban utility space, riparian buffer zones, natural park areas, forests, urban parks, recreational areas, infrastructure right of way, areas of cultural or historical interests”

(Constitution of Ghana, 925:198)

Central Kumasi

(Kejetia/Central Market)



Market Traders in Kumasi ~ 1896



Kejetia/Central Market Redevelopment Project



National Development
Planning (System) Act,
1994 (Act 480)



Long Term National
Development Plan
(2018-2057)



Land Use and Spatial
planning Act, 2016 (Act
925)





Current state of KCMRP and informality

How does the KCMRP facilitate our understanding of informality in public space?

- ❖ How did informality develop in Central Kumasi?
- ❖ How does informality manifest in Central Kumasi?
- ❖ How is informality a cause or consequence of public policy in Central Kumasi?



What does redevelopment as public policy mean for food supply in Central Kumasi?



Additional cost of
maintaining
redeveloped
space increases
cost of food

Relocation from public spaces disrupts food supply chain

The buyers have stopped coming to the market, affecting our service; we no longer get work as frequently as before. We must walk through the market asking people if they need our service. We now must walk even longer than we used to in the old market, and we do not get anything. (FGD, head porter, Central Kumasi, 23.04.05)







Informality in public spaces is a relational process.

The governance of informality must recognise the local arrangements (supply chain) among users of space.



Prevailing spatial planning policies governing public spaces disrupts food supply and hinders urban sustainability goals.



Thank you

Comments, Questions and Funding information

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