

# UEP.

**URBAN ECOLOGICAL PLANNING**

**Idea bank for master thesis topics**

## Fields of research

### 1 / INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

Co-production // Co-creation //  
Participation // Local governance //  
Multi-stakeholder processes

### 2 / URBAN INFORMALITY

Globalization // Spatial fragmentation //  
Power inequalities in governance //  
Inequality // Access to resources //  
Intersectionality lens

### 3 / PLANNING FOR UNCERTAINTY

Resilience and risk //  
Crisis // Climate change //  
Migration // Displacement

### 4 / JUST URBAN TRANSITION

Political and Social ecology //  
Social change // Radical planning //  
Intentional communities //  
Learning from frugal systems //  
Data driven approach

### SOUTH - NORTH LEARNING

## Fields of research

### 5 / INCLUSIVE PLACE-MAKING

Role and value of public space //  
Inclusive and democratic space //  
Area-based planning // Energy landscapes

### 6 / SOCIO-SPATIAL DYNAMICS

Intersectionality // Gender //  
Intergenerational city // Livelihoods //  
Poverty // Migrants

### 7 / INNOVATION FOR LEARNING

Project-driven and Experiential learning //  
Case study based learning //  
Lifelong learning //  
Conceptualising knowledge

### 8 / IMPACT EVALUATION

Urban Evaluations // Monitoring //  
Medium- and long-term change //  
Intended and Unintended Effects //  
Learning from Evaluations

### SOUTH - SOUTH LEARNING

## Citizen Participation in Planning

Possible thesis topic	Relevant study backgrounds
<p><b>Citizen-led participatory initiatives in planning</b></p> <p>What are citizen-led participatory initiatives in planning practice? Which channels do they use to get their needs met? How do citizen-led initiatives impact formal planning?</p>	<p>Urban Planning</p> <p>Urban Design</p> <p>Sociology</p> <p>Anthropology</p>
<p><b>Participation: meanings, approaches, and expectations</b></p> <p>How do different stakeholders understand and approach participation? What are their expectations when engaging in participatory processes and practices? How do the different expectations, meanings and approaches affect the outcomes of participatory processes/ practices?</p>	<p>Urban Planning</p> <p>Urban Design</p> <p>Sociology</p> <p>Anthropology</p>
<p><b>Political economy of participation</b></p> <p>Should participation be a tool to reach a development goal, or should it be an end in itself, aiming at a mature civil society and democratic values? How is it used in particular by the private sector? Is participation increasingly used as a social- and green-washing tool?</p>	<p>Urban Planning</p> <p>Urban Design</p> <p>Sociology</p> <p>Political science</p>

# Citizen Participation in Planning

Possible thesis topic	Relevant study backgrounds
<p><b>Residents' participation in rental housing</b></p> <p>How can participation processes aiming at development of private and municipal rental housing and urban spaces contribute to well-being and a better living environment? How to conduct participation processes that include residents of different ethnicity?</p>	<p>Urban Planning</p> <p>Urban Design</p> <p>Sociology</p> <p>Anthropology</p>
<p><b>Urban Planning debates in times of COVID-19</b></p> <p>What do the many debates in popular media and science have in common? Do they follow any main themes?</p>	<p>Urban Planning</p> <p>Sociology</p> <p>Anthropology</p>
<p><b>Civil society movements and alternative participatory planning practices</b></p> <p>How can civil society organizations facilitate inclusive and pro-poor urban interventions at scale in cities? What are the alternative participatory planning practices and mechanisms?</p>	<p>Urban Planning</p> <p>Geography</p> <p>Sociology</p> <p>Anthropology</p> <p>Governance-related fields</p>

## Just Transition

Possible thesis topic	Relevant study backgrounds
<p><b>Climate action plan 4.0 for Trondheim</b></p> <p>What kind of innovations on governance need to be done for the planning of new climate action plan for Trondheim?</p>	<p>Urban Planning</p> <p>Sustainability</p> <p>Governance</p>
<p><b>Data-driven co-creation</b></p> <p>How can digital twins cities project in Ålesund help citizens to be more active to participate the decision-making process for building a sustainable urban future?</p>	<p>Urban Planning</p> <p>Sociology</p> <p>Governance</p> <p>Technology (engineering)</p>
<p><b>Infrastructure, smart cities and speculative urbanism</b></p> <p>Given that the reach of networked infrastructure for most cities in the global South is limited, and that majority citizens continue to live and work in slums, why is the concept of 'city within a city' gaining prominence in Africa?</p>	<p>Urban Studies</p> <p>Environmental Engineering</p> <p>Geography</p> <p>Anthropology</p>
<p><b>Student-driven activities for climate neutral city</b></p> <p>What are the impacts of students activities such as Students Think/do Tank and STEAM team on making the city climate neutral by 2030?</p>	<p>Urban Planning</p> <p>Sustainability</p> <p>Governance</p>

# Just Transition

## Possible thesis topic

## Relevant study backgrounds

### **Urban Resilience in Times of Overlapping Crises**

What is the impact of intersectional social characteristics (such as gender, age, ethnicity, race, property ownership, sexuality, occupation, and tenant status) of citizens on informal settlement upgrading processes and outcomes? How relevant is the concept of intersectionality in design and implementation of settlement upgrading programmes and projects?

Urban Planning

### **Urban Rivers**

Social sustainability and environmental sustainability are closely intertwined, and hence, the success in urban transformation depends on social resilience for which urban public space plays a crucial role in promoting both collective and individual resilience. Rivers have had a very long history combining cultural, religious, environmental, social, and economic dimensions. How can urban rivers become central elements of sustainable urban transformation?

Urban Planning

## Socio-Spatial Dynamics

Possible thesis topic	Relevant study backgrounds
<p><b>Intersectionality as a conceptual lens for gender mainstreaming in planning</b></p> <p>How does intersectionality relate to other critical concepts such as feminist urbanism, ecofeminism etc.?</p> <p>Post-colonial and decolonial approaches to gender mainstreaming.</p> <p>Gaps in theory and practice while implementing intersectional gender mainstreaming measures.</p> <p>Critical evaluation of examples of 'progressive' plans and policies.</p>	<p>Gender studies</p> <p>Anthropology</p> <p>Geography</p> <p>Post-colonial studies</p> <p>Sociology</p> <p>Urban Planning</p> <p>Governance-related fields</p>
<p><b>Marginal spaces</b></p> <p>Are there marginalized and left behind in Norway/ Trondheim? Who are they? How do they live? What are their needs? What are their spaces?</p>	<p>Gender studies</p> <p>Post-colonial studies</p>



# Spatial Justice

Possible thesis topic	Relevant study backgrounds
<p><b>Fragmentation as a conceptual lens for understanding the socio-spatial, economic, and political trajectories of peri-urban areas</b></p> <p>Impacts on spatial trajectories of urban villages (In India and China).</p> <p>Shifts in livelihood and economic strategies of (marginalized) communities as a result of rapid urbanization.</p> <p>Changes in household patterns, living conditions, intra-state migration.</p>	<p>Urban Planning</p> <p>Urban Design</p> <p>Anthropology</p> <p>Sociology</p> <p>Geography</p> <p>Development studies</p> <p>Post-colonial studies</p> <p>Gender studies</p>
<p><b>Decoding privatized urban spaces</b></p> <p>What are the (social) implications of years of deregulation and economic liberalization on cities in Norway?</p>	<p>Urban Planning</p> <p>Economics</p> <p>Urban studies</p>

## Contingency Planning

Possible thesis topic	Relevant study backgrounds
<p><b>Dealing with uncertainty, risk, shocks, and stresses</b></p> <p>In the context of environmental crisis (floods, droughts, sea-level rise in developmental contexts)</p> <p>In the context of financial crisis.</p> <p>Uncertainty due to armed conflict, migration of refugees, forced and protracted displacement and other humanitarian crisis.</p> <p>(Adaptive) governance and decision-making under uncertainty during crisis, pandemics etc.</p> <p>Understanding planning approaches for dealing with uncertainty (contingency planning, strategic planning, risk-based planning, adaptation planning etc.).</p> <p>Risk assessment, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation.</p> <p>Case studies which use conceptual\theoretical\ analytical frameworks of uncertainty, risk, resilience, contingency.</p> <p>Understanding spatial configurations for dealing with uncertainty. For example: blue-green infrastructure, (multi-scalar) nature-based solutions, impacts on coastal and small-island communities.</p>	<p>Sustainability</p> <p>Landscape</p> <p>Geography</p> <p>Environmental Engineering</p> <p>Urban Planning</p> <p>Economics</p> <p>Risk Management</p> <p>Governance</p> <p>Sociology</p> <p>Gender studies</p> <p>Post-colonial studies</p> <p>Disaster Studies</p> <p>Architecture</p> <p>Urban Design</p> <p>Civil Engineering</p>

# Urban Governance

## Possible thesis topic

## Relevant study backgrounds

### Urban Governance

Are there marginal groups in Norway? What governance structures and systems enable or prevent these groups from actively participating in decision making processes in Norwegian cities and/or communities? How inclusive are the participatory processes?

Urban Planning

### Urban Informality

What is the impact of intersectional social characteristics (such as gender, age, ethnicity, race, property ownership, sexuality, occupation, and tenant status) of citizens on informal settlement upgrading processes and outcomes? How relevant is the concept of intersectionality in design and implementation of settlement upgrading programmes and projects?

Gender studies

Anthropology

Sociology Geography

Post-colonial studies

Development studies

### Open City, Urban Solutions for Refugees and the Displaced

What does a good city/good neighborhood need to facilitate integration/to reflect an increasingly diverse society, including refugees and migrants of various types? What are successful examples? What can researchers communicate to politician and practitioners on what to do?

Urban Planning

