**Size and wealth bias in urban climate change mitigation research**

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Abstract

Cities intro

* 21st century emissions will come from urban areas
* Urban centred decisions will shape emissions: infrastructure choices, transportation planning, building design and use 1,2.
* Initiating a rapid urban transformation is not just a matter of technical interventions, but requires social, political change – particularly for demand-side energy reduction 3.

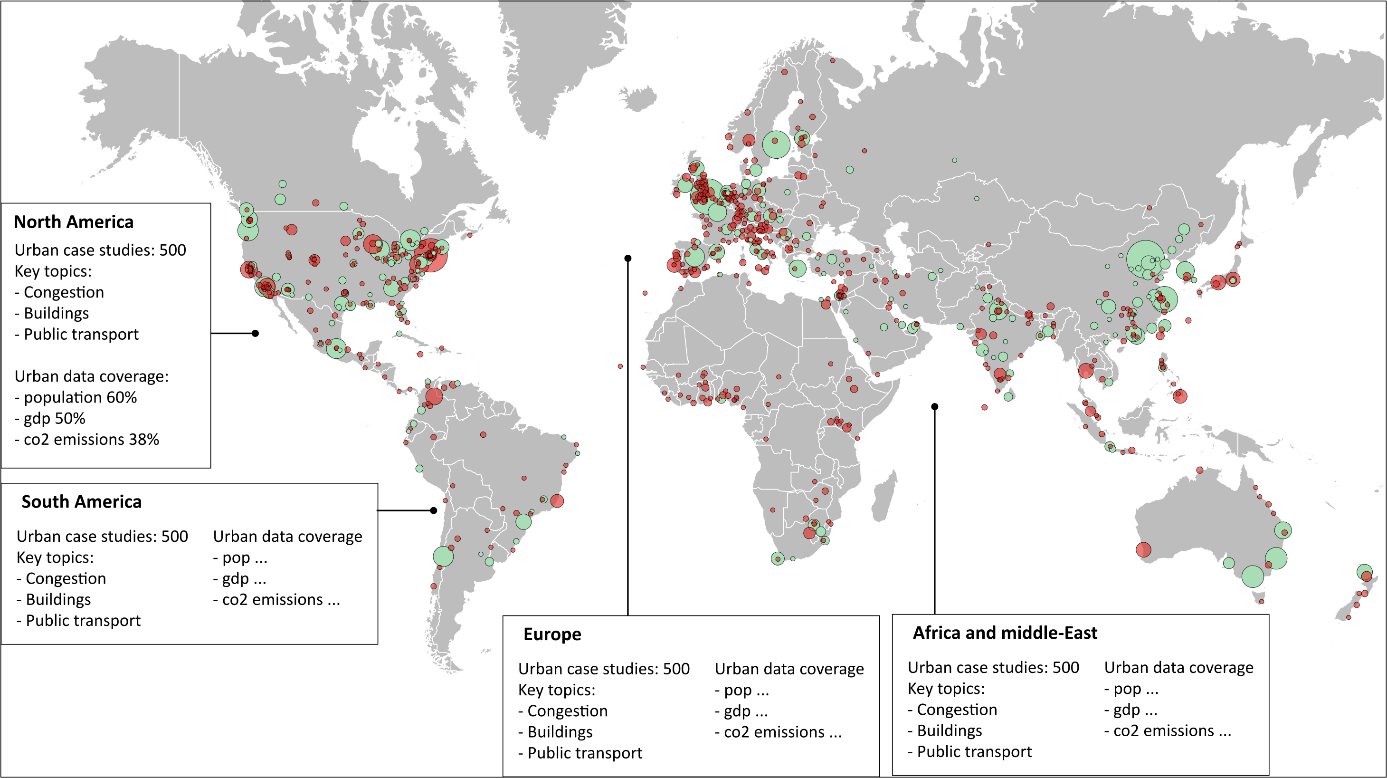
The need for case studies

* Case studies focus empirical analysis on a particular population or area, and are useful for examining causal mechanisms through diverse methodologies (e.g. process tracing, interviews).
* There are lots of case studies on cities.
* These fill an important gap in the literature: they sit between global/international and individual/household studies in terms of scale; they are relatively more concentrated in the social sciences, as the format allows for more qualitative methods.

Problems with reviewing urban case study research

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| **Problem** | **Solution** |
| **Discovery.** Over 3000 papers are published each month in the climate change field alone. Case study research risks being overlooked relative to other sub-genres in the field, as it has no shared epistemic foundation, nor a strong disciplinary background. This is especially the case in assessments (…) | **Structured literature searches.**  **Location name tagging.** |
| Comparability | **Natural language processing.**  **Linking to real data.** |
| Aggregation |  |

“…accounts of wealthier cities are often generalized as claims to universal knowledge about all cities” (Robinson 2011)



Scale matters in comparison. Comparison of whole functional cities makes sense for an analysis of “economic regions, wider city functioning, urban spatial forms, intra-metropolitan governance…” (Robinson 2011). But the whole city scale is less relevant for processes that exceed a city’s extent (metabolic flows), or operate at a smaller scale (individual development projects) (Robinson 2011).