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# Pathways to Sustainable Welfare – Inertia, Emergence and Transformation in Swedish Cities

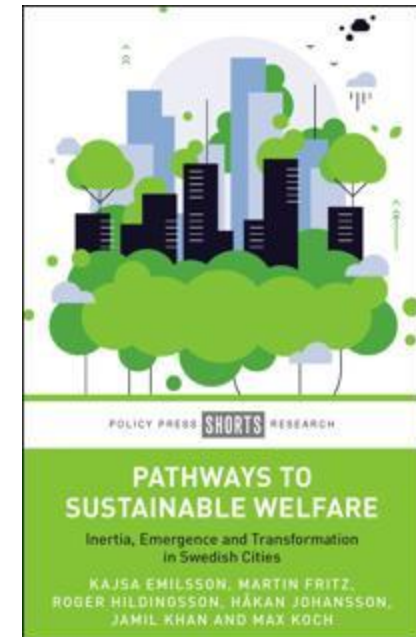
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# Lund studies in sustainable welfare

- Research team covering issues linked research on
  - political economy and welfare state change
  - public attitudes on sustainable welfare
  - civil society mobilisation on sustainable welfare
  - elites and climate change transformations
  - .. and other stuff...
- New book out with Policy Press based on a project on urban models of sustainable welfare.
- Open access via Policy Press (and the chatt).



# Why urban models and transformations?



- Extensive research on sustainable welfare at national and international levels – less on local and urban levels.
- Cities as labs, experiments or sites for transformation and development.
- Comparing Swedish cities (Stockholm, Gothenburg, Malmö – and Lund) and how transformation towards urban sustainable welfare models takes place and can be explained.
- Empirical studies of urban models across three sites
  - *Local government* (i.e. cooperation and integration across administrative spheres and policy domains)
  - *Civil society mobilization* (i.e. cooperation and integration across mobilization causes and organizational aims)
  - *Public opinion* (attitude integration across welfare and environmental attitudes)





# Theories of stability and change

- Welfare state theory: looking backwards to explain future directions
- Sustainability sciences: looking forward to capturing transformations, risk of losing sight of the past
- Our framework to capture stability and change
  - **Inertia:** stability as dominant pattern, due to path dependence and actors vested interests
  - **Emergence:** change as incremental, gradual and with emergent qualities
  - **Transformation:** non-linear change, ruptures and discontinuities, as needed.



# Local government and eco-social integration

- Object and design
  - How do city governments and administrations integrate ecological and social concerns? Extent and forms of eco-social integration.
- Findings
  - Inertia as the main pattern: silo organising, specialisation, lack of time and resources.
  - Emergence in urban development projects and specific policy areas.
  - Emergence in local environmental issues, health, and synergies (not on global issues, welfare and equity, and goal conflicts).
  - Lund, a case of more ambitious eco-social integration.

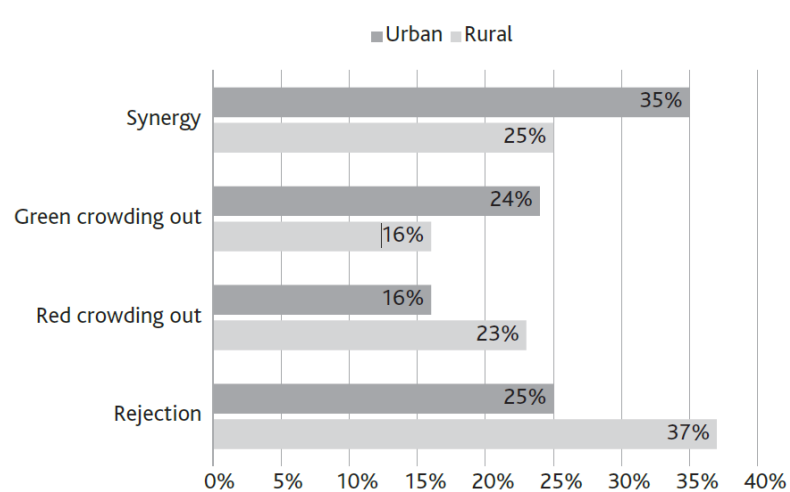


# Civil society mobilization across welfare and environmental domains

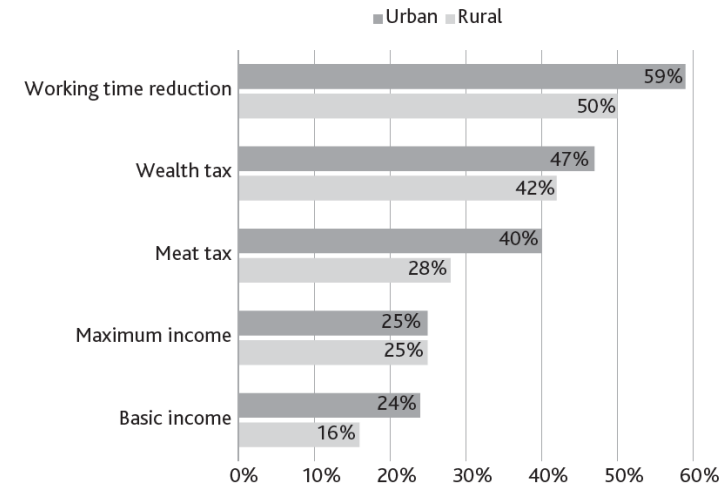
- Focus: Collaboration and integration across movements and organizational causes and concerns
  - Silo structures due to modern welfare state developments.
  - Particularistic logic of mobilization and organizing
    - actors protect their domains and issues.
  - Sustainability *and* justice as new master frames across domains
  - Path emergence from the bottom-up: movement participation across domains and organizational divides.



# Sustainable welfare opinion across urban and rural divides

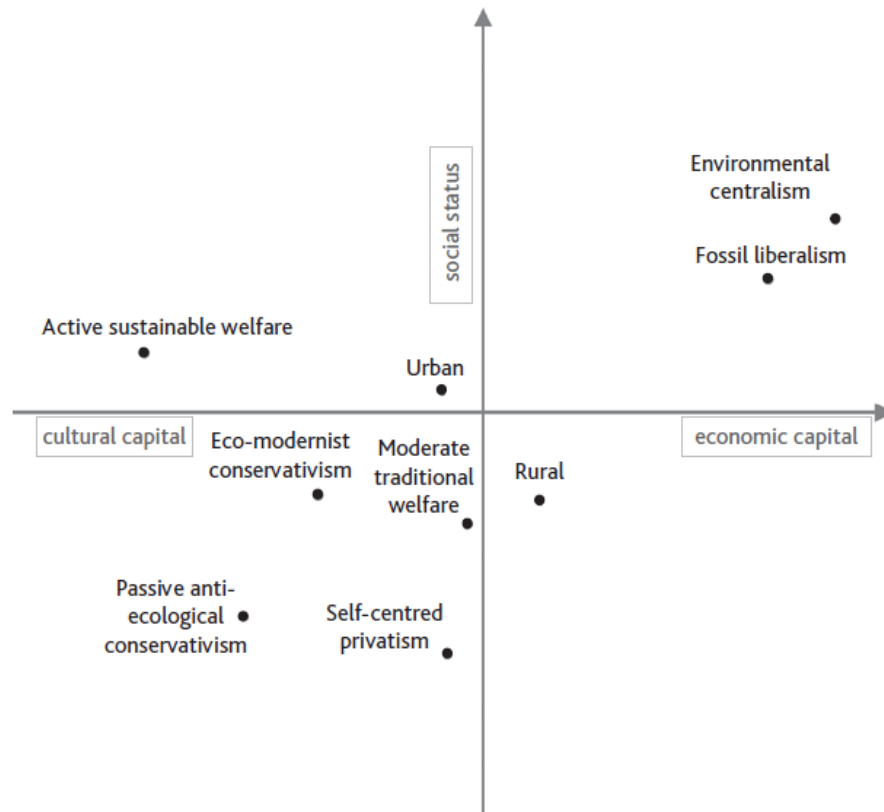


Support for an eco-social agenda



Support for eco-social policies

# Habitus and pathways to sustainable welfare



- **inertia:** passive anti- ecological conservatism, self- centred privatism, fossil liberalism
- **emergence:** environmental centralism, eco- modernist conservatism, moderate traditional welfare
- **transformation:** active sustainable welfare





# Conclusions

- Inertia the dominant pattern, albeit with glimpses of emergence
- Paths and counter-paths – a Polanyian approach to transformations
- Cities as catalysts for exploring and developing new ideas and practices

Table 6.1: Drivers of stability or change at the urban level

	Stability (inertia)	Change (emergence and transformation)
Local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy processes and instruments follow silo logics</li> <li>• Politics matters (national versus local political factors)</li> <li>• Absence of terms for policy integration</li> <li>• Domain protection on expertise and discourses</li> <li>• Inability to use local capacity and red-green local majorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDG goals and discourses</li> <li>• Urban vision</li> <li>• Specialised practices in local projects and urban experimentation</li> <li>• Embedded path advocates and entrepreneurs inside government administrations</li> <li>• Size of administrations</li> </ul>
Civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rewards (policy influence) from acting within silos</li> <li>• Frame distinctions justify organisation as unique</li> <li>• Established CSOs as path guardians</li> <li>• Organisational closure: resources lock-in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate justice discourse</li> <li>• Justice frame of climate change</li> <li>• Urban size (more manageable in smaller cities)</li> </ul>
Public attitudes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socioeconomic factors matter</li> <li>• Reluctance to change, low interest in societal issues, privatism</li> <li>• Low trust (in institutions), low membership in CSOs (feedback effect)</li> <li>• Retreat from society,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Value-based factors</li> <li>• Urban-rural divide</li> </ul>



# Author details

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