

*Urban/rural  
relationships: looking  
for the lost balance*

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Cities and rural areas are not separate entities but an inseparable mixing in terms of solidarity and complementarity.

Modernity believed unequivocally in the goods for its acquisition and domain; and therefore tends to lead to a positive individualism. Such a volitional closure creates incompatible social spaces: where I am you can not be.



- ✓ New methodologies that help us to solve problems
- ✓ Reflect on the results in order to obtain a fruitful thought



## Planning

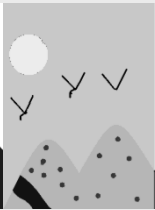
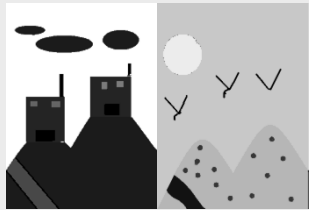
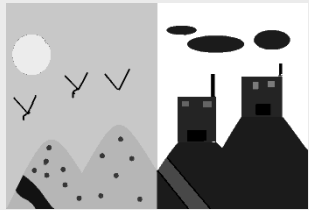
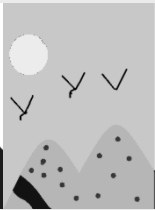
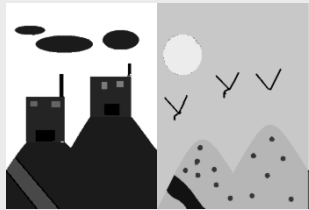
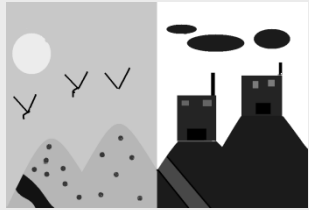
Start with the modern project and its impact on urban/rural relationships

Symptoms of the crisis in rural world have their origin in the current change situation

Change from a way of doing things to another affecting our society

New life without leaving old habits

Confusion arises in transition situations



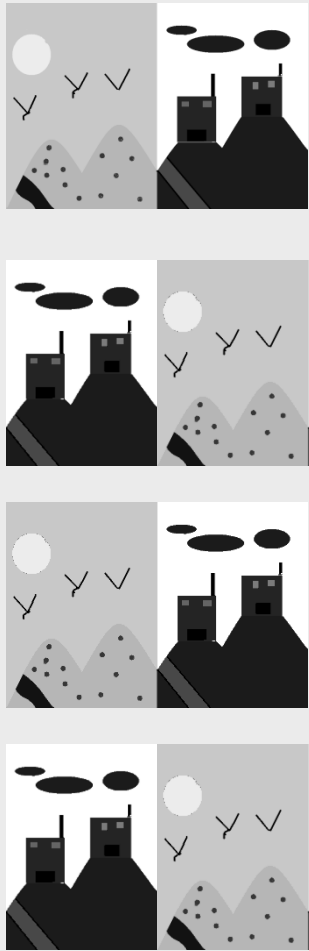
## Classical economic tradition

Science, technique and planning are presented by the modern project as infallible and promising instruments of a nature and society rational control  
Urban-rural relationship based on the dichotomy.

Smith/Stuart (XVIII-XIX)

The modern project as progress coupled with industrialization and capitalist-industrial society commits to an urban model.

2.- The modern project and its impact on urban/rural relationships



There is an urban-rural dichotomy in these authors, from other point of view, and in line with its understanding and view of society. This contrast exists between some ways of community life in rural areas and no community life in urban areas.

Agricultural and rural life were presented as the antithesis of modernity (Moore, 1984). Subsequent sociologists, specially rural, have showed that the differences between the ways of rural and urban organization, are fundamental as a dichotomy or *continuum*.

## 2.- The modern project and its impact on urban/rural relationships





Where does a rural area finish? Where does an urban area start?. Different authors discuss about intermediate and approximation concepts like the suburban or periurban area.

We met the inhabitants of those areas and people who identify with them.

Are there characteristic features in the inhabitants of those two areas just for being there?

### 3.- Theoretical concepts: the current situation and its projection



We have explained that **modernity** is not only equivalent to industrialization; it has an intrinsic connotation of relativity.

The idea of **modernity** has mainly been a cultural and ideological effect, a way to represent us and to understand our world, to recognise its difference and historical specificity by contrast with the past.

### 3.- Theoretical concepts: the current situation and its projection





When novelty finishes, when capitalist-industrial society is consolidated, when it becomes an old and finishing society, arises the **postmodernity** concept.

When we talked about modernity, we were privileging certain processes and trends related to the development and consolidation of the capitalist-industrial complex. Nowadays, when we talk about **postmodernity** we want to say something different: processes and trends especially relate to new situations, consequences and problems created by that development and its consolidation

### 3.- **Theoretical concepts: the current situation and its projection**

The urban/rural interrelationship has grown, including dimensions and activities that involve new complementary levels and also changes in orientations to the field that is being revalued. This includes a redefinition of the rural area as a polyfunctional area, not only productive, but also recreational, residential and ecological conservation or protection area.

### 3.- Theoretical concepts: the current situation and its projection

Modern expectatives meant the achievement of a certain happiness for everybody due to the application of a rigorous rationality (thought) that would make world to be in the hands of man (action)

This action had a notorious connotation of conflict when it was presented in oposition areas:  
city against rural areas instead of other alternatives, such as the complementary

In the last decades of the twentieth century there was a deep and disseminated discomfort due to the great differences between the expectations and the achievements

The bankruptcy of the action concept, separated of its purpose, has been revealed because of the ecological claim

As Spaemann says, Marx tried to cancel the control of the man by man, thanks to an unlimited control of the man by nature. But such exploitation has been revealed as a provocation when it is checked that natural resources are limited and the destruction of the ecological environment is irreversible

Planning as professional practise that pretends to connect specifically ways of knowledge with the ways of action in public area

Actions valuation

The purpose of doing is a product, it is valued at technical criteria

The purpose of acting cannot be different as the purpose of doing –praxis: human action–

It cannot be valued at the perfection of the work

Actions as human actions can be understood just considering the end of man

We are not going to stay in a short purpose of doing technically good but doing according to our nature

**4.- The action as a key idea**



... Relationship between man and nature

The notion of care. Respect is the guiding concept of action in an intellectual level

Not only the purpose of doing technically good but doing according to our nature

**A good doing but with a approach of respect, as a result of knowledge and care intrinsically linked to action**

... Relationship between man and nature

Attitude made up by respect, moderation and modesty

Solidarity and vital areas rediscovering

Vital area with its physical environmental component

**An ACTION that makes us discover those vital areas, where SOLIDARITY is built day after day through a PARTICIPATION. Join actions is a common project**

**4.- The action as a key idea**

Rural world, considered as life system has several vital functions, the development is not only the industry. It is presented as necessary to restore both the natural ecological balance and the citizen's

## PRINCIPLES

1. GRADUALITY PRINCIPLES
2. PLURALISM PRINCIPLES
3. COMPLEMENTARITY PRINCIPLES
4. INTEGRALITY PRINCIPLES
5. SOLIDARITY PRINCIPLES



**5.- Other planning conditions to restore a right urban/rural balance**

## PRINCIPLES



### 1. GRADUALITY PRINCIPLES

Modern rationalism "has made us to be used to seeing the reality in black and white... People or rural areas that are not able to be at the forefront of the so-called scientific and technical progress are marginalized of the social dynamic, by the wayside of the underdevelopment and unemployment" (Llano, 1988)

On the one hand, the overcoming of the urban/rural dichotomy with the assimilation of the city to industry and a certain type of economic recognition; on the other hand the rural concept linked to agriculture and to the lack of economic vitality

5.- Other planning conditions to restore a right urban/rural balance

## 2. PLURALISM PRINCIPLES

Exclusivism of regulated and productive work of merchandises corresponds to univocity of the calculating reason. Economism reduces everything to an horizontal plane of the technosystem, without considering its vertical relationships with the vital world. Not all work is inserted in the productive economy, but also productive tasks have a plurality of dimensions that respond to different logics

A proper development is more than an economic issue. It is a cultural issue in order to improve the knowledge of the inhabitants, so that they are able to live all kind of professional adventures overcoming the insecurity fears caused by unknowledge.

5.- Other planning conditions to restore a right urban/rural balance





### 3. COMPLEMENTARITY PRINCIPLES

In addition to the dominant strategy of the conflict that confuses what is different with what is the opposite, there is another way of thinking that is not exclusive, but defends both differences

Modernity would be characterized from this point of view because it has wrongly converted distinction and complementary relationships, like those between organisms and environment, man and woman..., in opposition relationships in which there could only be the alternative, the disjunction

5.- Other planning conditions to restore a right urban/rural balance



## 4. INTEGRALITY PRINCIPLES

In addition to the modern reduction of human work to its technological dimension and to its strict functionality, the new sensibility fights in order to open to the integral amplitude of the different facets and perspectives of human life

Businesspeople of planning are mainly mobilizing the resources and want public and private energies to achieve innovative solutions to the challenging problems of public domain. But such planning is oriented to special values and not to benefit. Its aim is explicitly normative

In conclusion, the issue is to understand the meaning of the reality from the ethic and not from the technique. From the ethic we work for the aims, and from the technique we work for the means, that are important but are just means

5 Other planning conditions to restore a right urban/rural balance

## 5. SOLIDARITY PRINCIPLES



A new style of development, which at the beginning of the third millennium involves to overcome the liberal capitalist primacy of capital over work that destroys both diachronic solidarity, the linkage with the contemporaries, and the sincronic solidarity, that makes us heirs of the past and responsible for the future

Human control of the material realities means that man have a peculiar surrounding nature..., and that human nature lets us develop a respectful attitude for its own entity

It is a primary requirement of our way of being with what is called diachronic solidarity: linkage with our contemporaries and ultimately with us

5.- Other planning conditions to restore a right urban/rural balance

# SOCIAL LEARNING



6.- synthetic Methodological scheme

*Thank you for your attention*

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