



# No Regrets

Adaptation to Climate Change in Principle and Practice

Berlin

Buenos Aires

Johannesburg

Paul James

Tim Strom

From pragmatics to  
principles and passions ...

And back again.

# Pragmatics I: Vulnerabilities

- Berlin

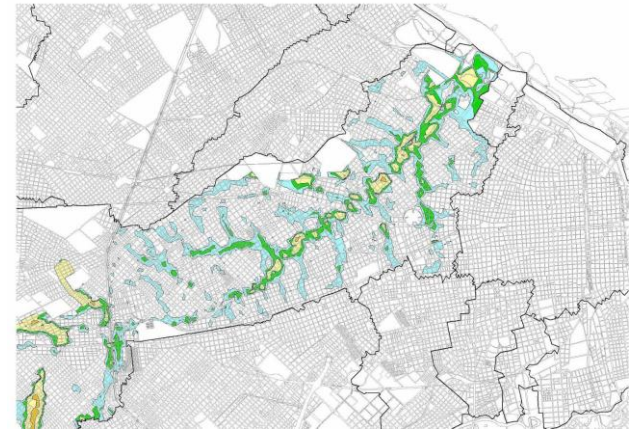
- Heat-island effect in summer
- Lower regional rainfall volumes and lower inflows  
→ Water shortages in the summer.

- Buenos Aires

Flooding: Maldonada – ‘invisible river’

- Johannesburg

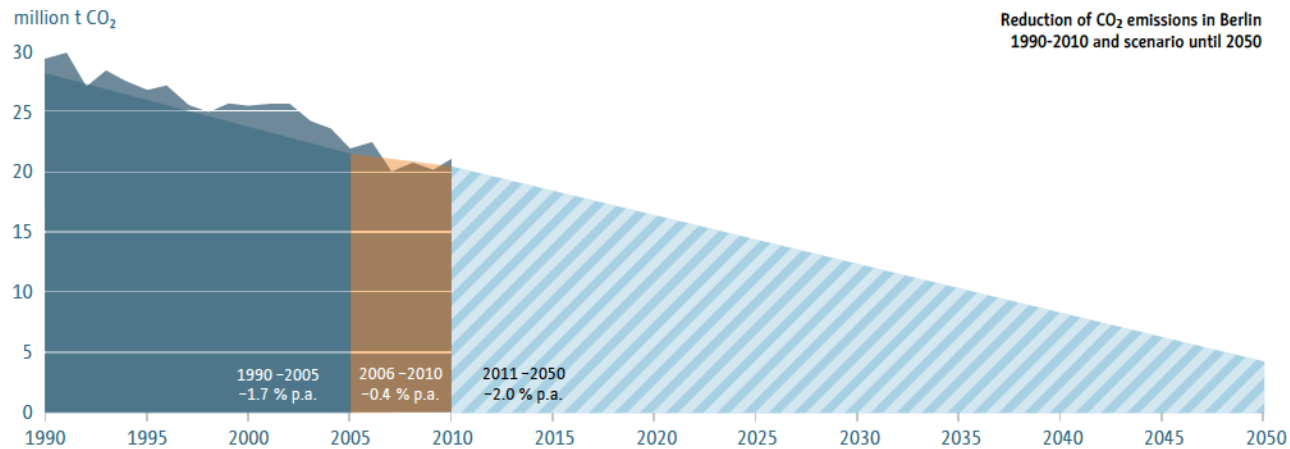
- Increase in Heat-Related Deaths
- Biodiversity Impacts on Disease Vectors – e.g., malaria, cholera
- Increased Risk of Urban Flooding
- Disruption to Water Security
- Climate Refugees and Migrants



# Pragmatics II. Action

## Berlin

- *Climate Neutral Berlin, 2050*, launched by Mayor Michael Muller in 2014.
- 85 per cent climate reduction by 2050 in relation to carbon emissions in 1990.



# Pragmatics II. Action

## Buenos Aires

• *Adaptation and Mitigation Climate Change Law* was approved in the City Legislature in September 2011.

• **Flooding:** tunnels; early warning system.

• **Transport:** bicycles

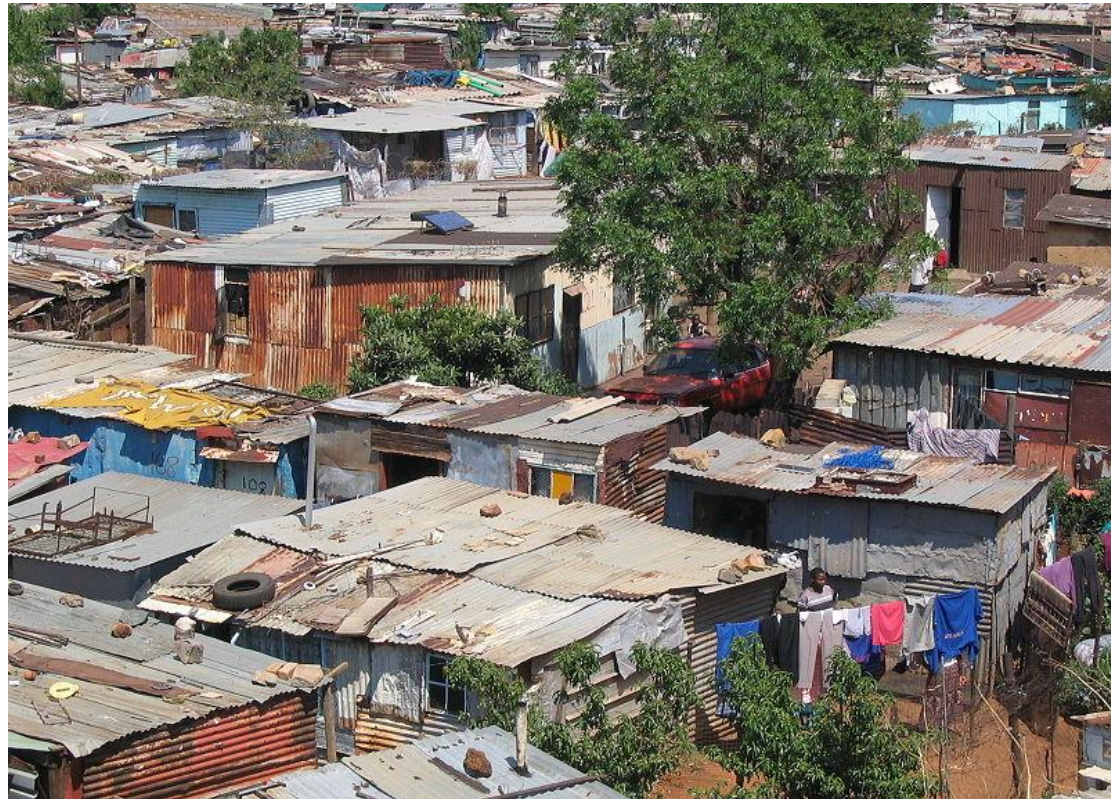
As of 2013 the city had laid over 110km of protected bicycle lanes and is planning to lay another 100km. They are increasingly transforming the inner city to give priority to pedestrians and cyclists at the expense of vehicles. In 2013 there was 31 free bike stations, 80,000 users making 5,000 daily trips, parking in 2,816 street bike spaces.



# Pragmatics II. Action

## Johannesburg

- **Policies:** *Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2009)*
- **Transport** *Rea Vaya Bus Rapid Transit system*  
*'Corridors of Freedom'*





# What makes for a good city?

- What considerations should be included in claims about what makes a city good?

How do we know when a 'good thing' is not just a fashion statement?

- How do we know what makes us good?

What capabilities should we focus upon?

- What should be done to make our cities better?

What should we do in practice?

- How can we judge what is good?

What is the basis of the judgment, and who judges?

- How can we know when we are achieving the good?

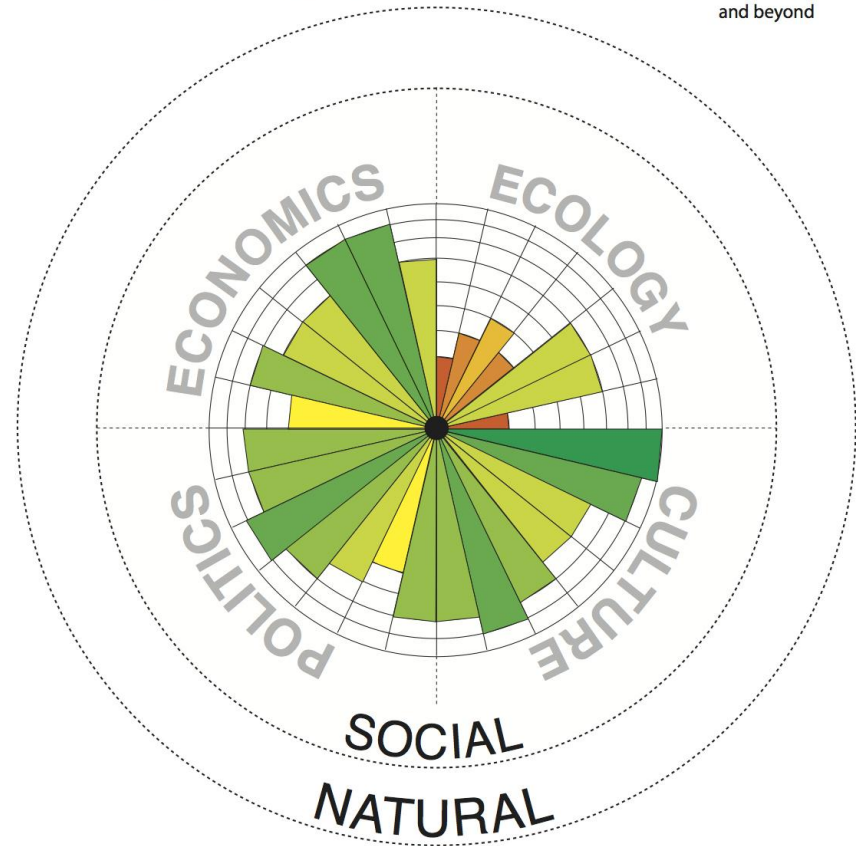
How can we measure what we are judging?

# CIRCLES of SOCIAL LIFE

and beyond

*What considerations should be included in claims about what makes a city good?*

How do we know when a 'good thing' is not just a fashion statement?



## A FRAMEWORK

### DOMAINS OF THE SOCIAL

#### ECONOMICS

Production & Resourcing  
Exchange & Transfer  
Accounting & Regulation  
Consumption & Use  
Labour & Welfare  
Technology & Infrastructure  
Wealth & Distribution

#### POLITICS

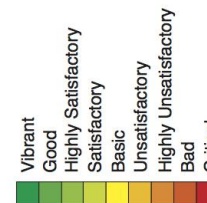
Organization & Governance  
Law & Justice  
Communication & Critique  
Representation & Negotiation  
Security & Accord  
Dialogue & Reconciliation  
Ethics & Accountability

#### ECOLOGY

Materials & Energy  
Water & Air  
Flora & Fauna  
Habitat & Settlements  
Built-form & Transport  
Embodiment & Sustenance  
Emission & Waste

#### CULTURE

Identity & Engagement  
Creativity & Recreation  
Memory & Projection  
Belief & Meaning  
Gender & Generations  
Enquiry & Learning  
Wellbeing & Health





*How do we know what makes us good?*

# Social Capabilities for Making a Good City

## 1. Adaptability

An adaptable city

The ability to adapt to change, including adapting to changes brought about by external forces that threaten the sustainability of conditions of liveability and security.

## 2. Learning

A smart city

The capacity to seek knowledge, learn and use that understanding for enhancing social life.

## 3. Liveability

A learning city  
A knowledge city

The life-skills and milieu that allow for living in ways that enhance wellbeing. Liveability includes having the resources to secure social life for all across the various aspects of human security, both in an embodied sense and an existential sense.

A liveable city

## 4. Reconciliation

A peaceful city

The capability to reconcile destructive or negative differences across the boundaries of continuing and flourishing positive social differences.

## 5. Relationality

A secure city

The capacity to relate to others and to nature in a meaningful way. This includes the capacity to love, to feel compassion, to care.

A caring city

## 6. Resilience

A sharing city  
An inclusive city

The flexibility to recover and flourish in the face of social forces that threaten basic conditions of social life.

A resilient city

## 7. Sustainability

A sustainable city

The capacity to endure over time, through enhancing the conditions of social and natural flourishing.

*How do we know what makes us good?*

# Social Capabilities for Making a Good City

## Berlin

A sustainable city

A liveable city

A learning city

## Johannesburg

A caring city

A sustainable city

A resilient city

An adaptable city

## Buenos Aires

A sustainable city

An innovative city

An inclusive city

# *What should we do in practice?*

In adapting actively to climate change, cities should consider action across all domains of social life based on a precautionary or 'no regrets' principle based on an ethics of care:

## *Ecology*

- As well as choosing technical responses that enhance climate change adaptation, cities should seek to generate deeper and more integrated relationships with nature, both inside the city and beyond urban boundaries. This is to move to an understanding of our embeddedness within nature and away from dominion over it.

## *Economics*

- Urban development should be based on an economy organised around negotiated social needs over and above conventional production-driven economics.

## *Politics*

- In adapting to climate change, cities should begin now to develop a clear vision and an integrated adaptation plan through a dialogue between expert deliberation and committed municipal and civic involvement. The agreed adaptation strategy should be embedded in all policy-making.

## *Culture*

- In developing climate adaptation responses, cities should treat the process as one of deep cultural engagement involving broad cultural issues of social learning, symbolism, visualisation, aesthetics, and well-being. This includes recognizing that urban citizens live in natural-cultural regions, not in 'built islands'.

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And back again,  
with *No Regrets*



Paul James

Gracias

धन्यवाद

Grazie

Thank you

Merci

Gràcies

Obrigado

謝謝

Danke