



# Annotating key concepts of integrated spatial planning

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## **Justice and the City**

### **Spatial, Climate, and Mobility Justice**

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## Mainstream/Conventional Definition

Justice is a wide concept pertaining to different perspectives and disciplines. When it comes to spatial matters, climate and mobility/transport, it should be underlined that existing literature does not follow a conventional path; on the contrary, it delves into radical and alternative approaches. These approaches help understand different contexts, needs and priorities. Below, one may find some reflections on spatial, climate and mobility justice.

The notion of spatial justice is considered decisive for a radical change in urban policies and planning. Nonetheless, "*there is no agreed definition of spatial justice*" (Brown et al., 2019). Spatial justice may instead be interpreted as a sort of "*compressed expression*" used to denote issues of social justice connected with space (Moroni & De Franco, 2024).

Transport justice means reorienting transportation policy away from (conventional) system performance metrics (like speed or efficiency) toward meeting individuals' basic mobility needs. It underscores that governments have a duty to ensure that every person can access opportunities through sufficient transport options (Martens, 2017).

Climate justice concentrates on the ethical recognition that industrialised countries bear historical responsibility for the climate crisis, while vulnerable and low-emitting communities bear also its effects. Consequently, this concept calls for distributive justice to redress this imbalance (.). In this context, a key strand of climate justice is the protection of vulnerable groups, ensuring their access to resources, participation in decision-making and representation in climate policies (Martinez Fernandez et al., 2023).

## Contested Meanings / Debates in the Literature

As aforementioned, the concept of justice, materialising into spatial, climate and mobility or transport justice has inherently an alternative/radical framing, as it endeavours to tackle systemic challenges and exclusion phenomena related to built or natural environment. Notable attention to justice and especially, climate justice, has been paid in Global South, where natural resources, access to key facilities and quality of life are at stake. It is compelling that existing studies stemming from different disciplines try to encapsulate integrated approaches for understanding the main challenges and provide tailor made solutions.

Consequently, alternative research initiatives have put the justice issue forth, considering the various dimensions related to cities of today and tomorrow. It is of paramount importance to address systemic challenges that fail to engage people into planning activities, protect the environment and secure a sufficient quality of life for everyone.

## Applications in Practice

- The justice frameworks could be meaningful for acknowledging key actors into planning activities
- Spatial and transport justice should be promoted for evaluating projects (varying from large to local scale) in cities. Strategic plans should make room for justice implications

- Local communities should build upon justice frameworks. Municipalities should update their plans based on metrics closely tied to spatial, climate and transport justice

## Selected References & Key Readings

- Moroni, S., & De Franco, A. (2024). Spatial justice: A fundamental or derivative notion? *City, Culture and Society*, 38, 100593.
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- Martinez Fernandez, T., Carmenza Mejia, M., Arcia, R., & Sanchez-Lara, P. A. (2023). Climate Justice in the Barrios: A Chronically Neglected Topic for the Most Climate-Vulnerable Communities in the U.S. *Journal of the National Hispanic Medical Association*, 1(2), 50–57. <https://doi.org/10.59867/nhma0207>
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## Closely Related Concepts

- Accessibility and the “15-minute city”
- Transport equity and mobility poverty