

# Research in Urbanism Methods Cards

*Designed to enrich learning experiences in Urbanism education, these cards serve as a visual and engaging way to explore a variety of methods used in research in Urbanism.*

*From traditional fieldwork activities like site visits and surveys to strategic analyses such as SWOT and scenario planning, each card encapsulates a distinct method, with its definition and application.*

*These cards are meant for both classroom discussions and individual study. The cards can be used in exercises where students develop research questions and then decide what methods are best to answer them.*

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# Site Visits

Inspecting specific locations to understand their physical characteristics, spatial arrangements, and the interplay between natural and built environments, and society.

## Surveys & Questionnaires

Collecting quantitative and qualitative data from local residents, stakeholders, and users of spaces to gather insights on their needs, perceptions, and behaviours.

## Interviews

Conducting structured or semi-structured interviews with key informants such as community leaders, local government officials, developers, and activists to gather in-depth insights.

## **Participatory Workshops**

Facilitating community engagement sessions to co-create visions, identify issues, and brainstorm solutions for urban development and planning.

## **Observational Studies**

Systematically observing spaces and people's interactions within them to understand patterns of use, accessibility issues, and socio-spatial dynamics. Logging information systematically.

## **Mapping and Spatial Analysis**

Creating and analysing maps using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to study spatial relationships, land use patterns, infrastructure distribution, and environmental conditions.

## **Document Review & Archival Research**

Examining historical records, planning documents, policy papers, and other relevant documents to understand the historical context, policy evolution, and previous planning interventions.

## **Photography and Video Documentation**

Capturing visual data to document existing conditions, illustrate spatial relationships, and support analysis and presentations.

## **Environmental Assessments**

Conducting evaluations of the physical and ecological aspects of sites to inform sustainable planning and conservation efforts.

## **Stakeholder Mapping & Engagement**

Mapping and interacting with a broad range of stakeholders to understand diverse perspectives and build consensus on planning approaches.

## **SWOT Analysis**

Conducting a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis for specific sites or planning initiatives. This tool can help identify internal & external factors that may impact the success of a project.

## **Scenario Planning**

Developing & analysing multiple future scenarios based on assumptions about how key drivers of change ( technological, environmental, economic, & social factors) might evolve. This method helps in understanding potential impacts of policies and projects.

## **Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA)**

Assessing the economic feasibility and impacts of planning proposals by comparing the benefits and costs associated with them. This analysis can support decision-making by highlighting the value and potential return on investment of different planning interventions.

## **Delphi Method**

Using a structured communication technique, often with a panel of experts, to achieve convergence on specific real-world issues or predictions. Through iterative rounds of questionnaires, this method can gather expert opinions and insights on complex planning challenges.

## **Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA)**

Applying a decision-making framework that evaluates and prioritises different planning options based on a set of criteria. This method helps make transparent and justifiable decisions when dealing with trade-offs between conflicting objectives.

## **Public Participation GIS (PPGIS)**

Integrating community input into GIS analyses to incorporate local knowledge and preferences into spatial planning. PPGIS enhances stakeholder engagement & ensures that planning interventions are grounded in the needs & values of the community.

## **Discourse Analysis**

Systematically analysing texts, media, or documents to identify patterns, themes, or biases. This method can be used to evaluate the discourse around planning projects, public opinions expressed in media, or to assess the alignment of planning documents with sustainability goals.

## **Social Network Analysis (SNA)**

Examining the networks of relationships among individuals, groups, or organisations involved in the planning process to understand the flow of information, influence, and resources. SNA can highlight key actors, potential collaborators, or barriers to effective stakeholder engagement.