

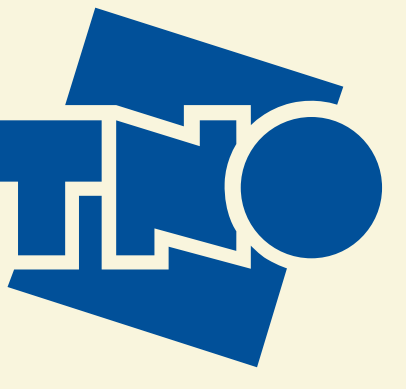
# Self-organization in Urban Development



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## The Problem of Participation

- A call for more citizen involvement in planning.
- Shared responsibility between citizens and governments.
- Participation is the obvious, but thoroughly criticized, instrument.
- Participation (and planning) keeps governments in a central position, in a society which is not governable from one perspective.
- Governments are not very open to initiatives that emerge from the dynamics of civil society.

## The Concept of Self-organization

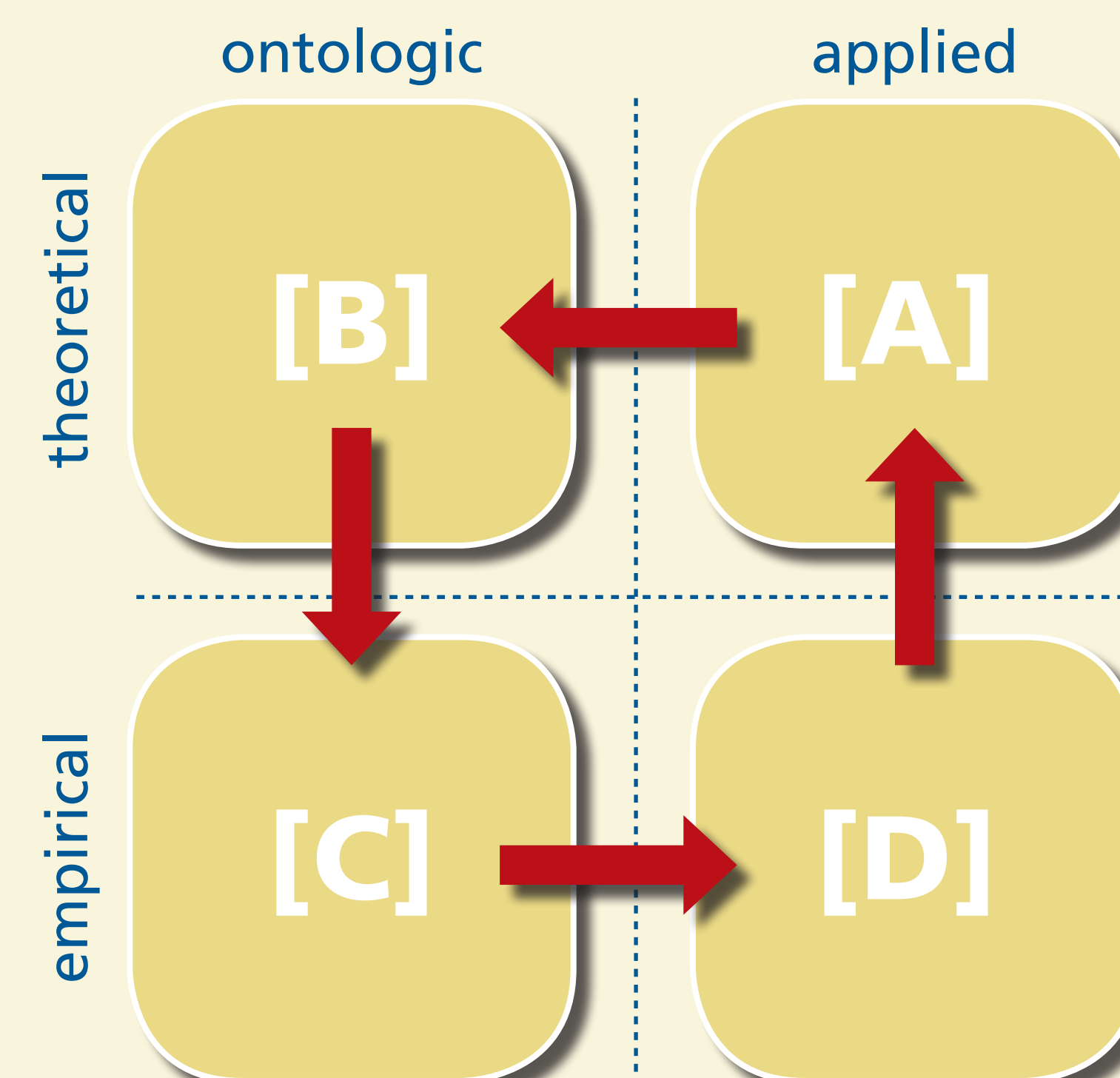
Self-organization: government is not the only centrality, but the perspective of citizens that want to contribute to urban development out of their own interests.

Theoretical framework derived from: complex system theory, post-structuralist planning theory, actor-network theory.

Community based self-organization in urban development:

- initiatives originating in civil society
- by community based networks of citizens
- autonomously organized from governmental procedures
- yet part of the urban system, spatial and situated
- initiators are intended end users.

Research Question: Under which conditions does self-organization in urban development emerge, and how can self-organization become robust and enhanced in planning practice?



## Case Studies

State-of-the-art examples of self-organization in sustainable urban development in three domains: social, economic, cultural.

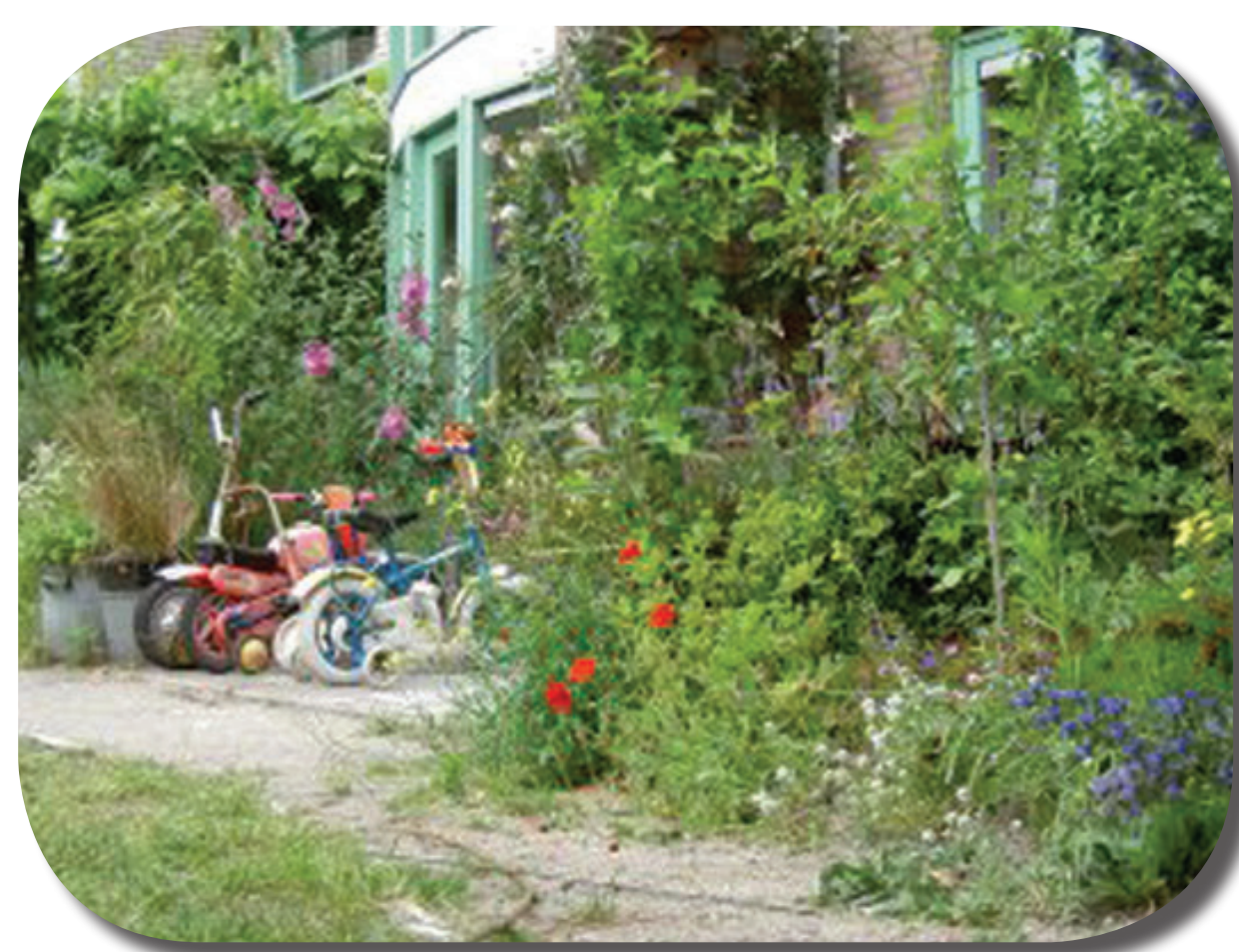
Dutch cases and referential (international) case studies as thematic equivalents.

1. Under which conditions did the initiative emerge?
2. How did institutional arrangements bent around the initiative?
3. What actors, institutional settings and strategies?

Sources: primary (interviews, communication material made by the initiative), secondary (news coverage, policy documents, maps, data), tertiary (scientific publications, related research).

various institutional settings / planning practices

### Netherlands



### International



### Social

Lifestyle communities  
*Andelsbolig Denmark*



### Economic

Business improvement  
initiatives  
*ABIDs UK*



### Cultural

Free zones  
*Zwischennutzung Berlin*

various domains and actors

Institutional settings x actors = strategies and instruments

## Reflections on Planning

Case study descriptions are compared to the daily practice of the Dutch planning system; it's driving and obstructing forces. The results of this research will be translated in a new (institutional) model of actor-relational planning with regard to the development of sustainable cities, by using the competences of civil society.