

Beyond Collaboration and Conflict: A Toolkit for Understanding Temporary Urbanism in Southern Countries

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Received: January 2026 / Accepted: June 2026 | © 2026 Author(s).
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Firenze University Press.
DOI: 10.36253/contest-17088

keywords
temporary urbanism
interaction regimes
value-cycle lens
Global South
logistics governance
circular reuse

This paper addresses the limitations of the collaboration–conflict binary in analysing civil society–institution relationships within contexts of temporary urbanism, particularly in informal and logistics-driven environments in the Global South, capturing the complexity of these “grey zones”, focusing on temporary urbanism, as not merely a tactical design approach, but as a governance interface between communities and authorities.

This study develops a two-layer analytical framework combining a typology of interaction regimes with a value-cycle lens to

1. Introduzione

Civil society–institution relationships are again at the centre of spatial planning debates, as urban change increasingly unfolds through context-specific arrangements where formal regulation and civic agency interact. Across many cities, participation does not automatically translate into influence, especially for vulnerable groups. At the same time, public authorities face growing pressure to respond under conditions of uncertainty and constrained

resources. These dynamics rarely fit the binary of collaboration versus conflict; instead, they unfold in “grey zones” where collaboration, negotiation, and contestation coexist.

Temporary urbanism has evolved from tactical interventions into a recognised planning approach for addressing vacancy and institutional inertia (Bishop & Williams, 2012; Lehtovuori & Ruoppila, 2012). Recent theorisation positions it as a broader family of practices

systematically analyse relational configurations and value dynamics in temporary urban practices. Through comparative vignettes spanning (i) circular reuse of vacant/underused urban spaces and (ii) residual logistics landscapes (backlands, corridors, informal clusters) under polycrisis and techno-logistical transitions.

The paper contributes both conceptually and practically by offering an interpretive and planning-oriented toolkit intended to support comparative analysis with particular relevance for diverse urban contexts in Southern Countries.

embedded in governance transformations (Andres, 2021; Skytt-Larsen et al., 2022). Temporary use operates through time-bound permissions, reversible arrangements, and flexible enforcement. For this reason, it is structurally ambivalent: it can widen low-threshold access to space, while also exposing actors to precarity and displacement when land values or strategic priorities realign (Madanipour, 2017). Critical perspectives highlight how temporary use may legitimise uncertainty and defer redistribution (Ferrerri, 2020; Ferreri, 2024), while other work highlights its catalytic potential for sustainability-oriented development (Turku, 2023).

Two debates are particularly relevant. First, circular reuse reframes urban space as a pro-

cess of continuous adaptation, requiring institutional flexibility and reversible uses (Pekdemir, 2025). Temporary use can thus operate as a “social circular strategy” that tests governance arrangements while mobilising communities around underused assets (Mazzarella et al., 2025), consistent with policy-oriented calls for circular transitions that reconnect environmental goals with inclusion and neighbourhood-scale benefits (Amenta, 2025). Second, Global South perspectives foreground contexts where informality is structural rather than exceptional. In these settings, temporary practices often operate as adaptive responses within the gaps between formal planning and lived needs (Watson, 2009; Watson, 2014). At the same time, informality constitutes an idiom of urbanisation rather than a residual condition (Roy, 2009). In this terrain, citizen-led temporary practices often function as alternative-substitute place-making in the gaps between formal plans and lived needs (Andres et al., 2021), and “civil society” includes informal workers and micro-entrepreneurs that co-produce essential services and innovate in situ (von Hippel, 2005).

Despite a growing body of literature on temporary urbanism, circular reuse, and urban logistics, three key gaps limit a systematic understanding of civil society-institution relationships in these contexts. First, temporary urbanism is still predominantly framed as design-led activation, with limited attention to

logistics-intensive and infrastructural contexts (Andres et al., 2021; Bishop & Williams, 2012). Second, urban logistics research acknowledges spatial implications but rarely integrates temporary socio-spatial practices into planning analysis (Behrends, 2016; Fried et al., 2024). Critical work also shows distributional justice implications (Cidell, 2021), yet temporary socio-spatial micro-practices remain weakly integrated into planning analysis of corridors and backlands (Debie & Raimbault, 2016; Rodrigue, 2012). Third, existing debates lack operational tools to trace how value is created, captured, and redistributed across different governance arrangements.

To address these gaps, the paper develops an integrated analytical framework that conceptualises temporary urbanism as a governance interface across circular reuse and logistics-intensive contexts. The framework combines two analytical dimensions. First, it introduces a typology of interaction regimes beyond the collaboration–conflict binary. Second, it develops a value-cycle lens to analyse how value is generated, captured, and redistributed within these configurations (Wenger et al., 2011), connecting to debates on co-creation and long-term value trajectories (Grimaldi et al., 2012; Ohnishi et al., 2024; Kurznack et al., 2021). The approach is also attentive to pro-poor land-use implications of temporary strategies in the Global South (Agheysi, 2025). The paper addresses three research questions:

- RQ1. How can civil society–institution relationships in temporary urbanism be systematically classified beyond the collaboration–conflict binary?
- RQ2. How do different interaction regimes shape the generation, capture, and redistribution of value over time?
- RQ3. Under what conditions do temporary arrangements foster inclusion and collective agency, and when do they reproduce precarity, exclusion, or displacement?

The originality of the contribution lies in the combined use of these two dimensions: while interaction regimes describe relational configurations between actors, the value-cycle lens captures how value is produced, negotiated, and redistributed within those configurations. The structure of the paper is as follows. After the introduction, Section 2 reviews temporary urbanism through circular reuse and governance arrangements. Section 3 presents the methodological approach and conceptualises logistics-intensive landscapes as a planning context where temporary uses become key civil society–institution interfaces. Section 4 discusses structural temporariness in logistics-driven urban contexts. Section 5 presents the discussion and planning-oriented toolkit, and the conclusion distils implications for planning practice and institutional design aimed at transformative outcomes in context.

2. Literature review

2.1 Temporary urbanism beyond vacancy: temporariness as planning logic and governance interface.

Temporary urbanism scholarship has evolved from a pragmatic approach to vacancy management toward a theorisation of temporariness as a planning logic. Early contributions framed temporary uses as low-cost and flexible responses to dereliction and institutional inertia, as devices to “fill gaps” during crisis or transition phases and keep underused assets active without permanent commitments (Bishop & Williams, 2012). This early strand also framed temporariness as a time-based pathway to regeneration in “lost spaces”, where interim reuse operates as a sequencing device that can prefigure longer-term trajectories (De Girolamo, 2013).

More recent work repositions temporary urbanism as a form of experimental planning embedded in governance transformations, enabling cities to test spatial and institutional configurations before stabilisation (Lehtovuori & Ruoppila, 2012; Andres, 2021; Skytt-Larsen et al., 2022). This shift has important implications for civil society–institution relationships. If temporariness is recurrent rather than exceptional, the key issue becomes how temporary arrangements are authorised, negotiated, and stabilised, and with what distributive effects. As noted by Madanipour (2017), temporary uses can both expand access and repro-

duce precarity, reflecting broader tensions in urban governance. A related body of work interprets temporary urbanism as a governance interface mediated by legal and administrative devices (e.g., time-bound rights, short leases, negotiated tolerance). Rather than operating outside planning, these practices unfold within grey zones where inclusion and exclusion are continuously renegotiated. Critical scholarship cautions that “temporary” can become a seductive policy language promising activation without redistribution and experimentation without structural reform (Ferrerri, 2020). This critique is extended in housing-related contexts, where temporary arrangements can be mobilised to manage scarcity while deferring rights-based claims and shifting risk to users (Ferrerri, 2024). Yet the state of the art also stresses the generative side of temporariness: temporary projects can work as laboratories of social learning and coalition-building that influence institutional routines and public decisions (Andres, 2021; Skytt-Larsen et al., 2022). This perspective is particularly relevant in Global South contexts, where informality and institutional fluidity make temporariness a structural condition of urban governance rather than an exception (Roy, 2009; Watson, 2009; Andres et al., 2021).

However, despite these contributions, there is still a lack of operational concepts to classify how civil society–institution relationships evolve across different governance configura-

tions, particularly beyond the collaboration–conflict dichotomy and within regulatory “grey zones”.

2.2 Circular reuse and the “social” circular city: temporariness as adaptive capacity.

A second, more recent convergence links temporary use to circular urbanism. Here, reuse is not a singular adaptive reuse project, but an iterative cycle of reprogramming, maintenance, repair, and transformation that extends asset life and reduces land take (Amenta, 2025). Temporary uses become one operational pathway through which circular principles can be enacted at neighbourhood scale: they prevent obsolescence, enable “reuse before new use,” and mobilise communities in the governance of existing assets.

This shift highlights the institutional and social dimensions of circularity. Temporary use can be understood as a social circular strategy, where value is co-produced through activation, shared management, and collective learning (Mazzarella et al., 2025). It also requires institutional flexibility, as governance frameworks must accommodate reversible and short-term uses (Pekdemir, 2025). Empirical studies show how temporary reuse can reactivate heritage assets and brownfields and test alternative regeneration scenarios (Turku, 2023). However, its diffusion has outpaced the development of analytical tools able to distinguish inclusive circular reuse from more extractive or speculative

practices. This raises a key planning question: under what conditions does temporary reuse generate durable public value, and when does it reproduce precarity or displacement (Andres, 2021; Madanipour, 2017; Ferreri, 2020)?

However, the circular city agenda remains largely normative and lacks analytical frameworks that connect circular reuse practices to governance arrangements, ownership regimes, and distributive outcomes in terms of inclusion and quality of life.

2.3 Global South contexts and logistics territories: informality, corridor governance, and poly-crisis temporariness.

A third cluster of literature shifts attention to contexts where informality, resource scarcity, and infrastructural instability are enduring, reshaping what temporariness means politically and operationally. Planning scholarship has documented how idealised “planned city” visions can sweep the poor away and erase everyday practices (Watson, 2009; Watson, 2014), while informality constitutes an idiom of urbanisation rather than a residual problem (Roy, 2009). In these settings, temporary occupation is often a survival strategy rather than a curated intervention, producing forms of “permanent impermanence.” Temporary use can support livelihoods and basic urban functions, while remaining vulnerable to dispossession (Aghehysi, 2025). This resonates with broader planning theory debates that foreground con-

flict, power, and the politics of recognition as constitutive dimensions of planning as a social process (Gunder et al., 2018).

Within this context, citizen-led temporary practices emerge as alternative forms of place-making in the gaps between formal planning and lived needs (Andres et al., 2021). This perspective broadens the notion of civil society beyond formal organisations to include informal workers, micro-entrepreneurs, and community networks that co-produce essential services. A further dimension concerns logistics-intensive landscapes. Urban freight research shows how logistics reshapes land use, labour, and environmental burdens, including in Global South cities (Behrends, 2016; Fried et al., 2024; Mareš, 2023). Critical perspectives highlight distributional justice issues and the uneven geographies of exposure generated by logistics infrastructures (Cidell, 2021). Supply-chain geography further shows that terminalisation and corridor development produce residual and transitional land pockets—interstitial backlands, obsolete warehouses, and fenced yet idle plots—where temporary uses proliferate (Notteboom & Rodrigue, 2009; Rodrigue, 2012; Monios & Wilmsmeier, 2016; Debie & Raimbault, 2016). Yet temporary urbanism scholarship has rarely foregrounded these logistics territories, despite their centrality for livelihoods, informal economies, and local quality of life. The intersection between temporary urbanism and logistics-intensive

landscapes—especially in Global South contexts—remains under-theorised, with limited understanding of how these dynamics shape civil society–institution relationships and their distributive outcomes over time.

Finally, polycrisis and techno-logistical transitions intensify these dynamics. Supply-chain volatility and crisis-driven adaptation reshape planning and investment horizons, making temporary arrangements a pervasive governance mode rather than a marginal exception (Ivanov, 2021; Swilling, 2019). In parallel, digitalisation and “Logistics 5.0” agendas accelerate land revaluation and conflict over access, livelihoods, and environmental risk (Lagorio et al., 2022; Barykin et al., 2022). In these settings, the central analytical challenge is to move beyond the collaboration–conflict binary and develop operational concepts that capture how temporary arrangements enable collective recognition and institutional learning or, conversely, reproduce precarity and displacement across time and context. This motivates the paper’s interpretive and operational framework, including a regime typology and a value-cycle lens to trace distributive outcomes over time (Wenger et al., 2011; Grimaldi et al., 2012; Ohnishi et al., 2024; Kurznack et al., 2021). Despite these contributions, there is still limited understanding of how these processes translate into distributive outcomes over time. The literature highlights three main gaps that this paper aims to address.

First, while the ambivalence of temporality is widely acknowledged, there is a lack of operational concepts to classify how civil society-institution relationships evolve beyond the collaboration-conflict dichotomy, particularly in regulatory “grey zones” (Madanipour, 2017; Ferreri, 2020; Andres, 2021).

Second, the circular city agenda remains largely normative and lacks analytical frameworks that connect circular reuse practices to governance arrangements, ownership structures, and distributive outcomes in terms of inclusion and quality of life (Amenta, 2025; Pekdemir, 2025; Mazzarella et al., 2025).

Third, the intersection between temporary urbanism and logistics-intensive landscapes—especially in Global South contexts—remains under-theorised, despite its relevance for distributive justice, livelihoods, and corridor governance under conditions of polycrisis and techno-logistical transition (Cidell, 2021; Fried et al., 2024; Debie & Raimbault, 2016; Ivanov, 2021).

These gaps directly inform the research questions and motivate the development of the proposed analytical framework.

3. Methodological approach

This paper adopts a qualitative, interpretive, and theory-building research design aimed at developing an analytical framework to examine civil society-institution relationships in contexts of temporary urbanism. Rather

than testing predefined hypotheses, the study follows an iterative process of conceptual abstraction grounded in the systematic integration of literature and comparative interpretation of recurring empirical configurations documented across planning contexts.

The framework is constructed through a two-layer analytical structure that combines (i) a typology of interaction regimes and (ii) a value-cycle lens. These two dimensions are designed to capture, respectively, the relational configurations between actors and the temporal dynamics of value creation and distribution within those configurations.

The typology of interaction regimes is derived through iterative abstraction from recurring patterns identified in the literature on temporary urbanism, informality, and logistics-intensive landscapes, as well as from comparative reasoning across illustrative cases. Regimes are distinguished based on four analytical criteria: (i) the configuration of actor relationships (e.g., collaborative, conflictual, hybrid), (ii) the degree of institutional formalisation (formal, informal, tolerated), (iii) the governance structure (e.g., discretionary, negotiated, programmatic), and (iv) the temporal structure of arrangements (short-term, transitional, or stabilised). This classification enables a systematic differentiation of governance configurations beyond the conventional collaboration-conflict binary.

The second dimension introduces a value-cy-

cle lens to analyse how value is generated, captured, and redistributed across actors over time. Drawing on value creation approaches originally developed in innovation and intellectual capital studies (Grimaldi et al., 2012; Wenger et al., 2011), the value-cycle is here reinterpreted and operationalised to examine distributive dynamics in spatial governance contexts. The cycle is conceptualised as a dynamic process including phases of value creation, activation, stabilisation, and transformation, and considers multiple forms of value, including economic, social, institutional, and territorial dimensions.

Operationally, the framework can be applied through three analytical steps. First, the interaction regime is identified based on the configuration of actors, degree of formalisation, and governance arrangements. Second, value dynamics are mapped by tracing processes of value creation, capture, and redistribution across different actors and over time. Third, the trajectory of the arrangement is assessed in terms of its capacity to stabilise, transform, or reproduce conditions of inclusion, precarity, or displacement. This stepwise application allows the framework to be used comparatively across different contexts.

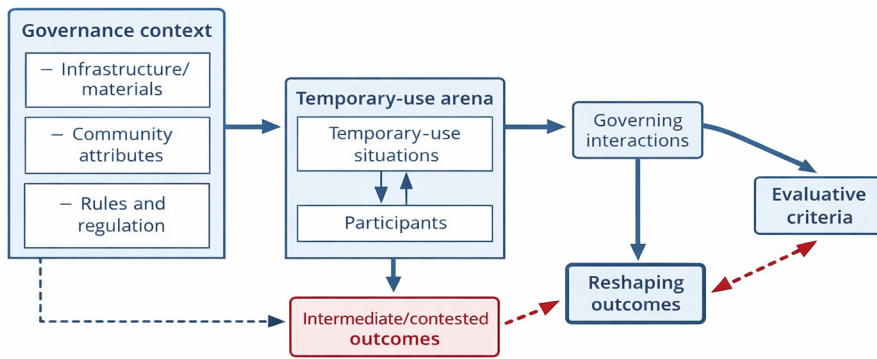
Illustrative cases are employed as heuristic devices to demonstrate the analytical capacity of the framework. These cases are not intended as exhaustive empirical validation, but as analytically grounded examples that reflect re-

curring empirical configurations documented in the literature. Their purpose is to show how the combined use of interaction regimes and value-cycle analysis enables a structured interpretation of temporary urbanism as a governance interface, and to provide a first level of operational testing of the framework.

The framework should therefore be understood as an analytical and interpretive device, not as a prescriptive or universally applicable model. Its value lies in supporting comparative diagnosis, critical reflection, and context-sensitive planning conversations. Its limits are linked to the illustrative nature of the cases, the need for empirical calibration in specific cities and institutions, and the fact that temporary-use arrangements are shaped by local legal, property, and socio-cultural conditions. Possible fields of application include circular reuse strategies, logistics backlands and corridors, informal micro-distribution and repair/reuse clusters, and temporary-use programmes in contexts where inclusion, recognition, and value capture are contested.

3.1 Logistics-intensive landscapes as context

A context-sensitive understanding of civil society–institution relationships benefits from a systems-and-transformations perspective: rather than treating logistics territories as a sectoral backdrop, we analyse them through a set of analytical dimensions that capture how spatial outcomes emerge from the interaction



of infrastructures, rules, actors, and temporal dynamics. This move is consistent with transition studies that operationalise complex change by identifying comparable dimensions of systems and transformations (Edler et al., 2021; Geels, 2011). It also resonates with institutional analysis, most notably Ostrom’s IAD framework, which explains outcomes as the product of an “action arena” structured by rules-in-use, material conditions, and community attributes (Ostrom et al., 1994; Ostrom, 2009). Finally, it aligns with planning scholarship that treats spatial planning as a social process whose configuration can be compared across contexts, especially where informality and multi-scalar governance reshape who participates and what claims become legible (Roy, 2009; Watson, 2009; Miraftab, 2009).

Accordingly, this section develops six dimensions of context through which we connect logistics landscapes to the paper’s research questions on: (i) how hardship becomes collective agency and influences spatial decisions; and (ii) how institutions valorise or redesign frameworks to improve quality of life.

- Dimension 1: Logistics as a spatial planning driver. Urban logistics increasingly reshapes land use, reorganising warehousing,

last-mile distribution, and corridor-based infrastructures, with effects on property regimes, labour, and environmental burdens that often outpace planning cycles (Behrends, 2016; Fried et al., 2024). This creates uneven exposure and benefit, particularly in vulnerable areas, where individual hardship may or may not translate into collective claims (Cidell, 2021).

- Dimension 2: Corridorisation and extra-municipal governance. Logistics landscapes are often governed through multi-level arrangements (e.g., port authorities, corridor entities), which can improve coordination but also generate accountability and representation gaps when decisions lie outside municipal planning arenas (Debie & Raimbault, 2016; Monios & Wilmsmeier, 2016). This reshapes who participates in decision-making and which claims become actionable (Ostrom, 2009).
- Dimension 3: Informality as logistics’ operating system. In many Global South contexts, informality is not residual but constitutive of urbanisation (Roy, 2009). Logistics systems often depend on informal distribution, repair, and recycling networks, expanding the notion of civil society beyond formal

Elaboration of author based on Ostrom et al. 1994.

Fig. 1

- actors. This raises key planning questions around recognition, legitimacy, and inclusion (Mareš, 2023).
- Dimension 4: Polycrisis and techno-logistical transitions as temporal drivers. Interconnected crises and logistics transitions (e.g., digitalisation, decarbonisation) increase uncertainty and compress planning timeframes (Swilling, 2019; Ivanov, 2021). These dynamics produce temporary and residual spaces linked to investment volatility and land revaluation processes (Lagorio et al., 2022).
 - Dimension 5: Temporary use as negotiation infrastructure. Temporary use operates as a governance interface where institutional discretion and hybrid arrangements shape whether practices are recognised or excluded (Andres, 2021; Madanipour, 2017). In logistics contexts, these temporary states are often regulated and contested, linking spatial practices to processes of recognition and collective agency (Cidell, 2021).
 - Dimension 6: From sectoral framing to interaction regimes. These dimensions support a shift from a sectoral perspective ("logistics vs reuse") to context-specific interaction regimes. The same temporary arrangement can produce different outcomes depending on governance configurations, enabling inclusion in some cases and reinforcing precarity in others. This motivates the development of an operational typology of interaction regimes combined with a value-cycle lens to analyse distributive outcomes over time.
- ### 3.2 Illustrative applications of the framework
- To demonstrate the analytical capacity and practical relevance of the proposed framework, this section presents three illustrative cases drawn from logistics-intensive and temporary-use contexts. These cases are selected to reflect recurring empirical configurations identified in the literature—namely port backlands, informal urban peripheries, and logistics corridors—where temporariness operates as a structural condition rather than an exception. Together, they represent typical settings in which civil society–institution relationships are shaped by varying degrees of formality, governance complexity, and socio-technical pressures. The aim is not to provide exhaustive empirical validation, but to show how the framework can be applied to classify interaction regimes and analyse value-cycle dynamics across different contexts. In this sense, the cases bridge the state of the art with a first level of analytical application.
- Case 1: Temporary logistics use in port backlands. In port backland areas, underused plots are often temporarily allocated for logistics-related functions such as container storage or interim depots. These arrangements typically operate under short-term concessions or tolerated uses, reflecting a

regime of regulated tolerance. While they enable efficient use of space and support logistics operations, they often generate limited local value and may restrict access for surrounding communities. From a value-cycle perspective, value is created and captured primarily by logistics operators, with weak redistribution and limited long-term stabilisation.

- Case 2: Informal micro-distribution and reuse clusters. In many urban peripheries, informal actors organise temporary spaces for micro-distribution, repair, and reuse activities. These practices often emerge in interstitial or residual areas and operate outside formal planning frameworks, reflecting a regime of agonistic co-production. They generate significant social and economic value in terms of livelihoods and access to services, yet remain vulnerable to eviction or displacement. The value-cycle is characterised by strong local value creation but fragile institutional recognition and limited capacity for stabilisation.
- Case 3: Temporary urban activation in logistics corridors. In some cases, temporary uses are promoted as part of regeneration strategies in logistics corridors, for example through interim cultural or commercial activities. These arrangements often involve public-private partnerships and reflect a regime of selective activation. While they can increase visibility and attract investment,

they may also contribute to land valorisation and subsequent displacement. In this case, the value-cycle shows an initial phase of inclusive value creation followed by processes of capture and redistribution that may exclude original users.

4. Results: structural temporariness in logistics-driven urban contexts

Polycrisis conditions—climate extremes, pandemics, geopolitical shocks, and energy volatility—have increased the fragility and interdependence of supply chains and urban development trajectories (Ivanov, 2021; Swilling, 2019). In this context, logistics acts as a key spatial interface through which disruptions are translated into rapid reconfigurations of storage, distribution, and access systems. As a result, decisions about land use and access are increasingly taken under conditions of uncertainty and time pressure, favouring discretionary and short-term governance instruments over statutory planning cycles (Behrends, 2016; Fried et al., 2024).

Transition scholarship helps explain why these dynamics make temporariness structural rather than exceptional. Landscape-level shocks destabilise socio-technical regimes and open windows for rapid reconfiguration (Geels, 2011). In logistics territories, this is reinforced by techno-logistical transitions—such as digitalisation, automation, and decarbonisation—which reshape spatial requirements and gov-

Comparative application of interaction regimes and value-cycle dynamics across illustrative cases

Tab. 1

Case	Context	Interaction regime	Governance features	Value-cycle dynamics	Key outcome
Port backlands (e.g., temporary container yards)	Port-logistics interface	Regulated tolerance	Short-term concessions, discretionary permits	Value created and captured by operators, weak redistribution	Efficiency gains with limited local inclusion
Informal reuse clusters (e.g., repair/reuse districts)	Urban peripheries	Agonistic co-production	Informal practices, weak institutional recognition	Strong local value creation, low stabilisation	Livelihood support with high precarity risk
Logistics corridor activation (e.g., temporary urban uses in redevelopment areas)	Corridor / regeneration zones	Selective activation	Public-private partnerships, strategic planning	Initial inclusive value, followed by capture	Potential displacement and value extraction

ernance arrangements faster than planning systems can adapt (Lagorio et al., 2022; Barkin et al., 2022).

The result is a paradox: increasing emphasis on control and resilience, yet growing volatility in land-use outcomes. Supply-chain strategies based on flexibility and risk management promote rapid reallocation of functions across sites, while infrastructure investments proceed through phased and uneven development processes. This produces recurring “in-between” spaces—interim depots, provisional yards, and residual plots—where standards are negotiated rather than fixed (Notteboom & Rodrigue, 2009; Debie & Raimbault, 2016). In this context, temporary arrangements become a durable mode of governing space. The

key issue is no longer whether temporary use exists, but how it is regulated, negotiated, and contested over time (Madanipour, 2017; Andres, 2021).

For civil society–institution relationships, structural temporariness expands “grey zones” where access and use are shaped by discretionary permits, informal practices, and hybrid governance arrangements (Ferreri, 2020). These dynamics can enable experimentation and collective action, but also reproduce precarity and displacement, particularly in vulnerable contexts where temporary uses support livelihoods yet remain institutionally fragile (Mareš, 2023; Agheyisi, 2025). In this sense, polycrisis reshapes not only spatial conditions but also the political processes through

Analytical toolkit linking interaction regimes and value-cycle dynamics to possible institutional design options

Tab. 2

which hardship may or may not be translated into collective claims.

5. Discussion

The paper shifts the analytical focus from “temporary projects” to temporary-use regimes, understood as recurring configurations of property control, regulatory discretion, and socio-technical change (Madanipour, 2017; Geels, 2011). This aligns with institutional approaches that emphasise how rules-in-use shape participation, information, and outcomes (Ostrom et al., 1994; Ostrom, 2009).

In logistics territories, these rules are often distributed across multi-level governance arrangements, generating asymmetries in accountability and representation (Debie & Raimbault, 2016; Monios & Wilmsmeier, 2016). The key planning challenge is therefore to make temporary-use regimes socially legible and contestable, reducing the risk of exclusionary discretion.

Second, the polycrisis lens clarifies why civil society-institution relations cannot be read through a simple collaboration-conflict binary. Temporary arrangements can be simultaneously a safety net and a sorting mechanism: they enable livelihoods and social learning, yet they can also discipline space through conditional access, time-limited toleration, and rapid displacement when land values, standards, or security logics shift (Ferreri, 2020; Madanipour, 2017; Cidell, 2021). Insurgent planning

scholarship helps interpret how actors move between “invited” and “invented” spaces of participation, sometimes using spatial practices to force recognition precisely when formal channels are absent or ineffective (Miraftab, 2009). In Global South contexts where informality is an idiom of urbanisation and planning itself can operate through exception these dynamics are intensified, and “civil society” often includes actors not captured by formal organisational categories (Roy, 2009; Watson, 2009; Watson, 2014).

Third, this diagnosis motivates the operational contribution of the paper. If temporariness is a governance condition, assessment must track how temporary-use regimes create and redistribute value over time, not only in market terms but also in capabilities, legitimacy, and lived quality of life (Wenger et al., 2011; Kurznack et al., 2021). The value-cycle lens offers one entry point to observe how interactions generate immediate benefits, build knowledge capital, get applied (or blocked), and sometimes sediment into durable institutional change (Wenger et al., 2011; Grimaldi et al., 2012; Ohnishi et al., 2024). Coupled with a logistics lens, this enables a context-sensitive evaluation of when temporary arrangements expand representation and inclusion and when they function as containment, extraction, or managed invisibility (Cidell, 2021; Debie & Raimbault, 2016; Ferreri, 2020).

The paper concludes with a planning-oriented

Dimension	Toolkit item (analytical focus)	Purpose	Possible design options (institutional levers)	Safeguards (anti-capture / anti-precarity)	Analytical signals (what to look for)
1. Logistics as a spatial planning driver	Land-use readiness for logistics pressure	Anticipate logistics-driven land reconfiguration and reduce asymmetric burdens in vulnerable areas	Freight-sensitive zoning overlays; mitigation standards (noise/emissions/traffic); reserved space for livelihood-supporting micro-logistics and repair/reuse; conditional siting rules tied to social impacts	Distributional-impact screening ex ante; public disclosure of externalities; operator-funded mitigation requirements	Fewer conflict hotspots; more consistent siting decisions; mitigation delivered; fewer ad hoc exemptions
2. Corridorisation & extra-municipal governance	Corridor governance and accountability design	Close accountability and representation gaps in corridor/port/backland governance	Corridor fora linked to municipal planning; inter-agency decision protocols; clear “who-decides-what” matrices; mandatory reporting for concessions/PPP interfaces	Appeals/mediation routes; transparency rules for concessions; rotating community seats; conflict-of-interest provisions	Higher decision traceability; reduced opacity; participation continuity; less “forum shopping”
3. Informality as logistics’ operating system	Recognition and representation beyond formal NGOs	Make informal workers, micro-entrepreneurs, and mutual-aid networks legible participants	Mixed representation quotas (residents + informal workers + micro-SMEs); protected participation slots; logistical support (stipends/transport); community mapping of informal logistics and repair/reuse ecologies	Anti-clientelism checks (no single gatekeeper); transparent nomination; independent facilitation; disaggregated participation monitoring	Greater diversity in minutes; lower dropout; claims translated into agenda items; fewer selective enforcement episodes
4. Polycrisis & techno-logistical transitions	Polycrisis-ready temporary governance clauses	Reduce discretionary drift under shocks and maintain inclusive access when timeframes compress	Shock protocols (climate/pandemic/energy); automatic permit extensions; minimum access guarantees for essential livelihoods; pre-agreed relocation/equivalence plans; adaptive review cycles	Sunset + public review; “do no harm” displacement screens; transparency requirements for emergency decisions	Fewer shock-driven evictions; continuity of basic functions; predictable rule adjustments; faster recovery with less conflict
5. Temporary use as negotiation infrastructure	Structured negotiation infrastructure	Turn grey-zone temporariness into structured negotiation and institutional learning	Graduated permitting (light→standard→full); stewardship bodies for day-to-day coordination; mandatory mediation before eviction; written compacts specifying rights/duties/safety standards	Standardised enforcement protocols; accessible grievance mechanisms; neutral mediators; transparent renewal/termination criteria	Fewer enforcement-only outcomes; documented agreements; improved trust/compliance; disputes resolved with measurable adjustments
6. From “logistics vs reuse” to interaction regimes	Regime and value-cycle monitoring (anti-capture)	Track distributive outcomes over time and prevent value capture/displacement after “activation”	Regime coding (enabling/tolerated/brokered/extractive/repressive) + value-cycle tracking (immediate→potential→applied→raised→reframed); benefit-sharing clauses; right-to-return; reinvestment funds	Independent monitoring; disclosure of operator/developer interests; rent/fee caps; triggers tied to land value uplift	Reduced displacement after uplift; continuity of community functions; evidence of reframed value (rule change); benefits retained locally

toolkit that translates the proposed interaction-regime typology and value-cycle lens into indicative institutional design options for temporary-use governance. The toolkit is not proposed as a prescriptive checklist or universally transferable model; rather, it offers an analytical support for comparing contexts, identifying risks of capture or precarity, and opening planning conversations on possible institutional safeguards, as shown in Table 2.

Future research can extend this work along three main directions. First, comparative studies across different logistics configurations (e.g., port backlands, inland corridors, last-mile hubs) could refine the identification and classification of interaction regimes. Second, further empirical research is needed to analyse how informality and extra-municipal governance interact in shaping recognition, representation, and access over time. Third, longitudinal studies of value-cycle dynamics could clarify under what conditions temporary arrangements lead to institutional change rather than reproducing cycles of precarity.

Mixed-method approaches combining policy tracing, spatial analysis, and qualitative process-based evidence are particularly suited to capturing regime dynamics and distributive outcomes.

6. Conclusions

This paper advances the debate on civil society-institution relationships in planning

by treating context not as background, but as the set of socio-technical, regulatory, and socio-cultural arrangements through which agency becomes collective, legible, and consequential for spatial decisions. Temporary urbanism is proposed as a privileged lens, as it makes visible the core planning dilemma: how hardship is translated into collective claims and how institutions respond under conditions of uncertainty. When temporariness becomes recurrent rather than exceptional, it reveals how planning operates in “grey zones” where inclusion and exclusion are continuously renegotiated. The paper’s first contribution is conceptual: it reframes temporary use not only as an urban design or regeneration technique, but as a governance interface where rights of access, representation, and institutional learning are negotiated under uncertainty. This matters because the same “temporary” arrangement can function as a low-threshold platform for collective recognition in one context, and as a mechanism of containment, value capture, or displacement in another. In this sense, the relevant object of analysis is less the temporary project than the temporary-use regime: the patterned configuration of property control, rules-in-use, discretionary practices, and socio-technical pressures that shapes who can stay, speak, benefit, and influence decisions over time.

The second contribution is analytical: by focusing on logistics-intensive landscapes especial-

ly in Global South city-regions we highlight a planning arena where civil society–institution relationships are particularly context-dependent and politically charged. Logistics territories (corridors, backlands, depots, wholesale markets, interstitial parcels) combine multi-scalar governance, shifting land valuations, and heterogeneous “civil society” ecologies that include informal workers and livelihood infrastructures. In these settings, temporariness is often structural: it is produced by infrastructural phasing, corridorisation, and transitions in digitalisation and decarbonisation that reconfigure space faster than ordinary planning cycles can respond. This perspective expands temporary urbanism beyond vacancy and cultural activation, and it simultaneously broadens the meaning of civil society beyond formal organisations to include the actors who co-produce everyday circulation economies.

The third contribution is operational: the paper proposes a coupled framework consisting of (i) an interaction-regime typology beyond the collaboration–conflict binary and (ii) a value-cycle lens to trace how temporary arrangements generate, stabilise, capture, or redistribute value over time, understood not only as market value, but as capabilities, legitimacy, safety, access, and durable quality-of-life outcomes. This combination addresses a recurring weakness in participation debates: the tendency to evaluate “participation” procedurally rather than through its distributive and temporal

effects. By linking regimes and value-cycle dynamics, the paper provides a practical way to assess whether temporary arrangements are enabling broader representation and inclusion, or instead reproducing precariousness through cycling tenure, selective enforcement, and the displacement of locally created value.

Finally, the planning-oriented toolkit synthesises the implications of this framework into six indicative institutional levers aligned with the six contextual dimensions. Taken together, these levers show that improving outcomes in temporary-use settings is not primarily a matter of “more participation” in the abstract; it is a matter of designing institutional arrangements that: (a) reduce arbitrary discretion without eliminating flexibility; (b) make representation meaningful across formal and informal actors; (c) prevent value capture when activation raises land values; and (d) maintain inclusion under shocks and compressed decision horizons. The central message is that transformative outcomes require institutional capacity for adaptive, rights-aware governance, not temporary projects alone, and that such capacity must always be calibrated to specific legal, property, and socio-cultural contexts.

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