Contemporary trends in sustainable urban planning
Analytical Vision in Contemporary Global Experiences

Moheb Kamel Al-Rawe*, Sophia Rezaq Ali Al–Timimy, Kamil Yassir Hussain
1University of Baghdad Institute of Urban and Regional Planning Southern Technical University
2Southern Technical University
*Email: dr.mohebalrawi@iurp.uobaghdad.edu.iq

Abstract. In recent years, planning science has evolved from a rational approach to an experimental one, from (as a product forms to a process of policy formulation and planning decision-making). Then, planning had transformed from the era of modernity to post-modernity, which was accompanied by a lot of a number of trends, refer to planning is no longer measured by matching its outputs, results and formulated in shapes to the plan, but rather on the extent to which the planner contributes to improving the decision-makers understanding of immediate problems now and in future. Among the most prominent of these trends: Multi Ethic planning or Multicultural City planning to (Leonie Sandercock), collaborative planning to (Innes, Healy), Just city to (Fainstein), New Urbanism, and Phronetic planning to (Flyvbjerg), Which will be summarized by the research, and sheds light on Phronetic planning is the main of research axis. Wherefore, the research deals with the definition of this schematic, the philosophical foundations and the intellectual dimensions by introducing a theoretical framework that deals in detail with the concepts, details and rationality in the ideas of Aristotle and Foucault. The Planning and Design Study Project (OECD) as a model for international accreditation, winning the European Union Prize as Urban Policy in Democracy and Planning Terms. Finally, the research concludes that Phronetic planning is the most appropriate to deal with democratic practices to influence the solution of local problems that require practice and application to solve the conflict between the reconciliation and societal need. To deals with each urban situation as a special urban phenomenon and a unique humanitarian problem, that cannot be generalized or resorted to rational theories to find unilateral solutions.

Keywords: contemporary trends of planning, Phronesis planning, Rationalism and empiricism in planning.

1- Introduction
During the decades from the 1950s to the 1970s, modernist thought dominated on the planning process. This thought is based on the fact the knowledge is power and it’s capable of solving problems by the planning process that the scientific knowledge acquired through research and scientific analysis is sufficient to solve the problems of cities as well as, the people of these cities. Accordingly, the planning process was reduced to a rational method of decision-making.

Accordingly, the modernist view believes in the universality of rational knowledge, the expert planner is able to find solutions to all urban problems anywhere in the world and for any person by rational scientific method. Because of the dominance of the rationality of modernity, none of the
planners of that period found anything but the definition of planning as that relationship that actually binds between knowledge and action. (Friedmann, 1998)

From this point of view, the definition is influenced to a large extent by the saying of Bacon (1626-1561 A.D) when he said that “knowledge is power and authority,” meant that the knowledge produced by experts using the faculty reason, logic in research and analysis. For all that, an urban problem, no matter how intractable, is an obstacle for planning experts. Used the same tool and method: scientific knowledge that is based on Western knowledge.

So, the repeated setbacks and failed planning experiments that occurred during that period pushed planning theorists to almost agree that the future of planning is not better than its past, and confirmed that (Peter Hall, 1990) major disasters in planning, where previous planner referred to similar judgment in the early period of the experiment.

Therefore, this is what prompted our research to search for modern trends in planning and the philosophy behind them, to choose the most effective method, that it would be suitable for our cities and achieve the demands of their society and achieve its identity.

Thus, the research problem is represented by: "Lack of the clear conception thought of appropriate planning for our cities, and its identification as a contemporary trend and the possibilities of employment and utilization ", and the aim of the research is determined in: "Proposing the perception of the most appropriate planning concept as a contemporary trend and the possibilities of employment and utilization of it in our cities".

1.1 Rationalism and empiricism
Rationalism is an intellectual doctrine that believes that mind is primary source of knowledge and the primary tool in evidence, we can reach to know of the nature of the universe and existence by accessed through rational inference, with the concept of rationality at the hands of the most prominent philosophers (Socrates and Aristotle).

So, in modern and contemporary philosophy rationalism appears by the philosophers who have greatly influenced human thought, such as: (Descartes) the pioneer of rationalism in Western philosophy and founder of the intellectual bases of modern science (Spinoza\(^1\) and Leibniz\(^2\))

Whilst, their ideas are called "continental rationalism" because it was prevalent in the philosophical schools of the continent of Europe, while in Britain "empiricism philosophy was prevalent, its main patrons were the English philosopher John Locke, the Irish George Berkeley and the Scotsman David Hume. Empiricism is a philosophy, practical and applied, aiming at providing solutions by creating knowledge based on observation and experience.

On the other side, from the interaction of science and philosophy, we note that the roots of the theory of planning extend far from the intellectual and philosophical level to come from the philosophy (Aristotle and Plato), passing through (Hegel, Descartes, Nietzsche), Arrive at (Habermas\(^3\) and Foucault\(^4\))

Inasmuch, Planning is a compact construction of intellectual layers on top of each other, seeks to achieve the general interest of society, in this way it dreams of a better society and seeks to embody its goals.

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1 Benedict de Spinoza (1632 –1677 A.M) was a Dutch philosopher, He wrote a small number of books, as well as, they exerted a wide influence in later philosophical thought. His first book was “The Principles of Cartesian Philosophy” and his last is his famous book “Ethics,” which is considered one of the most influential books on Western philosophy.

2 Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716 A.M) German polymath and one of the most important logicians, mathematicians and natural philosophers of the Enlightenment. (Russell, 2013).

3 Jürgen Habermas: born in Gummanly(1929) is a German philosopher and sociologist in the tradition of critical theory and pragmatism. His work addresses communicative rationality and the public sphere.

4 Michel Foucault: (1926 –1984) was a French philosopher, historian of ideas, social theorist, and literary critic. Foucault have a lot of theories from social control Though a post-structuralism and postmodernist. (Schrift, 2006)
On the matter of urban planning, Broadbent proposes in his book (Emerging Concepts in Urban Design) a broad philosophical basis in which he clarifies the interconnectedness between the urban structure and the intellectual and philosophical trends resulting from it. During the following:

1. First - Organizing the city as a product of specific theoretical ideas based on a prior organization.
2. Second - Organizing the city as a product of many general ideas or experiences over a period of time. Thus, with the influence of these philosophical currents, contemporary trends appeared.

1-2 Contemporary trends of planning
The planning arena currently witnessing many attempts theorizing for new trends, that may be one of the aspects that planning follow. With the end of the era of rational scientific planning as a dominant form of planning theory, the space was opened for the attend of a group of theoretical approaches, some of them concerned with planning as a phenomenon and others focused on what planning should be and what its goals, some of these theories appeared as a response to failures and setbacks, which has suffered from planning due to the predominance of modernist thinking and technocratic planning. The growth of social movements and the development of civil society organizations all led to a social change that resulted in a change in the practice of planning itself. So the most prominent contemporary trends in planning:

1. Multi ethnic City Planning:
The last three decades have witnessed a change in the human and ethnic composition of the city, as well as the conditions in which planning is practiced. Accordingly, the perception of the city and the urban void and its functions have changed. The city is no longer seen as a static form that includes fixed uses, but rather is in constant change, and the plan no longer deals with its residents as a homogeneous mass with a common public interest, but rather they are seen as multiple groups, groups and ethnicities with different cultures and interests. Their identities must be defended and homogeneity achieved between them (Sandercock, 2000). Hence, it has become necessary to be careful to claim the cultural identity before any material claims. Contrasting with the western scientific knowledge of the planned experts. This is what draws new relationships between the planner and the groups he is planning.

   In that case, the focus is on the accumulated ‘local knowledge’ and the field of planning often neglected and forgotten the issues of ethnic minorities in the city and did not pay them the necessary attention (Sandercock, 1997, p.50). Many researchers have shown the uselessness of communicative planning methods in addressing issues of difference in the city and conflict between nationalities (Burayidi, 2000, p.15), which requires open communication planning that depends on negotiation.

   The difference of cultures, their multiplicity in the city, and their coexistence within the boundaries of the urban void despite the severe divergence between their visions and interests, now impose new challenges on planning, represented in managing this coexistence, resolving its contradictions, and preserving its balance. This confirms the view of Healey Patsy (1997) in defining planning as "managing coexistence within a common urban space".

2. Communicative/Collaborative Planning:
The Approach down-Top principle in planning that depends on the supremacy of experts and their leadership of the planning process, which pushed the communicative trend in planning that consecrates popular participation to prominence as an alternative direction, which is based on the assumption that the city community is not a homogeneous mass but rather a composition A mosaic of several social groups coexist in conflict with their interests within the geographical borders of the city.

   The idea of serving the common public interest that the traditional planning theory no longer relevant for the simple reason that they do not believe in the existence of a common public interest agreed upon by the various components of the city’s society. Rather, the multiplicity of interests according to the positions of the different groups in society. (Booher and Innes, 1999, p20).

   While, Sandercock believes that planning theory changes its traditional path to deal with the stories of vulnerable and marginalized social groups in society, meaning that by this it displaces planning from rational theory to drag it to political conflict as it happens in the world of people. (Sandercock, 2000)

3. The Just City Movement:
Setting just process is the goal of planning, and if the procedures are fair, the results and outputs of planning will also be fair.

So that social justice is the decisive factor in the evaluation. Therefore, if the planners evaluate their plans, according to the criteria of diversity, democracy, equality, equality, diversity, then the results they reach will change. (Fainstein, 1995, p.30)

4- The New Urbanism:
The new urban trend is a design direction that is almost closer to ideology than theory. It seems that the advocates of a new urbanism were greatly influenced by early theorists such as Le Corbusier, Ebenezer Howard, and Camillo Sitte in creating an interconnected local urban community and trying to embody a real-world image of what the beautiful city looked like. By the necessity of urban designs to contain a variety of building styles, mixing uses, overlapping dwellings of different social strata, and greater interest in the general urban space.

It also declares a fierce and relentless war against the urban sprawl that is devouring the suburbs and producing traffic jams and the ugly shapes of commercial strip buildings.

It also calls for a kind of mass mobilization in the types of spaces that are known in the local urban heritage. It also prefers to focus attention on neighbourhood and city issues and calls for mixing between different urban uses and tries to restore the glory of the main street in a democratic urban environment in which the population is committed to defending environmental and urban issues. (Lara’a, 2013, p.95)

5- Phronetic Planning:
Foucault believes that a method of struggle rather than consensus is the basis for free practice. It seeks Phronesis to base the planning process, to understand how planning works and practices in reality and contributes to social change. (Al-Ayadi, 1994, p.55).

The liberation struggle provides a better conception of planning theory than the understanding based on discourse separate from the ground and looking for consensus (Flyvbjerg, 1998, p.45).

So in our research we will highlight Phronetic Planning as a modern trend of planning.

1-3 Philosophy of Phronetic Planning:
Therefore, to establish a theory of phronesis planning practice in Aristotle's theory, which distinguishes between three levels of knowledge: scientific knowledge, episteme: which includes theoretical sciences, and technical knowledge: meaning the skills that enable us to do action, and wise knowledge phronesis, which is the awareness about what should be doing it in specific circumstances and within certain conditions. If the first two types of knowledge accept generalization and repetition, then the third type is not amenable to any generalization at all, as it is related to a specific case that has its own circumstances, which calls for a unique treatment that is dictated and determined by the specificity of the case itself.

Phronesis, then, is the kind of applied knowledge that enables wisdom to take decisions, which cannot be explained logically and rationally. So the importance of this knowledge in planning because it adds an ethical / normative dimension to the application of episteme and technology in planning and practicing it wisely. This type of knowledge is the most appropriate and most effective for the planning process because it concerns the practice and application aspect, that is, dealing with the urban situation as a unique and distinctive special case and thus calls for a unique and distinctive special intervention.

1-3-1 Treatment of Phrontic planning:
What is required of theorists is not to formulate a theory in practice planning, this approach to theorizing starts from researching practice as something abstract and devoid of values.

Rather than, research in the planning practices of the for theory of practice planning, and this approach gives the practice some wisdom and makes it a tool for the liberation struggle in the planning practice.

Based on this view, the planners who took negative attitudes from marginalized neighbourhoods in cities, such as shantytowns, slums, and nests, and described them with the ugliest descriptions, such as a cancer that erodes the urban fabric of the city, changed these attitudes and considered thus neighbourhoods a home for emerging human societies that struggle with In order to improve their
conditions and strive for their integration into the society of the mother city, to gain recognition as one of its components in light of the balance of power.

In that point of view, the technical and expert eye of planners does not see in these marginalized neighbourhoods anything but a worn out urban fabric, while the eye of wisdom in the practice of planning sees an organized social fabric that makes unremitting efforts and a bitter struggle to integrate and adapt to the general fabric of the city and enrich its culture. As long as they are, the recommendations made by the advocates of this trend are not recommendations of exclusion and demolishing of huts and collective punishment of forcible and sometimes violent deportation to the original places that they abandoned. On the contrary, the recommendations will stipulate, in essence, an interest in studying ways to facilitate their integration and accelerate their adaptation to the urban environment in which they choose to settle. Dealing wisely with each urban situation as a special urban phenomenon and unique social and humanitarian situations is more appropriate and better than dealing with generalities of planning theorists and starkness of standards and controls for practicing the profession.

From all of the above, the direction of planning with Phrontic is the experimental direction derived from the experience of reality, which this research tries to draw attention to benefit from its mechanisms as it deals with the role of power and the conflict between different stakeholders.

Many researchers have supported this trend of planning as:(Huxley,2002), (Yiftachel,2002), (Watson,2003), (Jensen and Richardson,2004). (Flyvbjerg, 2004, p.302)

1-3-2 Flyvbjerg philosophy of Prontic planning:
In 1998 (Flyvbjerg), in his book on Aalborg's experience in Denmark entitled “Rationality and Power: Democracy in Practice,” criticizes normativism that overshadows planning theory, and refuses to accept the theorists of these trends without discussing the principles of truth, justice and equality that are promised by planning in a gradual and rational manner.

So, it is useless if the starting point is to recognize the principle that planning is good, as well as, that we wish. Therefore, we should do to deal with it as a phenomenon that can be observed and criticized without previous judgments or preconceptions. This is precisely the methodology that adopted by Flyvbjerg, to the situation in the centre of Al Borg in Denmark, to conclude the good wishes in planning no used if whole matter was in the hands of the authority.

Hence, the essence of the planning process is not limited to developing and implementing plans with the participation of those concerned with them. Rather, popular participation must be promoted to a true partnership in the planning process with the need to empower vulnerable parties to extract their interests.

As Planning seeks to achieve the general interest of society, thus brings to mind the principle of the utopia of Plato. When planning calls for the empowerment of the deprived classes to reap their share of the urban void, seize their rights and impose their interests, it reminds us of Marxist thought and its call for class struggle defines of the rights of the toilers. It is the dichotomy of the public interest and private interests that has normatively shaped planning.

2-The practical side:
2-1 Aalborg City experience'1:

1 The Aalborg project is an Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) award winning and recommended model for international accreditation, on how to integrate environmental and social concerns into policy and planning.
2-1-1 about the city:
More than 1000 years ago, the Vikings settled on the site of Aalborg city, but its appearance as a city back to 1342 A.D, then developed into one of the busiest commercial centres in Denmark. With an area of 139 square kilometres and located in North Jutland (north-western Denmark), as the fourth most populated city in the country.

![Figure 1. The position of the city of Aalborg. Source: www.worldatlas.com](image)

The city of (Aalborg) has undergone major transformations in recent years, it has transformed from an industrial city into a knowledge city with a modern global perspective. The advanced education and research environment placed Aalborg University on the world map. So that was reflected in huge number of population, it was attracted young people to the city to study, live and work, bringing the percentage of students to 1/5 of the population, between years 2009-2016.

2-1-2 Urban Renewal Project for Aalborg City Center
In this case, an urban conservation project in the city centre of Aalborg, aims to preserve the character of the historic downtown district. Firstly By making a radical improvement in public transportation, Secondly by enhancing environmental protection and sustainability, and developing an integrated network of bike lanes, pedestrian centres, and green spaces. Thirdly by housing development in particular, finally, by reducing car traffic to third in the city-centre area, as shown in Fig. (2)
The central port was an important point in this transformation process. The master plan for the port front links the medieval old city with harbour facade and the boulevard that accommodates the needs of pedestrians in particular, and ensures easy access to the facilities available at harbour. Therefore, a four-stage plan has been developed in that project:
- Collecting information about the city.
- Diagnosis and analysis of the environmental situation.
- Developing an organized work plan with strategic dimensions and setting decisive local procedures.
- Evaluating the stage after conducting an audit and evaluation of the accounts with the citizens.

Conformal, to achieve this scheme must development included cooperation between citizens and local authorities according to Agenda 21, which aims to solve the problems of congestion and transportation and preserve the historical and cultural features of the city. Between two powers governed by the constitution. On one side, there is the political authority from the democratically elected city council technical committee, which represents the political parties of the city council in matters of planning and environment), on the other side, the executive authority represented by: (the police). The relevant parties reach an agreement on how and the scenarios they want to renew and develop the downtown part.

The rational proposals of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Aalborg can be summarized as follows:

1. Business is good for the city.
2. Driving private cars is good for work.
3. Encouraging the use of the private car.

At one stage of the project, and in an attempt to answer the question: “Who wins and who loses?”, And in an attempt to drop the rational proposals of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, after conducting a shopping questionnaire for customers in the city center, according to the means of transportation they used. The Chamber of Industry and Commerce was claiming that 50-60% of the total revenue, if not more, in the shops in the city center comes from customers who own cars and that the policies and plans that were aimed at reducing the use of cars will thus lead to a decrease In profits, the results appeared in stark contrast to the Chamber’s demands, as each of the three groups: (motorists), (pedestrians, cyclists) and (public transport users), were in equal shares of total revenue. The evidence
was overwhelming against Chamber's views of proposals and their own strategy, so the city council decided that the priority in the city center would be for cyclists, pedestrians, and public transport users. The movement of private cars in dense parts of the city must also be reduced in line with many other goals, including preserving the urban environment, improving traffic safety, and diverting from private to public transport.

Here, none of the researchers in the field of planning denies the prominent role played by the stakeholders, and the result of that was that the members of the local council and their employees decided to end the project and build something new on its ruins, while taking some measures and proposals. Here, the role of the Flyvbjerg project emerged when it was able to gather all possible opinions to start a new round of planning under the name "Best Aalborge Town" that includes the use of planning boards, now called "Committee of Planning Experts." In these (councils) instead of being limited to the ideas and initiatives presented by the Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

So real negotiations took place and decisions were made with real commitments. It was suggested that the city government take an active role in identifying the participants and facilitating their participation with the councils with the aim of ensuring that the discussions and decisions are democratic to provide as broad support as possible. It was also emphasized that planning boards must be active in the decision-making process from start to finish, from idea to designing the plan and then to approval and practical implementation.

Thus, achieved the best desired results of the project, and after a few years, the European Union awarded in Brussels the "European Planning Prize" for new planning, out of 300 candidate cities from all over the European Union, as an innovative urban policy in terms of democracy and planning with emphasis In particular, on engaging citizens and interest groups.

2-2 Analysis and discussion:
Through this quick presentation of the development of planning theories and their future horizons, and the most prominent trends that have begun to appear on the scene at the beginning of the new century, it becomes clear that the fundamental question and of planning theory and planning in place. From this standpoint, the standard view was that which prevailed and dominated the planning thinking, conceptualization and practice.

Phonetic planning stems from that premise "that the city community is not a homogeneous mass, but is a mosaic combination of several social groups coexist within the geographical city limits", therefore, the idea of a common public interest service that worked on traditional planning theory is no longer significant when the owners for some reason simple that they do not believe in the existence of a common public interest agreed upon by the various segments of the constituents of the city’s community.

In this case, the problem in dialogue and negotiation is no longer resolved as it was understood from rational planning in the past, and for the plan to be a mediator between all parties in order to find a basis for understanding, in this situation, as stated in the proposals (Flyvbjerg 1998), That” democracy of speech, negotiation and dialogue based on rationality is not sufficient to solve problems unless supported by the power of authority”.

Let us conclude the methodology in his study of the state of Flyvbjerg City Center there is no use in planning wishes and that all in the hands of the authority to turn things for her benefit. Consequently, required not to develop planning to meet the interests of social groups, but rather to make these groups struggle to achieve their own interests, rather than wait for those who represent them.

2-3 Conclusions:
1- Aalborg experiment revealed that many risks related to rational planning that can’t be solved through assumption only, so Phrondic planning represents an experiment from the ground that can solve many problems through practice and practical application.

2- Phrondic planning research can be practiced wisely to solve many problems, especially the problem of slums and the development of the old city center, as long as it deals effectively and wisely to achieve justice.
3- The theories of most planners do not represent practical application on the ground, as most of them are interpreted to the interest of stakeholders.

4- The established democracy in achieving the role of successful planning should be based on the idea of a mass struggle to extract its aspirations. This understanding of planning, as it practiced, also as a method for the liberation struggle, gives a higher perception of the theory of planning than what is presented by the established thoughts of the separate discourse.

5- The practical study proved that the inverse relationship between authority and rationality for the planning exercise. Decrease of power authority, lead to increase the area of rationality to achieve the requirements of the authority.

6- The practical study confirmed that the interactions and participation in the decision-making process was through cooperation between the project owner and the local community, which led to an increase in external support, which is not obtained without public participation.

7- The application of the theories of Western origin as a constant postulates on the reality of different social, cultural and economic environments are not work with the concept of practicing planning in reality.

2-4 Recommendations

1- This type of planning knowledge and exercising it wisely is the most appropriate and most effective way for the planning process, which can be used locally in light of the similarity of the types of authorities, democratic practices and the influence of interest groups, because it concerns the practice and application side.

2- Dealing in planning Phroneses for each case as a special urban phenomenon and unique social and human cases is better than dealing with it in general terms of planning theories and standards.

3- The experience of the city of Aalborg in Denmark can be an example to follow to solve many problems of our cities as slums, preserve the old centres, develop city centres and achieve sustainable development and other planning projects that will not achieve democracy and justice unless they represent rights Hard-working people through mass participation.

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