

Planning and its spatiotemporal traps: rethinking economic value capture and the planner's role in governing capital flows within the United States

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Abstract

This article repositions planners as central actors in multi-scalar capital flow governance, moving beyond planning's traditional focus on local value capture intervention within the United States. By exploring multi-scalar regulators – from national to local actors – and intra-national dynamics that shape capital flows, the article highlights the limited spatiotemporal character of contemporary economic value capture instruments, drawing on a typology of these tax, fee, and land-based instruments. Ultimately, I call for planning scholars to reimagine planners as strategic urban governors responsible for safeguarding public interest goals and measures by coordinating multi-scalar regulatory responses to capital flows that assemble the built urban environment.

Keywords

urban planning; governance; value capture; public interest; capital; investment