



Working title:

***What is sustainability about  
in the context of urban  
spatial change?***

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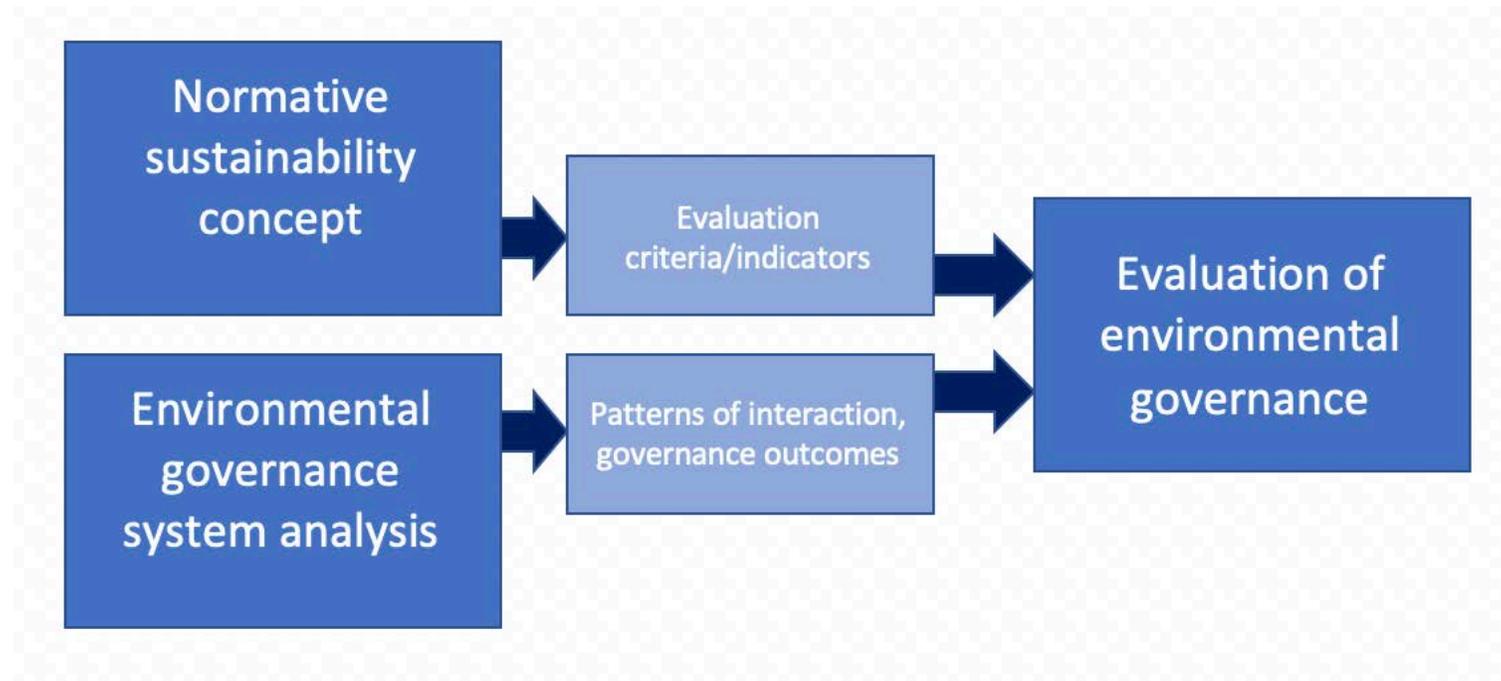
Paper presented at the session: 'Spatial change in urban areas and their surroundings' on 19th June 2019, at the 8th Nordic Geographers Meeting in Trondheim, Norway, 16.-19. June 2019.



# Background

- Thesis title: '*Governing sustainable urban development in small and medium sized urban settlements and their surroundings*'
- Research aim: investigate how local sustainability governance has responded to and influenced urban development in the case studies since the 1990s
- Case areas: Trondheim, Malvik, Horten and Sogndal
  - Background: the NAMIT project (1988-1992) on urban development in accordance with indicators of sustainable development
- Empirical work:
  - Document analysis (plans, policies)
  - Qualitative interviews (politicians, bureaucrats, economic actors, civil society actors)
  - In addition, will have access to
    - The NAMIT material
    - Detailed mapping of land use changes in the case areas having taken place in the last three decades
- Purpose of the paper presented here: gain feedback on the proposed analytical framework I intend to use for my Ph.D. work

# Contents of the analytical framework



# Normative sustainability concept



- Sustainability only achieved by development paths that stay below the thresholds of ecological limits and satisfy human needs and justice
- Non-hierarchy of those sustainability dimensions
- ‘The economy’ as a sub-system serving social needs within ecological boundaries
- Ecological boundaries established in the IPCC SR15 (2018) and the IPBES GAR (2019)

*→ Criteria/indicators for sustainability to be used in evaluation of environmental governance in my case studies*

# Environmental governance system analysis

- Mapping civil society with its actors, values, institutions, actors and interactions
  - Actors
    - Political actors (goals, actions, interactions) – *i.e. Politicians, planners, bureaucrats*
    - Economic actors (preferences, actions) – *i.e. Land-owners, developers*
    - Other actors – *i.e. local population, NGOs, journalists*
  - Institutions and regimes
    - Institutions governing policy processes at the local level – *i.e. interaction rules and practices in planning processes*
    - Resource regimes governing access to resources and interactions between economic actors – *i.e. legislation, plans*
- Noting physical factors and conditions
  - Technologies and infrastructures in place – *i.e. buildings, transport system (+ regimes supporting these)*
  - Attributes of environmental resources and processes – *i.e. land, ecosystems, biodiversity, pollution*
- Analysing patterns of interaction
  - Between actors, institutions, environmental resources and processes, technologies and infrastructures
- Mapping actors' perception of outcomes
  - In terms of resource use – *i.e. land-use change during the last three decades & consequences for ecological factors*
  - State of the resource/process – *i.e. land, ecosystems, biodiversity, pollution*

→ *Patterns of interaction and perceptions of outcomes to be used in evaluation of environmental governance in my case studies*

# Evaluation of environmental governance



- Based on foundational evaluation criterion of legitimacy (three levels)
  - Important since governance structures and policy processes typically produce 'winners' and 'losers'
- Environmental governance involves multiple actors and stakeholders, often with conflicting interests and power inequalities → legitimacy of processes and outcomes thus essential
- Three levels of evaluation:
  1. Legitimacy of decision-making process input
    - Procedural justice
  2. Legitimacy of decision-making process output/results
    - Distributive justice; effectiveness in terms of realising goal
  3. Legitimacy of governance structures' influence on environmental action
    - Rights and responsibilities; transaction costs; perceptions; preferences and types of motivation

SURROUND



**Thank you for your  
attention and input!**

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