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Spatial Planning to Build Holistic Integrity/Synergy for Development: Experiences from China



Prof. Hongyang WANG

School of Architecture & Urban Planning, Nanjing University, China | hongyang@nju.edu.cn

- 1. Deteriorating Development Context, Impotency of Normal Spatial Planning (SP)**
- 2. Dissipative Totality vs. (Optimal) Holistic Integrity/Synergy: True Rationale underlying Good/Bad Development**
- 3. Paradigm Shift from Atomism to Non-mechanical, Relational, Synchronical Logic & Holistic Structural Holism Perspective of SP, and Evidences from China**
- 4. Innovative SP for Optimistic Development of Global South in a Tougher Time**

1. Deteriorating Development Context, Impotency of Normal SP

1.1 2023 & near future, threatening developing world in particular

- Global shrinking;
- Deteriorating competition;
- More and more knowledge, high-tech & capital intensive economy;
- Trade protectionism rather than opening;
- Confrontative/divided world, China-USA competition;
- Antagonistic/fighting world, Russia-Ukraine war & many others;
- Impact and aftermath of covid-19: public health instability, re-adjustment of financial & monetary system following global inflation and easy monetary policy, re-adjustment of supply-demand chains;
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Can SP solve these threats?



1. Deteriorating Development Context, Impotency of Normal SP

1.2 SP seems hardly potent in meeting macro development challenges, with **very few exceptions** ...

- **Relevant records of SP in global south** ... though quite some exceptions particularly in Asia Pacific including China (though results still controversial), and of course, global north;
- **40 years of Habitat Movement:** achievement not meeting expectation

1. Deteriorating Development Context, Impotency of Normal SP

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 - **40 years of Habitat Movement:** achievement not meeting expectation
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- Is general development NOT vocation of SP? NO. **General development** is both the **eventual objective** and the **supportive conditions** for SP.
- 
- **How should SP be like** from the experiences of countries where SP seemed to have successfully re-shaped development? **Is SP really the decisive factor** for development? → **True rationale underlying good/bad development!**

2. Dissipative Totality vs. (Optimal) Holistic Integrity/Synergy: True Rationale underlying Good/Bad Development

2.1 Common sense cognition of critical factors for development

- Capital/investment?
- Resources?
- Infrastructure?
- Technology/high-tech/technical human capital?
- Administrative system?
-

2. Dissipative Totality vs. (Optimal) Holistic Integrity/Synergy: True Rationale underlying Good/Bad Development

2.2 Right answer to critical factors for development

- ① Ideal development is NOT determined by any one factor. It is by the TOTALITY of all factors, by all relevant factors to be in cooperative integrity/synergy.
- ② Nor is the ideal development itself goodness of any one or a few aspects. It is the development aspects IN TOTAL that are in an integrated/synergetic shape.

In all, **development is the improvement of the totality of development.**

- ③ But in the totality of development, the ultimate connotation, origin and result is PEOPLE'S LABOR, TOTALITY OF PEOPLE'S LABOR... After all, **development is the transformation of people's laboring from dissipative towards integrative/synergetic totality.**

2. **Dissipative Totality** vs. **(Optimal) Holistic Integrity/Synergy**: **True Rationale underlying Good/Bad Development**

This explains the *status quo* of SP, but still facing **frustration** in promoting development...

① “Partial SP” can hardly promote development.

More and more, planning tends to become “everything”, but enormous efforts hardly receive symmetrical rewards because——

② IMPOSSIBLE totality

③ CONTRADICTORY rather than integrative/synergetic totality

④ Even the “totality>parts” consensus is so hard to build

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What problems else haven't been solved?

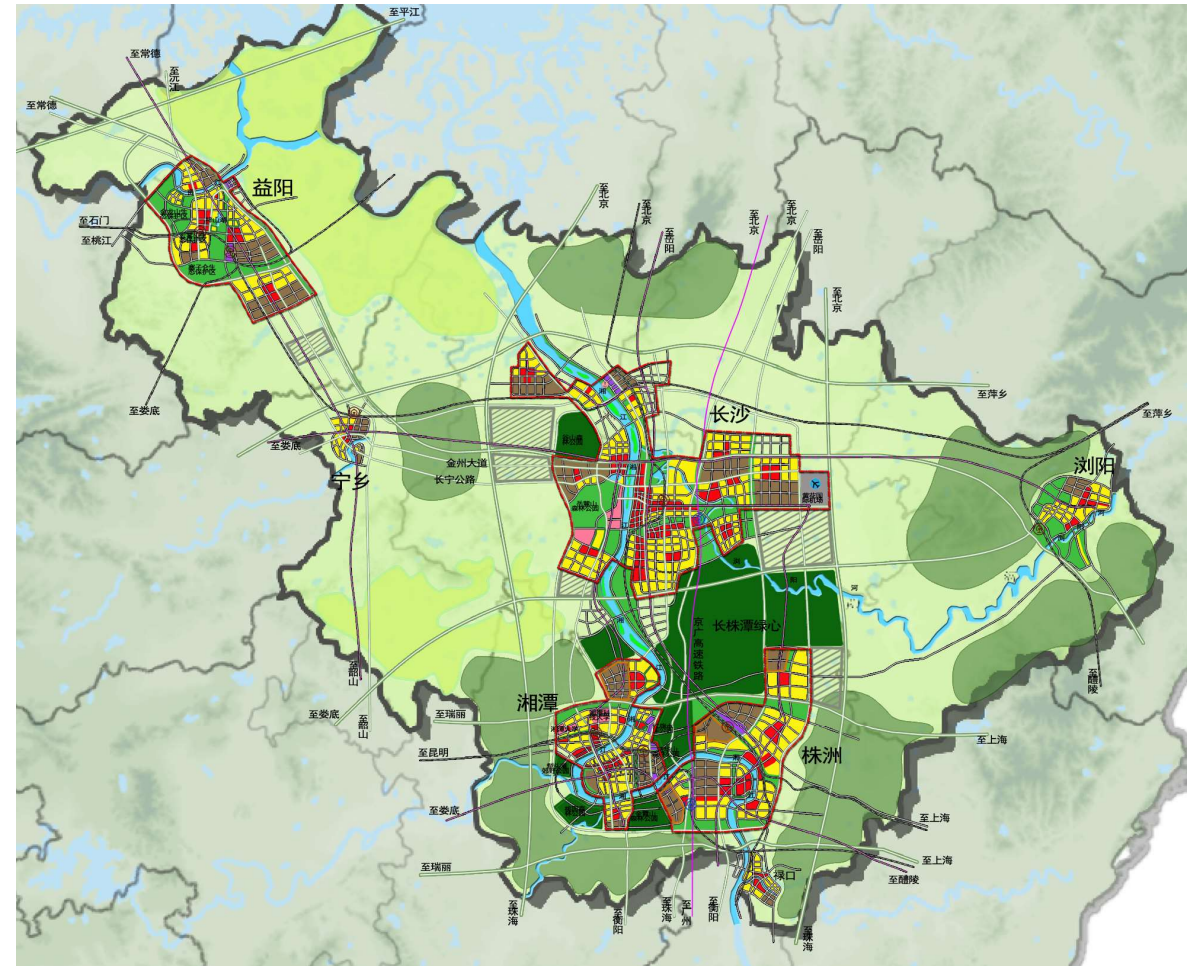
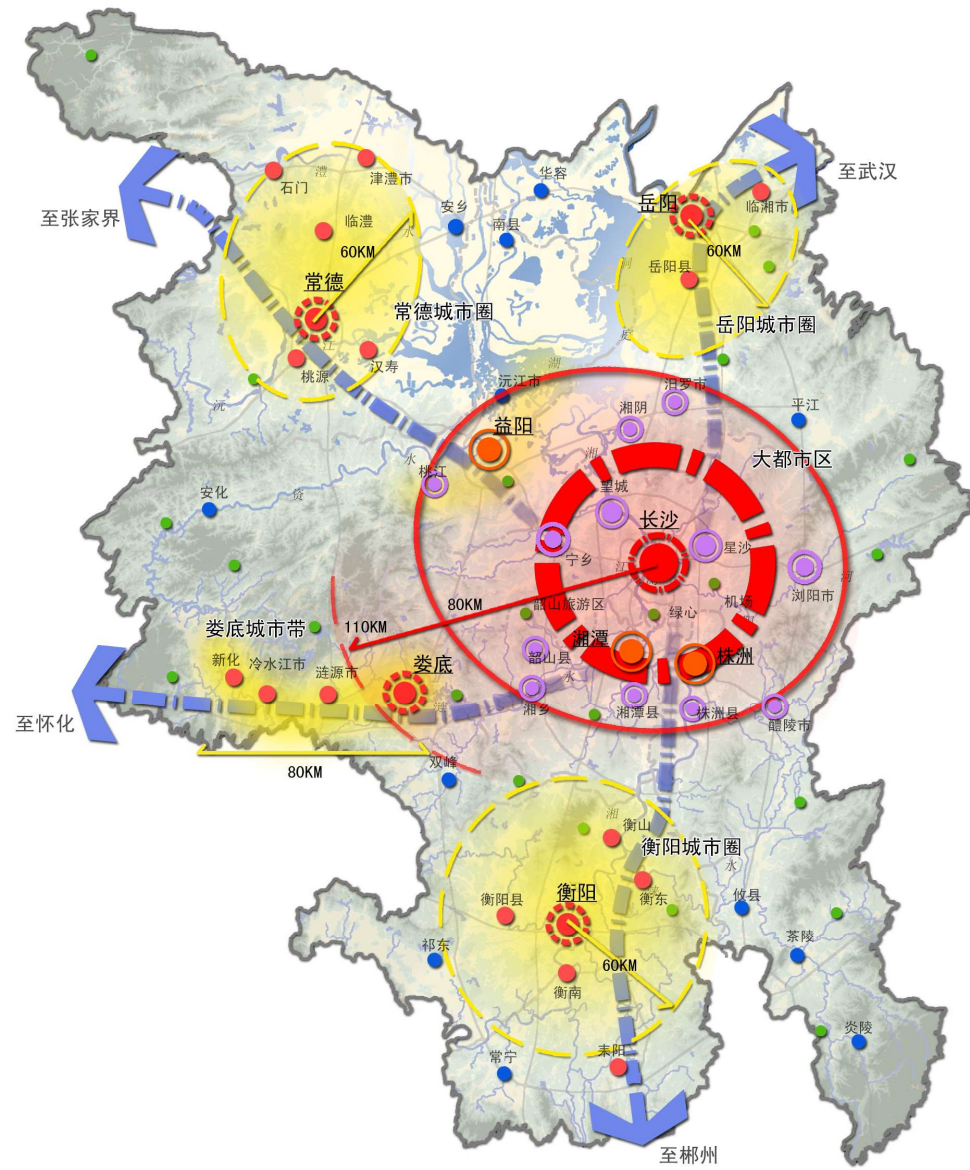
3. Paradigm Shift from Atomism to Non-mechanical, Relational, Synchronical Logic & Holistic Structural Holism Perspective of SP, and Evidences from China

	Atomism		Holism		New SP methodology
Goals of thinking and practice	Primarily points (elements/parts/atoms), $\text{totality} = \sum \text{parts}$	→	Totality & holistic	→	Planning survey, analysis and goal being totality & holistic
Thing, attributes of thing/parts/totality	unconditioned/fixed/objective	→	relational/contextual	→	accepting changes, dynamic, reform (relational objective, relative absoluteness)
Knowledge	unconditioned/fixed/objective	→	conjecture in new relations/totalities	→	Confirmed after relational/holistic verification
Linear vs. Synchronical logic	Atom-based linear logic , e.g. parts→whole; analysing→synthesizing,	→	Synchronical logic	→	modeling, evaluating and comparing all possible holistic scenarios
Independent point thinking vs. Holistic structural thinking	Independent point thinking	→	Understanding part-part & part-whole effects + holistic structure, proto-holistic structure	→	Holistic, optimal holistic and limited partial intervention practicable

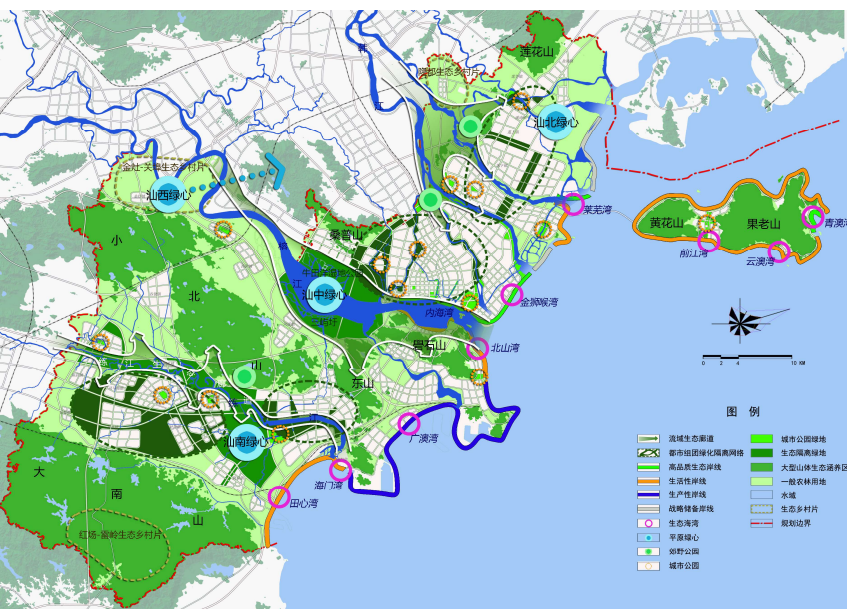
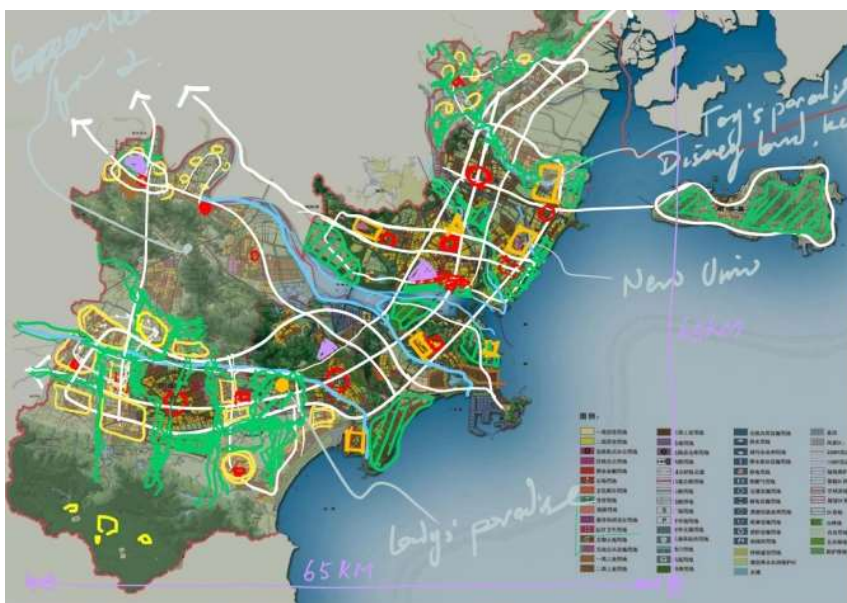
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	Atomism		Holism		New SP methodology		SP in China
Goals of thinking and practice	Primarily points (elements/parts/atoms), totality= Σ parts	→	Totality & holistic	→	Planning survey, analysis & goal being totality & holistic		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus on building holistic integrity/synergy. Dissipation no good. Building/strengthening such consensus 1st function of SP. But what is holistic synergy is a difficult q, e.g. integrating collective order & individual subjectivity.
Thing, attributes of thing/parts/totality	unconditioned/fixed/objective	→	relational/contextual,	→	accepting changes, dynamic, reform		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holistic recognition, building, verification & comparison. Development-holistic concept as the goal, expansion of SP category & type: space, productivity, culture, ecology, governance, quantity, structure...
Knowledge	unconditioned/fixed/objective	→	conjecture in new relations /totalities	→	Confirmed after relational/holistic verification	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parts & holistic dynamic, changeable following context. Conservatism, radicalness, manufacture, service, expansion, stock, big structural planning, micro-structural design/renewal, city, region (megapolis), rural
Linear vs. Synchronical logic	Atom-based linear logic , e.g. parts →whole; analysing →synthesizing,	→	Synchronical logic	→	modeling, evaluating and comparing all possible holistic scenarios	→	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimal holistic. Most difficult. Often seemingly no answer. Holism thinking and proto-holistic structure • Strategic partial intervention. •
Independent point thinking vs. Holistic structural thinking	Independent point thinking	→	part-part & part-whole effects + holistic struc, proto-holistic structure	→	Holistic, optimal holistic and limited partial intervention practicable		

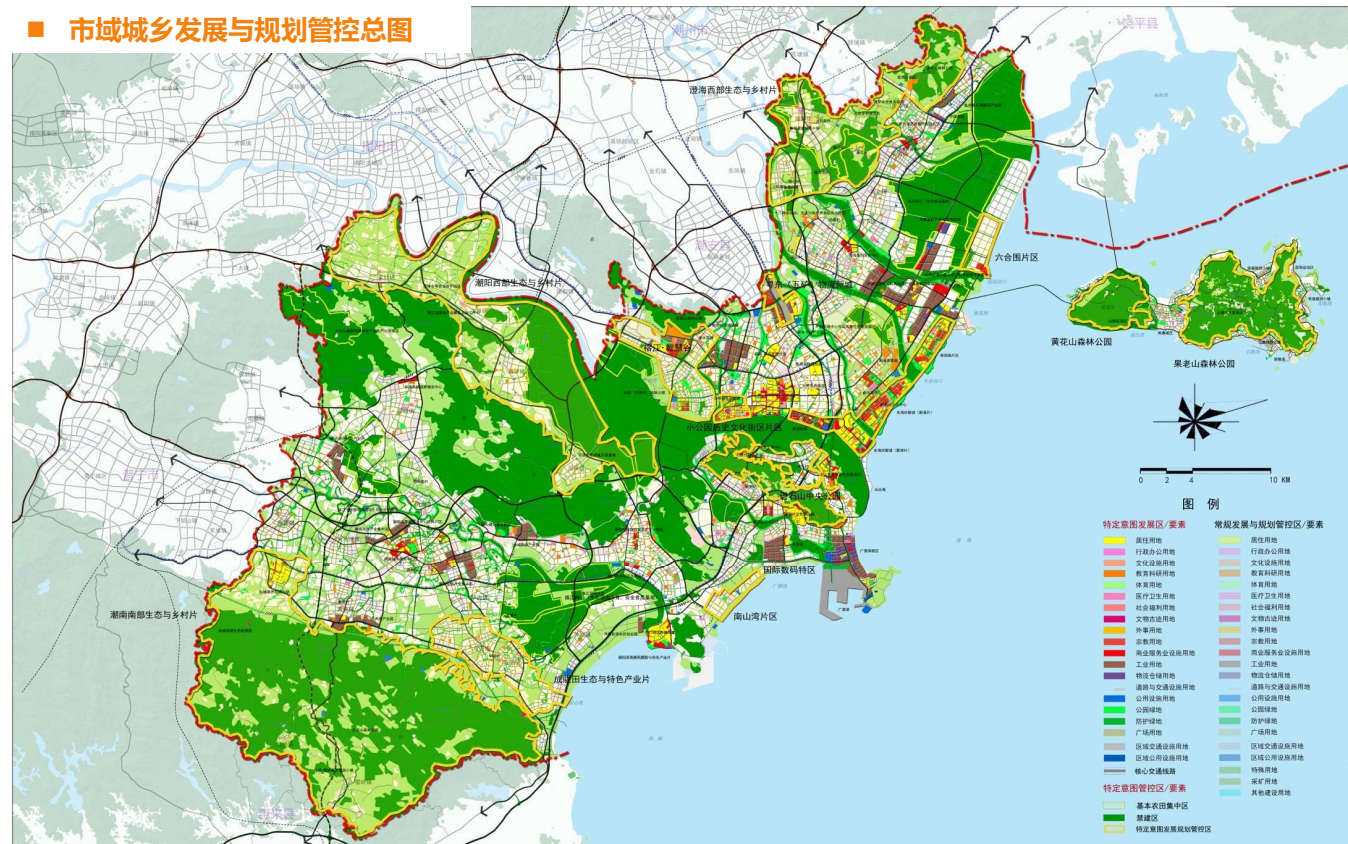
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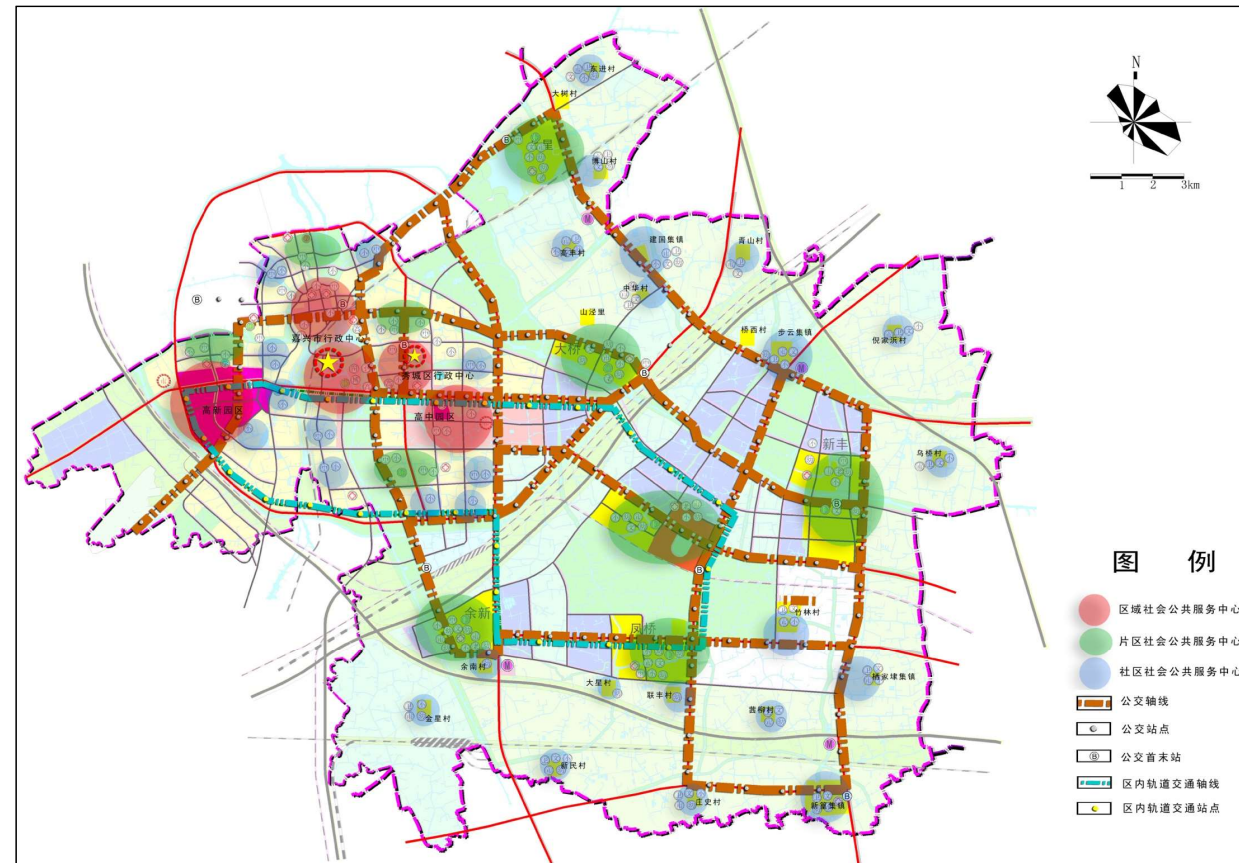
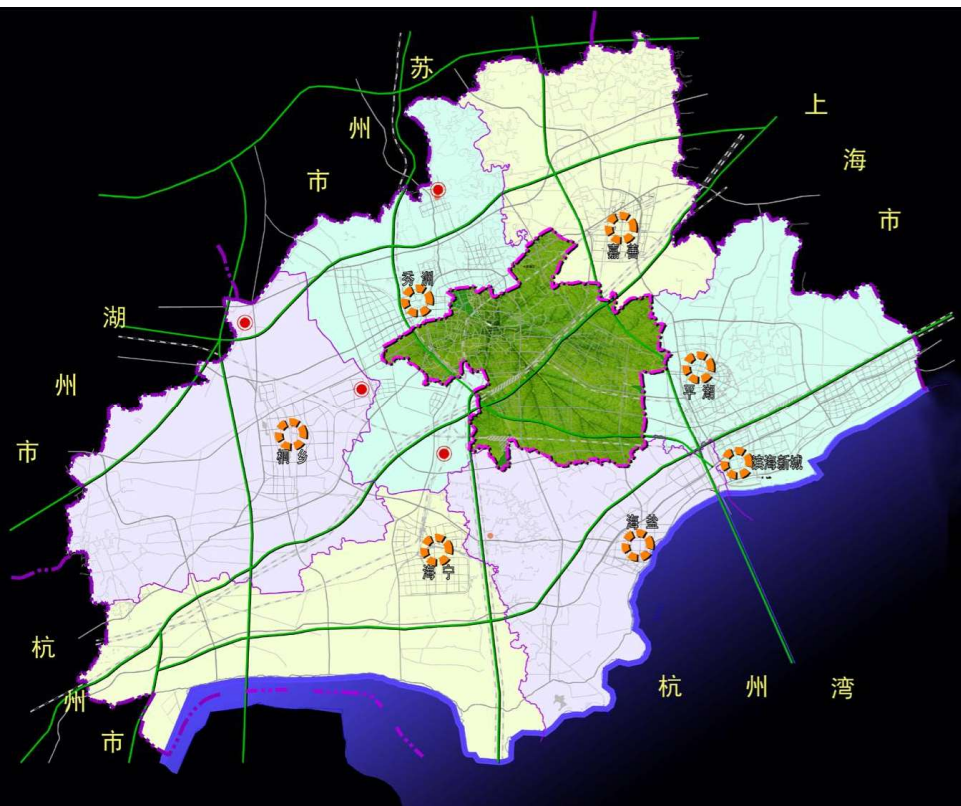
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市域城乡发展与规划管控总图

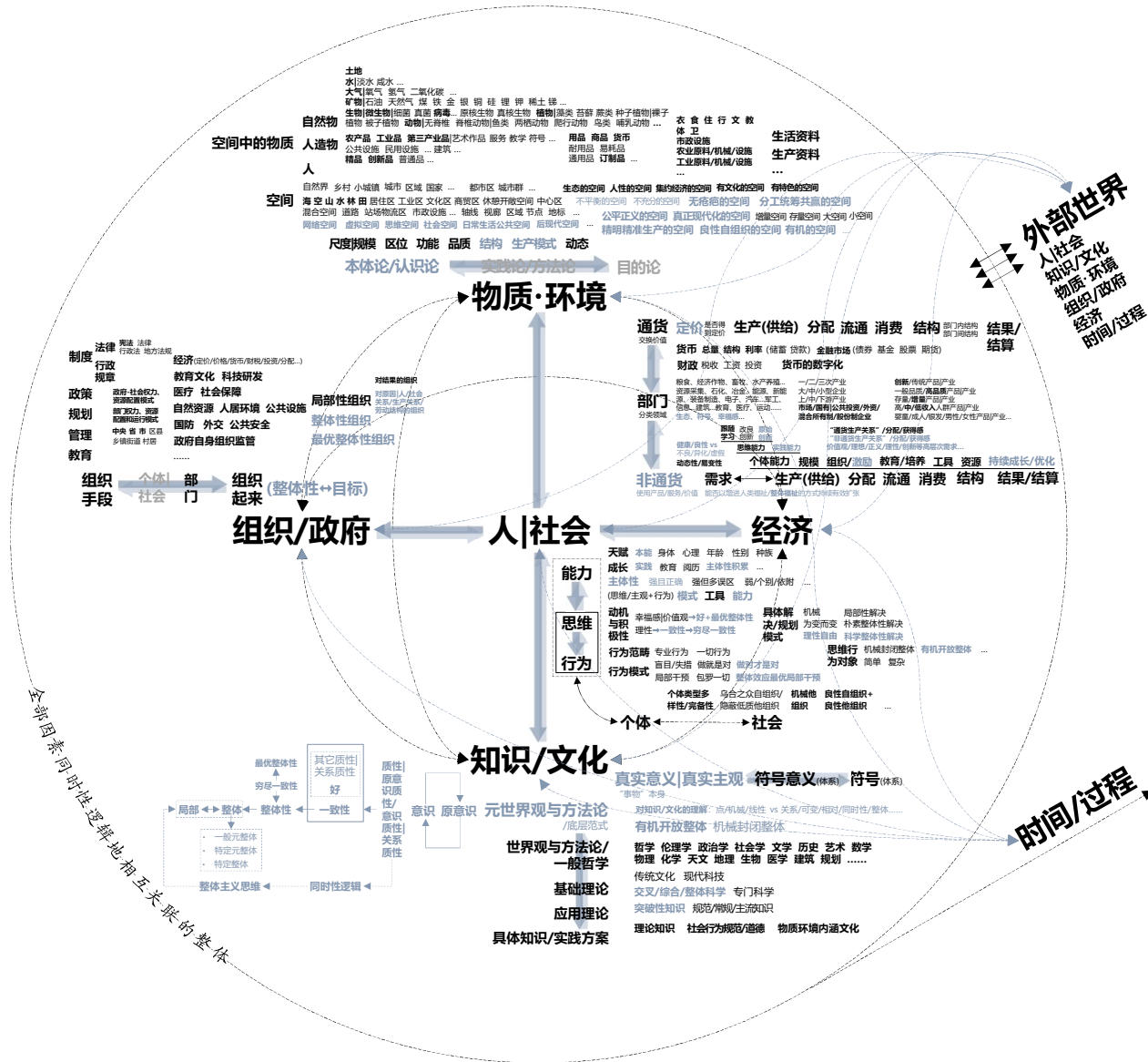


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3. Paradigm Shift from Atomism to Non-mechanical, Relational, Synchronical Logic & Holistic Structural Holism

Perspective of SP, and Evidences from China



世界的元整体示意

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4. Innovative SP for Optimistic Development of Global South in a Tougher Time

Global North	↔	China	↔	Own models for different countries, habitats, plans
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-mid development stage. Infinite general supply capacity. Saturated general demand. Past model of dev can't sustain: deteriorating competition, room of general growth greatly reduced, polarization easy to accelerate. Understanding this, accepting much of this, and thinking new model. • Avoid over-involution. Polarized manufacture, taking seriously secondary allocation. Guarantee decent social welfare for all people. Service sector. Re-shaping competitive spirit. Paving path for absolute innovation. Understanding the real origin of absolute innovation. • Relative innovation room for development: supplies to places with demands are effective. Rural, lower tiers of cities, international market. • Structural and qualitative improvement rather than quantitative expansion. • • Truly commanding holism epistemology & methodology... 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consensus for holistic synergy INSTEAD OF dissipation. Understanding the primary function of SP is to build synergetic consensus. • Open-minded instead of mechanical thinking. Willing to accept appropriate changes. • Holistic SP in category INSTEAD OF partial SP. International conditions have to be well considered. National & regional conditions shall also be well-taken. To achieve holistic synergy, there should be national SP either as national policy or a plan for local plans to conform. • LOCAL CAPACITY BUILDING as the prime goal. This is also a “holistic concept”: its prime meaning is the healthy synergy of the society, and then the capacity of individuals. It also includes other capacities including production chain, transportation and other infrastructure, and governance etc. International conditions provide enormous opportunity for local capacity building. Again, this is a holistic schemes design and comparison, to find out optimal holisticity. • • After all, holistic thinking and planning.

Thank you!

