

# The spatial and social impacts of industrial restructuring in contemporary Chinese cities, Shenzhen as a case



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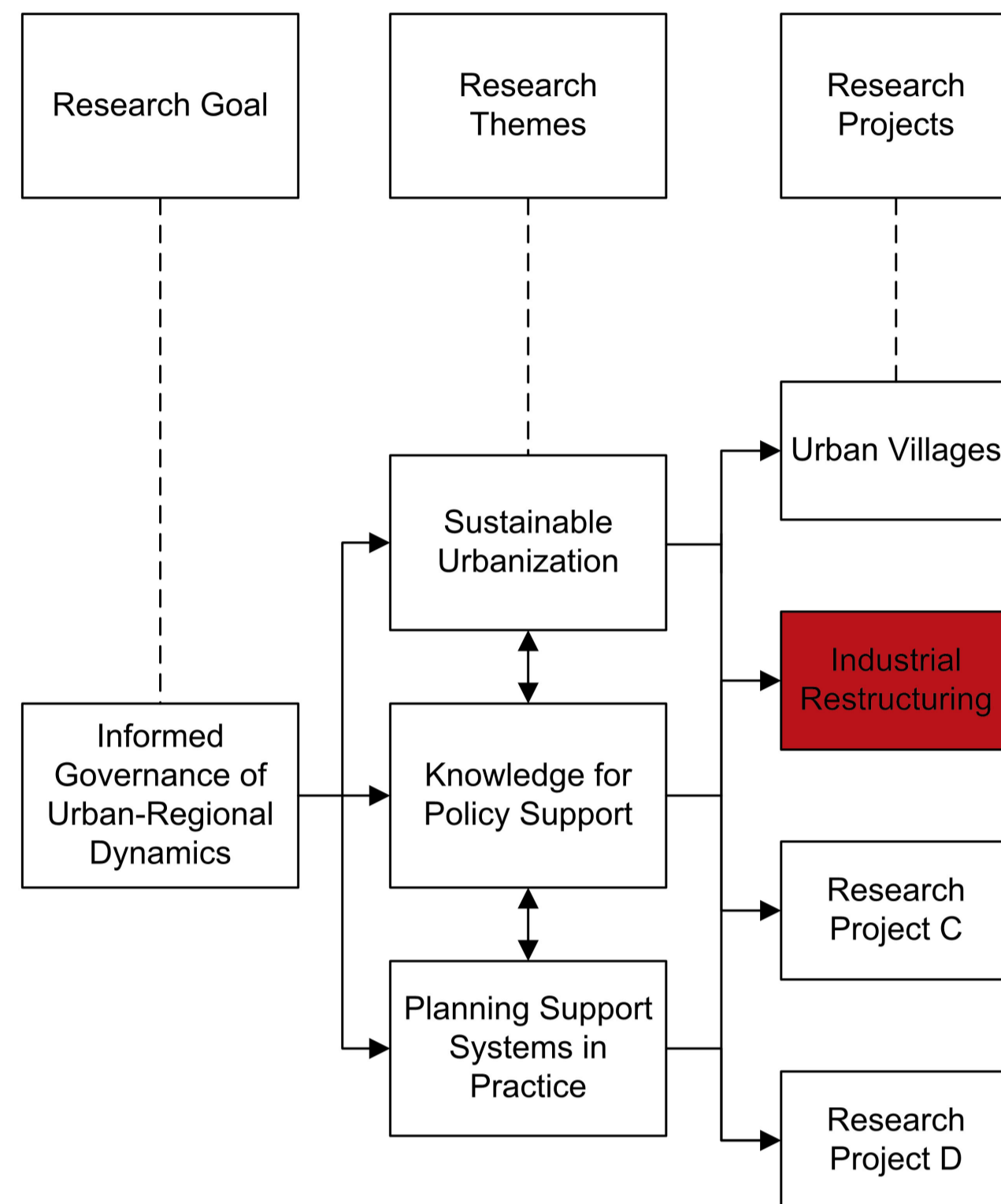
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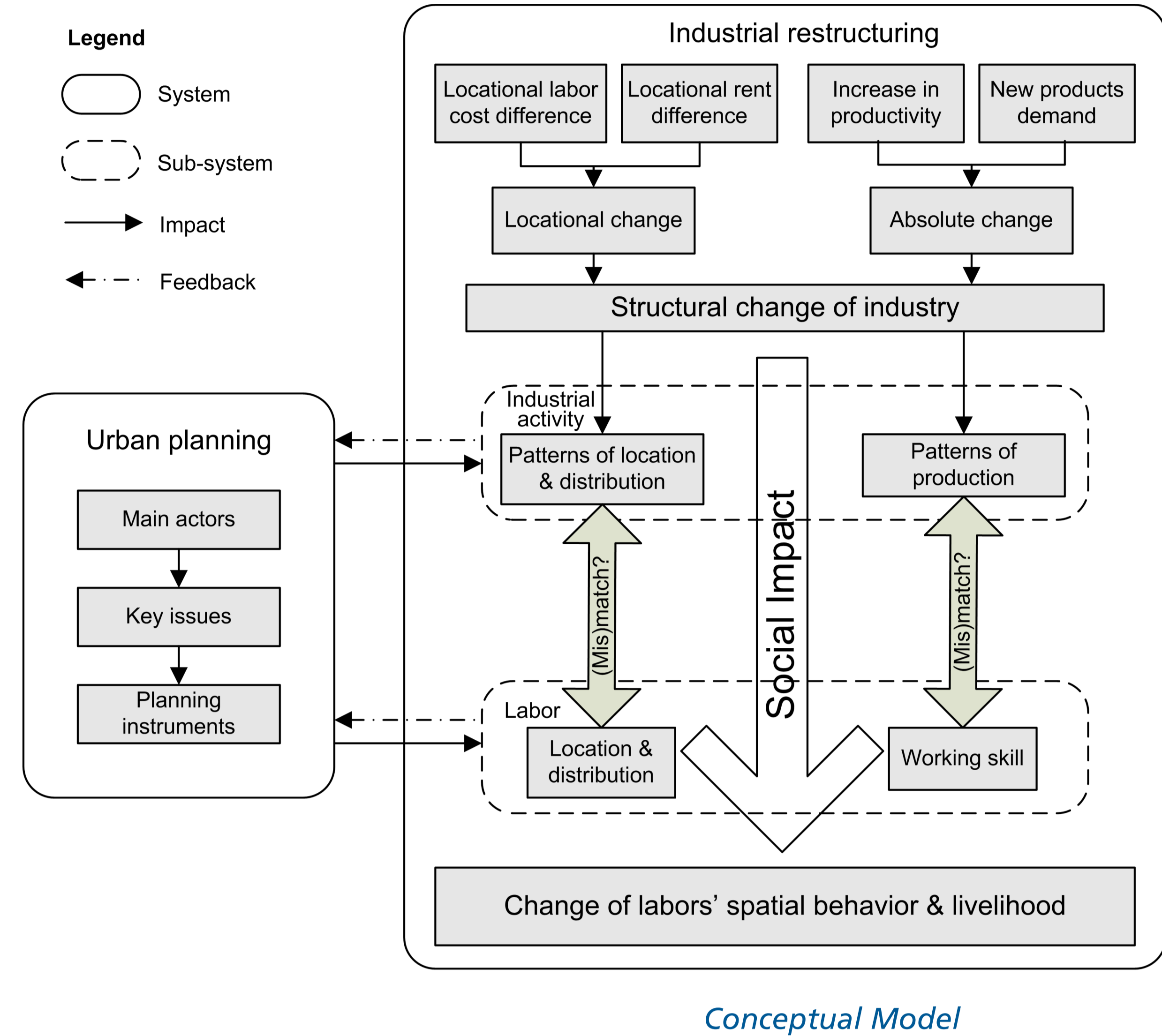
## Research Program

This PhD research project falls under the scope of Dr. Stan Geertman's research program of Informed Governance of Urban-Regional Dynamics.



## Introduction

- The economic development of China in the last three decades, which is built upon export-oriented manufacturing industries, is phenomenal. Under the current scene of economic globalization, however, China's comparative advantages in labour-intensive manufacturing are declining. As a response, industrial restructuring is initiated by the government to maintain roles and to advance positions in the global economy.
- Industrial restructuring, a way to replacing labor-intensive industries by capital-/technology-intensive ones, has significant spatial and social implications. Under the "economic growth first" national strategy, however, the social and spatial impacts are overlooked.



Conceptual Model

## Aim

To gain insights on the spatial and social impacts of IR for providing policy-relevant information for planners to better manage the planning making process of industrial restructuring in China.

## Preliminary findings

- Industrial activities targeted by future policy and plans are identified. The amount and scale of existing old industrial sites are huge and the spatial distribution of those sites are scattered.
- IR related redevelopment projects have just started however ceased now due to the financial crisis 2008.
- As the global demand of China's commodities shrinks in the financial crisis, a great deal of export-oriented factories closed or cut their outputs, leaving millions of migrant workers jobless.

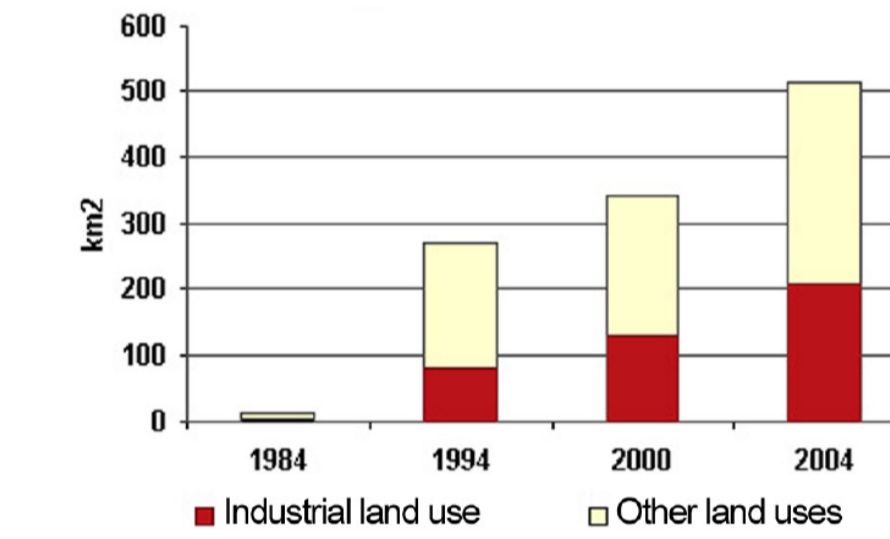
## Future objectives

- To understand firm's (re)location behavior in restructuring period and crisis time.
- To investigate the spatial pattern of locational change of firms.
- To understand lay-off worker's spatial behavior and livelihood choices.

## Historical overview of Shenzhen

- One of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) established in 1978 to operate a market economy in China
- Developed from a fishing town to a mega city in 20 years time
- The distinct late 1990s: rapid urban expansion and intensified industrial estate development arising beyond the scope of SEZs.

Industrial Land Growth in Shenzhen



Population Growth in Shenzhen

