UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT

THE AUDACITY OF SPACE TRANSFORMATION PLANNING

An Inaugural Lecture

By

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INTRODUCTION

Vice-Chancellor Sir, I regard it a great rear privilege and honor to be asked to give the University's 127th Inaugural lecture. From the records, this is the 6th inaugural lecture from the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, the first was delivered by the late Professor A. T. Salau, of blessed memory in 1993. Ever since, all Professors from this great Department before me have had this rear opportunity to present their inaugural lectures. I stand here today as the fourth Professor from the genre of Urban and Regional Planning but the first to present an inaugural lecture in the area. Also of note is the fact that I stand here today as the first alumnus of the Department to present an inaugural lecture in the University of Port Harcourt and the second in the country.

Although the issue of development planning cuts across many disciplines but Geography handles it in a very special and peculiar manner. For those who want to know whether geography matters in national development planning discourse, Mr Vice-Chancellor, permit me to answer them through the use of the wisdom of our elders in the fable of the tortoise and the snail. Long time ago the tortoise felt that he alone must have control over global knowledge. So he hatched a plan to put all conceivable wisdom inside a gouge to be hidden from all mortals but to be accessible to him alone. He traversed the nooks and crannies of the world gathering knowledge until he had them all in his gouge, so he thought. Then began his attempt to take the gouge to the tallest *iroko* tree where no mortal will have access unless he so wishes. On that fateful day, tortoise hung the gouge of knowledge on his neck in front of him. He tried to climb his chosen tall *iroko* tree without success until the snail came by and watched the folly of this climber. In amusement he asked what tortoise was trying to do. The story has it that tortoise was not willing to tell snail his real motive knowing that his plan was to hide knowledge from men. In frustration, after much effort without success, tortoise told snail he wanted to take the gouge to the top of the *iroko* tree for safe keeping. The snail then advised him to change the location of the gouge to his back and when he did that, he was able to climb effortless. He was so happy to take his gouge of

knowledge up the *iroko* tree. Half way to the top of the climbing journey he realized that this wisdom of the snail was not in his gouge of knowledge. The fury of knowing that after all, not all knowledge were in his gouge caused him to fall headlong and broke this gouge while he was badly broken.

Sir, the wisdom of this fable is simple; no discipline has the exclusive control over the issue of applicable knowledge and especially, development planning. Any attempt at monopoly will only hinder our collective ability to climb the tree of progress. A basic problem of Nigeria's national development efforts rest on putting things in inappropriate locations; wrong locations of state capitals, local government headquarters, industries, social services, etc. Geography has learnt to put development planning efforts in appropriate spatial perspective. Like the snail, this spatial-locational knowledge component, which is an essential missing component of our national development, is natural to geography. If Nigeria will have to make progress in its development strides, there is the need to put the wisdom it offers in the national transformation gouge. Geography and especially the urban and regional planning specialization have adequate tools to look at the pattern and nature of economic development within the space economy of national system i.e. Geography matters today for any true transformative agenda. What is needed is our ability to reason outside the usual box of development planning. We can only achieve this if all points of views are given equal attention, especially the spatial perspective. In my view, doing this will require audacious actions that are spatial, geared towards transformative change, and the people's empowerment and emancipation. To begin, however, we need to understand the challenges, concepts, and then the strategies.

Developmental and Intellectual Challenges of Nigeria

Since the 1946 colonial administration's Ten Year Plan of Development and Welfare for Nigeria, planning development as a mode of human action necessary for socio-economic progress has acquired increased significance. This was contingent on the realization generated by the great economic depression that

accompanied the Second World War which brought untold hardship to people. From 1946 to date several plans of varying duration have been formulated and executed in Nigeria. In spite of these ostensible efforts, the socio-economic conditions of Nigerians have worsened considerably. The problem of the failure of development planning polices to achieve desired social and economic change was brought to the fore by a one time World Bank President, Dr. Robert McNamara. In his analysis of development issues in the early 1970s, McNamara (1973) argued that positive transformation among the underdeveloped nations is not attributable to the absence of development policies and programs but that those formulated were "designed by those who have no knowledge of their problems and operated by those who have no interest in their future". This double tragedy is largely the bane of poor achievement of development planning efforts in Nigeria.

Phillips (1996) identified seven important factors which he opined contributed to the failure of development planning to uplift Nigeria. These are:

i) Nigeria's successive rulers have never really been committed to the country's development;
ii) The philosophical and theoretical underpinning of planning have been weak and largely faulty;
iii) The people have been detached from the planning process;
iv) Plans have been based on inadequate and unreliable data;
v) Plan discipline has been weak; and
vi) The polity has been unstable.

Mabogunje (1978) has earlier argued succinctly this same position. To him, the lack of development of Nigeria is the result of the following:

i) Our leaders and planners have not up till now taken full cognizance of the real nature of the situation which they are trying to change;
ii) The (leaders) often repeated calls for self-reliance, for authenticity and for indigenization are often no more than slogans or at best the chasing of appearances; and

iii) That the best evidence of this is provided by the strategies or models that they have tried to adopt in the process of our development.

It is indeed sobering that, most Nigerians remain poor, still suffering from poor standard of living while Nigeria's social indicators place her among the least developed nations of the world. The challenges of development have continued to be daunting (Arokoyu, 2014; Arokoyu & Ukpere, 2014; Iwuoha & Arokoyu, 2014; Kanu, Arokoyu & Obafemi, 2014; Arokoyu & Weje, 2015; Poronakie & Arokoyu, 2015). Thus, these challenges now require the intellectual community to re-assess and re-shape the Nigeria's development priority, policy and planning machinery through appropriate knowledge deconstruction and construction. Akin to development challenge is the intellectual challenge.

The intellectual Challenge of Nigeria is hinged on the growing concern with regards to the current state of academic knowledge preparation programs in higher institutions. This is borne out of recent events in this country which have questioned the relevance of current social knowledge construction and production in solving pertinent national problems. This has spilled over to the concern over the quality of Nigerian higher education institution graduates. Instead of contributing to the solutions of national problems, we find a situation in which the students we educate are themselves problems that require urgent national solutions. This has prompted Majasan (1971) to wonder whether the time spent in our schools, colleges and universities in trying to get the rising generations educated is not really wasted. According to Majasan, "Individuals and groups from these institutions are so involved in anti-social acts and uncompromising attitudes that many responsible citizens are genuinely concerned about the irrelevance of institutional education to life and good living". Today, the level of problems requiring social knowledge has multiplied considerably such that there is lack of congruence amongst what exist, what is known, and the capacity to know and act. Faced with this crisis of relevance and the public acceptance of the legitimacy of academic knowledge, geographic

and planning education in Nigeria must begin to assess the foundations of its intellectual culture. This is the crux of the matter in the construction of social scientific knowledge with regards to contemporary spatial transformation problem-solving in Nigeria.

EPISTEMOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

Space

The eternal role of any science has been to offer insights towards understanding the real world with a view to improving its livability. This will mean providing understanding of, and explanation for, reality. Reality, the quality or state or fact of being real has three dimensions which made it amenable for studies. The three dimensions of reality are space, time and matter. The centrality of space is the major focus of geographical investigations; traditionally, time constitutes the domain of history, while matter is the focus of physical and biological sciences.

Space according to Knowles & Wareing (1980) is of interest to the geographer for two main reasons. First, it is the place within which human activity occurs. Second, space is an important influence on human activities. These therefore prompted the emphasis on spatial analysis (or the study of man in space) and the concern for the examination of spatial activity in space as a series of interconnected elements forming a complex spatial system that can be identified and analyzed (Adeyemo & Arokoyu, 2001).

Space is a basic requirement of all economic activities. It is a territorial entity to be used and organized to effect or accomplish man′s activities. Space is a three-dimensional entity in which objects and events occur and have relative position and direction. That is, objects, events or facts (things) occur or exist in relation to space (and time); and that the geographic space is filled with matter and energy (or substance). It also constitutes a barrier in form of distance between points or locations to be overcome. Space is differentiated into a structure consisting of areas, points, and interconnecting lines.

Generally, space is very difficult to define or explain or conceptualize. Several reasons have emerged in geographic literature for this definitional problem (Sack, 1980).

i) The geographic space is seen and evaluated in different ways at different times and in different cultures.
ii) Whatever may be said of space at the level of theoretical physics and philosophy breaks down at the terrestrial level because the geographic space is filled with matter and energy or substance.
iii) The entanglement of space and thing makes it a particularly important, but difficult, concept to isolate and analyze.
iv) Space often changes its meaning because we perceive and describe the spatial relations among things differently in different situations.
v) Space and its properties are perceived differently because of differences in cultural environment, access to technology and education, and stages in the life cycle.
vi) The conceptual framework which a society develops to represent space is not static.

From the above, space is a contested philosophical concept which is particularly important because it provides an important ordering system interlacing all facets of thought about human habitation, settlement and survival in planet earth. Several attempts have been made to understand and conceptualize space for human understanding and use.

Conceptions of Space

The historical evaluation of scientific conceptions of space is inextricably linked with the progress in physical theory. The Newtonian laws of motion with the assumption of the Euclidean geometry (pertaining to Euclid's axioms and definitions of straight and parallel lines and angles of plane triangle) set the stage for a formal conception of space in absolute terms: a container of all material objects. This view of space was adopted because the Newtonian laws could not work without such a conceptualization.

The second conception, with a foundation also in physics, regards space as a positional quality of the world of material objects or events. In this sense, space is a relative quality and a system of relations. This conception came with the development of non-Euclidean geometries in the nineteenth century and Einstein's theory of relativity. Einstein's theory demonstrated that the motion of one body can be defined only with respect to a second body and that space must under the conditions of the theory exhibit constant positive curvature (i.e. elliptic).

These initial conceptions of space came from the physical sciences where space is taken to mean the space of the physical world, and geometry was seen as the language in which it is described. Geometric description has helped in the determination of important meanings of physical space; however geometry alone cannot answer geographic questions.

Several scholars have attempted scientific enquiries into the subject matter of space with the view to conceptualizing it. Harvey (1973) identified three conceptions of space useful in social enquiry: absolute, relative and relational.

Absolute Conception of Space: In this sense, space is a phenomenon and a container; a thing in itself with an existence independent of matter. According to Sack (1980);

> In general terms, absolute space means that the continuum called space is immune to influence, that its structure is rigid and cannot be changed by matter or energy, and its description in geometry terms is independent of one's viewpoint or frame of reference. In a stronger sense, absolute space also means that space that has physical effects.

From this viewpoint, space is a distinct, physical and eminently real or an empirical entity which possesses a structure which can be used to order experiences. An example of space in its absolute sense is the

surveyor's and the cartographer's space which can be identified through the conventional grid reference such as latitudes and longitudes.

Relative Conception of Space: Here, space is merely a relation between events or an aspect of events, and is thus bound to time and process. This position was succinctly expressed by Sack (1980: 55) when he wrote that:

> Relational space…assumes that space can be acted upon, that its properties and descriptions are dependent on the distribution of mass and energy and that, by itself, space therefore would not exert physical effects.

Relational Conception of Space: This is a special case of relative conception of space. Relational conception sees in every space the existence or the nesting of other spaces insofar as it g12
contains and represents within itself relationships to other objects.

From the foregoing analysis, the approach has been to first discover what space is and find out the ways to conceptualize and represent it. This is with a view to understanding the human spatial behavior as a consequence of some general conception of space. However, as Harvey (1973) argues, space is not absolute, relative nor relational; but it can become one or all simultaneously depending on the circumstances and usage. This is because, with practice, space becomes whatever we make of it during the process of analysis rather than prior to it. The problem of the proper conceptualization of space can only be resolved through human practice with respect to it (Harvey, 1973).

Lefebvre (1991), in his "The Production of Space" postulated that space is a social product and a complete social construction that is based on values and the social production of meaning. He argued that the social production of space is fundamental to the production of society, hence an important effect on spatial practices and

perceptions. Within space society develop, acquire expression, encounter prohibitions; then they perish, and that same space contains their graves. While insisting on the primacy of space and its re-appropriation, Lefebvre argued that there is no state, ideology, government, commodity, money, value and class struggle without space to which they refer; they would have no reality without spatial point of insertion or without their existing as an ensemble. He went on to add that:

> Any 'social existence' aspiring or claiming to be 'real', but failing to produce its own space, would be a strange entity, a very peculiar kind of abstraction unable to escape from the ideological or even the cultural realm. It would fall to the level of folklore and sooner or later disappear altogether, thereby immediately losing its identity, its denomination and its feeble degree of reality (Lefebvre, 1991: 53).

Lefebvre developed a conceptual triad (physical, mental and lived spaces) which expresses the complex interaction and dialectical unity of spatial relations for understanding his social space. He then concludes that social space has the following basic characteristics:

1) Has a part to play among the forces of production;
2) A product that is either consumed as a commodity or productively consumed as a result in the social reproduction of labor power;
3) As means of production, it shows itself as political instrument that facilitates the control of society;
4) It underpins the reproduction of production and property relations through planning and legal regimes which orders space hierarchically;
5) Practically speaking, it is a set of institutional and ideological superstructures which may come complete with symbolism and systems of meaning or assumes an outward appearance of neutrality, insignificance and absence;
6) Contains potentialities for work and human re-appropriation by responding to the demands of counter-culture or counter-space.

Castells, another notable social space scientist, argues that space is the expression of the society. He argued that "space is a material product, in relationship to other material products – including people – who engage in [historically] determined social relationships that provide space with a form, function, and a social meaning" (Castells, 1972). He saw spatial forms and processes as the product of the dynamics of the overall social structure of modern society emanating from the space of flows and the space of places. His works can be summed up as follows:

1. The differentiation of the spatial forms of social organization and the new form of social articulation, he argues, springs from the capitalist mode of production;
2. The acceleration of the rhythm of a new spatial form of social organization, the great metropolises, emanate from the norms of a spatial organization dominated by the law of the market;
3. There is no cultural system linked to a given form of spatial organization;
4. The social history of humanity is not determined by the type of development of the territorial collectivities;
5. The spatial environment is not the root of a specificity of behavior and representation.

Finally, Soja (1989) introduced the concept of spatiality as "the created space of social organization and production" which, like society itself, exists in both substantive forms (as concrete spatialities) and as a set of relations between individuals and groups (as an embodiment and medium of social life itself). He argued that since spatiality is both embodiment and presupposition of social relations and social structure (material reference), then social life must be seen as both space-forming and space-contingent (a producer and a product of spatiality). He summarized his postulations as sequence of linked premises, which when taken together, frame the materialist interpretation of spatiality:

1. Spatiality is a substantiated and recognizable social product, part of a 'second nature' which incorporates as it socializes and transforms both physical and psychological spaces.

2. As a social product, spatiality is simultaneously the medium and outcome, presupposition and embodiment, of social action and relationship.
3. The spatio-temporal structuring of social life defines how social action and relationship (including class relation) are materially constituted, made concrete.
4. The constitution/concretization process is problematic, filled with contradiction and struggle (amidst much that is recursive and routinized).
5. Contradictions arise primarily from the duality of produced space as both outcome/embodiment/product and medium/presupposition/producer of social activity.
6. Concrete spatiality is thus a competitive arena for struggle over social production and reproduction, for social practices aimed either at the maintenance and reinforcement of existing spatiality or at significant restructuring and/or radical transformation.
7. The temporality of social life is rooted in spatial contingency in much the same way as the spatiality of social life is rooted in temporal/historical contingency.
8. The materialist interpretation of history and the materialist interpretation of geography are inseparably intertwined and theoretically concomitant, with no inherent prioritization of one over the other (Soja, 1989).

From the above analysis, space is an ensemble of relations and networks which are constitutive of social actions while also making scientific actions possible. Space is of primal importance to the constitution of society, it is therefore a necessary foundation for understanding any society, its development priorities and the structural transformation processes. Also, it is futile to practically separate formal space from the material content. Thus, in the occupation of space, production is the means through which the living body as a deployment of energies, produces space and reproduces itself. Our concern should be how to improve the spatial decision-making processes which would produce the most efficient pattern of spatial manifestations through audacious transformation.

Perspective of Spatial Organization

Spatial organization, a major theme in human geography, helps us to understand the space production and transformation processes. Its emphasis is on man-made environments and how they are affected by space. It studies man's use and organization of space with the concern for identifying and analyzing the form and nature of the spatial system in which man interacts with man through his economic, social and political activities (Knowles & Wareing, 1980).

Spatial organization refers to structuring or arrangement or putting into a working order of any area or portion of the surface of the earth. It focuses on space as a phenomenon created by human actions through various social processes and transformable to suite specific social objectives i.e. it sees the development process as a social process more or less concerned with the creation and organization of spatial forms and structures which are capable of contributing to the attainment of specified societal goals (Mabogunje, 1980). As the outcome of man's attempt to use and organize its environment efficiently, spatial organization now focuses more on the study of the spatial structure of human behavior and its role as a change agent. The analysis of man in space now includes the study of the ways in which space is perceived and how these perceptions affect spatial behavior (Knowles & Wareing, 1980).

Spatial organization was advocated as the major focus of the geographical interest from the 1960s as a result of the spread of the scientific method and the quantitative revolution. A major piece of advocacy, according to Johnston (1991), in this regard was the NAS.NRC report (1965) on 'The Science of Geography' which was prepared in order to chart research priorities within the discipline. The report advocated as follows:

(a) Scientific progress and social progress are closely correlated, if not equated.

(b) Full understanding of the world-wide system comprising man and his natural environment is one of the four or five great overriding problems in all science.

(c) The social need for knowledge of space relations of man and natural environment rises, not declines, as the world become more settled and more complex, and may reach a crisis stage in the near future. Lastly,

(d) Progress in any branch of science concerns all branches, because science as a whole is epigenetic. The social need for knowledge of space relations means an imminent practical need. As the population density rises and the land-use intensity increases, the need for efficient management of space will become even more urgent.

The committee also argued that since geography 'involves the study of spatial distributions on the earth's surface…geographic studies will be irreplaceable components of the scientific support for efficient space management'.

In the same vein, in 1970, a somewhat similar report was published which stressed human geography as 'the study of spatial organization expressed as patterns and processes' (Taaffe, 1970). Curiously also, two books with spatial organization titles followed in succession. Morrill (1970) wrote "The Spatial Organization of Society" with an emphasis on role of geographical analysis in understanding the society. To him the core elements of human geography are:

> Space, space relations, and change in space -how physical space is structured, how men relate through space, how man has organized his society in space, and how our conception and use of space change.

Morrill while stressing the geometry of human organization of activities on the earth's surface proposed five qualities of space relevant to the understanding of human behavior as distance,

accessibility, agglomeration, size and relative location. The basic purpose of Morrill was to pay attention to the decision-making processes which would produce the most efficient pattern given the imperfect situations observed in the real world.

The second text written by Abler, Adams and Gould (1971) is designed to increase the readers' understanding of spatial structures and processes and the ways geographers think about them.

These contributions illustrate the centrality of space, space relation and spatial organization as a major focus of geographical interest. The role of man as decision-maker lies at the heart of the interpretation of the spatial organization of human activities on the earth's surface led to the organization of space into recognizable patterns. Thus, the ability to explain and predict human spatial behavior and to modify human spatial organization require a comprehensive knowledge of the ways man perceives, values, and uses space and places (Abler, et al, 1977).

The principle of human organization helps to fashion space into recognizable patterns or order arising from the ensemble of institutions and social practices which constitute the change processes.

Important processes of spatial organization are those of competition, integration, innovation diffusion and migration (Mabogunje, 1980; Adeyemo & Arokoyu, 2002).

i) **Spatial Competition:** involves the resolution of the opposition among spatial elements by actions which allow an element possessing superior attributes to come to final expression. Spatial Competition gives rise to areal differentiation and disparities in development, and the creation of spatial forms within a country.

ii) **Spatial Integration:** involves the co-ordination of spatial activities to achieve a harmonious effect fostered by effective

linkages and integrated economy. Spatial integration is a function of geographic flow of people, materials and information and the vertical relations in the productive process. There are two dimensions to the spatial integration process namely, interactive and functional. The interactive relates to movement between places with no transformation in the elements moved. On the other hand, the functional type involves varying degrees of transformation in the process of being transposed.

iii) ***Spatial Diffusion:*** **(Spread of innovation)** a vital mechanism for keeping the momentum of development going and depends on the national network of social communications. Diffusion occurs between and within spatial units through existing networks of information/communications, settlements and population characteristics and community or individual innovation adoption reception potentiality.

iv) **Migration (Spatial Movement):** This is the process of territorial movement of human population from one spatial unit to another. It involves both spatial and temporal movements of people depending on the territorial context, direction and duration. It plays a major role in population distribution and is implicated in the process of urbanization and growing urban centers; and rural depopulation and growing rural underdevelopment. This is because migration occurs as a result of the perception of unequal distribution of opportunities for self-actualization across the geographic space.

Approaches to Spatial Organization

There are three basic approaches to spatial organization:

1. Evolved organization of space: This is the unconscious and uncoordinated use of space by a cultural group. It is basically the spontaneous and evolutionary changes in the way space is

perceived and organized in the process of use. Most settlements in Nigeria were product of this process.

2. Planned Organization of Space: This refers to the conscious, systematic and deliberate production of space. This is goal oriented and involves deciding in advance, a set of intelligent actions geared towards the purposeful creation of the physical environment. This process is essentially geared towards providing for a spatial structure of activities that is efficient and ordered. This is the model and desirable of spatial organization form modern society.

3. Planned reorganization of space: This is another form of deliberate organization of space. It arises as a result of the need to improve the spatial condition and arrangement of existing spatial unit perceived as having unpleasant consequences. Examples include the creation of settlement improvement area for the purpose of renewal, upgrading, reshaping and rehabilitation of existing settlement.

Spatial Development Planning

Spatial development planning rests on the ordered adjustment of space and the elements of space to the process of socio-economic transformation of the society. It is a purposeful organization of the physical environment to meet specific requirements of growth, design and management in accordance with socially pre-determined and agreed policies.

The development process of Nigeria is associated with the problem of regional inequality. A number of studies undertaken to examine the spatial implications of the development process in Nigeria have confirmed the existence of regional inequality in development. The main features of the spatial dimension of development in Nigeria can be summarized as follows:

1) Spatial differentiation in the level of socio-economic development; Such differentiation is related to variations in the location of natural resources required by people living in other

parts of the world as well as the existence of a centralized administration over a large territory.

2) The establishment of colonial rule introduced new factors into the process of regional development. Since the colonial economy is predominantly agricultural, export demand for primary products favors those regions where the particular commodities in demand can be produce most efficiently. A number of new cities are established for the provision of essential services to the surrounding country-side as well as for administrative control. Some of these cities also attract processing industries.
3) The establishment of a modern transport system gives certain places associated with nodal point great powers of growth. Because of their accessibility, these points are particularly attractive to manufacturing industries. The process of concentration intensified during and immediately after the period of independence when large scale industries were attracted to the major urban centers. At this period. Spatial imbalance in economic development became more obvious. This has led to the emergence of 'core (growth) areas' and 'peripheries' where the rate of development is minimal.

However, several problems confront planning in most developing countries of Africa (Gilbert, 1970; Arokoyu, 1999; Arokoyu & Wizor, 2009).

1. Many of these countries are yet to have good and strong spatial planning institutions to coordinate their development effort and policies.
2. Many critical economic and social matters are still outside the sphere of their planning.
3. Development planning still suffers from growing lack of skilled practitioners.
4. There is week institutional framework for spatial planning.
5. There are major deficiencies in data gathering process leading to non-reliable data.
6. There is also the lack of political support and often non-clear conception of what is to be achieved through planning.

7. There is the lack of interest of most governments in spatial matters.
8. Spatial planning has been neglected because of the different ways in which planning has been conceptualized and instituted.
9. There has been the temptation to produce too many plans that are disjointed and with overlapping jurisdiction.
10. Due to the reliance of many African countries on foreign experts and institutions, many plans are too sophisticated and unrelated to local conditions to be an appropriate instrument for change.
11. Akin to this, there is the failure of national planners to understand local conditions.
12. Poor planning institutional federalism has often led to conflict within the planning bureaucracy.
13. There is also the general intellectual failing to define accurately the problems which planners should resolve and the planning methodology to utilise.
14. There are also cultural and economic barriers which divide regions within developing countries, thus creating wide disparities between groups and regions.
15. There are differences in income, language, religion, education and history within most developing countries which make spatial planning highly complex process.

Spatial Transformation Planning

Transformation is a common buzzword in the political arena in Nigeria. It inundates our mass media and political rallies such that, in my opinion it has started to offend sensibilities of the citizenry. Transformation is from the Greek word *metamorphoo,* meaning change. It refers to a marked change in form, character, nature, or appearance. It is a long-term holistic process and approach which aims to radically change the society by effecting changes in the spatial practices and structures of the social system.

Spatial transformation is a process of functional determination of space involving the projection of the society on space. This social

production of spatial form involves space making and space changing with a view to adding value to social systems. However, spatial transformation is mediated by planning, a purposeful organization of the human environment through projected course of action involving the use of knowledge, human instrumentality, to improve the spatial structure of activities of a social system.
The basic principles guiding planning include:

1. It involves deliberate efforts to speed up the process of social, economic and spatial development through policy intervention;
2. It is concerned with the improvement of the standards of living of people;
3. It is a continuous process of efficient allocation of resources of the society to achieve social goals;
4. It aims to provide for efficient and effective spatial structure of activities in the society;
5. Based on the understanding of the trend of the workings and evolution of the social-spatial system of the society;
6. Assumes that man's occupancy and activity in space leads to the organization into recognizable pattern.

In addition to these principles, four planning styles guide planning enterprise; and the choice of any of them is a function of the desired level of governmental intervention and control. These are: i) ameliorative problem-solving in which planning efforts react to past problems; ii) allocative-trend modifying in which planning actions are directed at avoiding predicted problems; iii) exploitive opportunity-seeking in which planning seeks to make end of predicted problems with a sense of triumph over fate; iv) normative goal-oriented planning with policy direction of creating destiny by extensively modifying the future by aiming at what could be (Berry, 1973). These planning actions involve a progressive achievement of greater control with respect to both means and ends through the linkage of knowledge to action.

THE PROBLEMS OF TRANSFORMATION PLANNING

Mr. Vice-Chancellor sir, we shall now turn to the challenges of true transformation planning in our country.

The Contested Spaces of Transformation Planning

Transformation planning is an inherent difficult issue to solve. According to Rittel & Webber (1973), planning problems are inherently wicked and exhibit the following distinctive characteristics:

i) The information needed to understand the problem depends upon one's idea for solving it.

ii) To find the problem is thus the same as finding the solution; the problem can't be defined until the solution has been found. This is because the processes of formulating the problem and of conceiving a solution are identical.

iii) There are no criteria for sufficient understanding of planning problems because there are no ends to the causal chains that link interacting open systems.

iv) Solutions to planning problems are not true-or-false, but good-or-bad.

v) There is no immediate and no ultimate test of a solution to a wicked problem.

vi) Every solution to a wicked problem is a "one-shot operation"; because there is no opportunity to learn by trial-and-error, every attempt counts significantly.

vii) There are no criteria which enable one to prove that all solutions to a wicked problem have been identified and considered.

viii) Every wicked problem is essentially unique.

ix) Every wicked problem can be considered to be a symptom of another problem.

x) The existence of a discrepancy representing a wicked problem can be explained in numerous ways; as the choice of explanation determines the nature of the problem's resolution.

The Globalization of National Transformation Processes

Globalization is an important process structuring and restructuring the globe today (Arokoyu, 2012). This process which engenders diverse impacts and spatio-economic changes is a product of the global information economy and the restructuring of the corporate

world. Globalization is inherently geographical and involves how space, place and time are configured and reconfigured in the unending search for a spatial fix to the crisis tendencies of capitalism. Globalization is implicated in the production of new geographical patterns of flows and activity and contingent on trade, industrialization, and innovation in the technologies of transport and communication. In all of its form, globalization is the product of specific geographically grounded process of capitalist activity involving deindustrialization and reindustrialization (Harvey, 2001) through the instrumentality of innovation in the technologies of transport and communication, trade liberalization, agglomeration economies, specialization and multilateral free trade agreements. The driving force behind economic growth in the contemporary phase of capitalism is a global information economy and the restructuring of the corporate world. Three most important economic sectors in this information economy are high technology manufacturing, design-intensive consumer goods, and financial and business services.

Soja (1989) succinctly summarized this restructuring process of capital and listed the basic characteristics which included the following:

1. Increasing centralization and concentration of capital ownership, typified by the formation of huge corporate conglomerates.
2. High technologically-based integration of diversified industrial, research and service activities that similarly reallocates capital and labor into sprawling spatial systems of production.
3. Highly pronounced internalization and global involvement of productive and finance capital, sustained by new arrangements for credit and liquidity organized on a world scale.
4. The weakening of local controls and state regulation over an increasingly ‘footloose’ and mobile capital which encouraged an extraordinary global restructuring of industrial production involving the combination of deindustrialization and reindustrialization.
5. The accelerated geographical mobility of capital has triggered and intensified territorial competition among government units

for new investments i.e. “as capital increasingly co-operates, communities increasingly compete”.

6. At the national level, the regional division of labor and the structure of urban labor markets have been changing rapidly.

The basic challenge is that globalization is a dialectical process involving different production relations implicated in altering the very ontology of place and territory. Thus national spaces become territorial units with different external orientations while sub-national regions become locales of globalised social life. National spatial units acquire global importance in the process of production and exchange. The national governments of developing countries are forced by the global economic imperative to abandon the traditional governance role of value-creation and value-adding to their nationals to doing same to foreign multinational conglomerates. This process which started in Nigeria during the colonial period has continued unabated since independence.

COMPONENTS OF AUDACIOUS TRANSFORMATION

We shall now turn our attention to what constitute our audacious transformation elements with a view to discovering their roles in the transformation of Nigeria.

Spatial Transformation

The search for spatial fixes for socio-economic development and the challenges posed by the integration process to reduce inequalities in the space economy of nations have led to a ‘spatial turn’ and the need for a more coherent approach to territorial development. Today, space has acquired the status of ‘territorial capital’ and a distinguishable local production factor. Space is no longer a neutral category and a ‘container’ for economic and social processes. Rather, it is the product of social relations among people living in a certain area or region where culture and cultural influences play a crucial role.

The practical aspect of spatial planning is its emphasis on the translation of social and economic plans into spatial forms. I am of

the view that the failure of national planning in Nigeria result from their conceptualization in purely economic terms; as they were conceived purely as exercise in financial allocations amongst economic sectors of the nation without recourse to their spatial profiles. No wonder that the plans are not having the expected impacts or the support of the populace. Our surmise is that the locational implications of investment decisions must be made apparent for national plans to make the desired impacts on the people. Also, space must be seen and treated as an important factor of production with capacity to engender economic development. What is needed is the planning appropriation of the multiplier effect of appropriate locational decisions on returns to economic investment.

Sustainable Transformation

Sustainability is an important aspect of audacious transformation planning. This concept brings into fore the thought of incorporating the implications of today's decisions and actions into what becomes of tomorrow. The concept espouses the inherent value-laden nature of our development efforts, in that it implies responsibility for both present and future generations. Sustainability refers to the ability of organized human society to sustain life at the highest possible quality of existence. It recognizes that the national economy and the society depend on justice in the use of biosphere and its environmental processes. It strives to achieve the integrated goals of social and economic efficiency and ecological justice.

The history of human existence on planet Earth is basically the records of the struggle with nature. In the early part of human existence nature had the better part of human; as the threats to human survival came from nature. With the passage of time, the discovery of technology has aided humans in gaining mastery over nature. The tragedy of this mastery today is that humans are not just threat to nature but also to human civilization and existence. We must come to terms with the position of Marshall (1961) when he noted the end to the transformation activities of man in nature:

> Man cannot create material things…His efforts and sacrifices result in changing the form or arrangement of matter to adapt it better for the satisfaction of his wants…as his production of material product is really nothing more than a rearrangement of matter which gives it new utilities, so his consumption of them is nothing more than a disarrangement of matter which diminishes or destroys its utilities.

Development has come to be associated with the manipulation of the content of natural space beyond stability. At this point development efforts become self-defeating as it multiplies destructive tendencies in the ecosystem. While not advocating for the preservation and non-use of natural endowments to prevent spoilage but their destruction and decimation will definitely be an assurance of hardship and poverty for the citizens. Thus, there is the need for harmonious utilization without losing control is an imperative necessity. Such a responsible attitude to space and its contents require clear understanding of the degree of their usability.

Two basic initiatives to ensure appropriate balance are the Eco² Cities and Smart Growth. They are based on the concept of 'Small is beautiful'.

The Eco² cities

The Eco² cities initiative of the World Bank (2010) is to help cities in developing countries to achieve a greater degree of ecological and economic sustainability.

- *Maximize Transport Options.* Support transportation diversity, including walking, cycling, ridesharing, public transit, delivery Services
- *Improve nonmotorized travel condition.* Encourage walking and cycling by improving sidewalks, paths and crosswalks, by calming traffic, and by providing street amenities (trees, awnings, benches, pedestrian – oriented lighting, etc)

- *Encourage Transit oriented development.* Increase development density within walking distance (0.25 to 0.50 miles) of high capacity transit station and corridors, and provide high quality pedestrian and cycling facilities in those areas.
- *Maximize connectivity.* Create a network of well-connected streets and paths, with short blocks and minimal cul-de-sacs. Keep streets as narrow as possible, particularly in residential areas and commercial centers. Use traffic management and traffic calming to control vehicles impacts rather that dead-end and cul-de-sacs commercial
- *Accessible site design.* Encourage building that are oriented towards city street, rather than set back behind large parking lots. A one system approach that enables cities to realize the benefit of integration by planning designing and managing the whole urban system;
- An investment framework that value sustainability and resiliency by incorporating and accounting for life-cycle analysis, the value of all capital assets (manufactured, natural, human, and social), and a broader scope for risk assessment for decision making.

An eco city allows people to walk, bike, or take mass transit for most of their travel, recycles and reuses most of its waste, grows much of its own food, and protects biodiversity by preventing surrounding land.

Smart Growth

According to the American Planning Association (APA), the Smart Growth movement emerged as a response to 'sprawl,' a broad term whereby the spread of development across the landscape far outpaces population growth. APA defines Smart Growth as using comprehensive planning to guide, design, develop, revitalize and build communities for all that:

- Have a unique sense of community and place
- Preserve and enhance valuable natural and cultural resources
- Equitably distribute the costs and benefits of development
- Expand the range of transportation, employment and housing choices in a fiscally responsible manner

- Value long – range, regional considerations of sustainability over short term incremental geographically isolated actions; and
- Promote public health and healthy communities

The core principles and practices include:

- *Strategic Planning:* Establish a comprehensive community vision which individual transport and land use policies and planning decisions should support
- *Encourage compact development:* Encourage higher development densities, particularly within existing urban areas or near activity centers, such as downtowns, commercial centers and transit stations.
- *Create more self – contained communities:* locate various compactable land uses close together so people can reach commonly – used services by walking or short vehicle trips. For example, develop schools, shops and recreation facilities in or adjacent to residential areas. Mix land uses at the finest grain feasible
- *Encourage a mix of housing types and prices*. Develop affordable housing near employment commercial and transport center. Support second suites, apartments over shops, location – efficient mortgages and other affordable housing innovations.
- *Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place:* Encourage Physical environmental that create a sense of civic pride and community cohesion, including attractive public spaces, high – quality architectural and natural elements that reflect unique features of the community, preservation of cultural and environmental resources, and high standards of maintenance and repair.
- *Maximize Transport Options.* Support transportation diversity, including walking, cycling, ridesharing, public transit, delivery Services
- *Improve nonmotorized travel condition.* Encourage walking and cycling by improving sidewalks, paths and crosswalks, by calming traffic, and by providing street amenities (trees, awnings, benches, pedestrian – oriented lighting, etc)
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- *Accessible site design.* Encourage building that are oriented towards city street, rather than set back behind large parking lots.

Regional Environmental Development Planning

Regional environmental development planning is an instrument of social, economic and environmental progress. The process is geared towards ensuring the promotion of a planned and balanced economic development while limiting environmental negative consequences. This was advocated by Arokoyu (1999) as the panacea for the continuous failure of current national economic development planning. We argue that:

i) Development is an instrument of creating social and economic progress as well as ensuring environmental integrity;

ii) Inherent dangers are associated by conceiving and planning for development purely as technically determined investment decisions lacking appropriate spatial considerations;

iii) Development as a process of cumulative change will achieve a wider distribution gains, justice and acceptance when resource use is not associated with environmental problems;

iv) The lack of attention to environmental issues in development planning has led to significant environmental degradation, irreversible loss of precious ecological resources in Nigeria;

v) Emphasis should be placed on the maintenance of balance between the pursuit of national development, environmental quality and the interest of the local people;

vi) With the region in focus, the environment (the content of space) is considered one of the many variables needing attention in the process of socio-economic engineering

vii) In the long run, it is envisaged that the integration of environmental concern to regional development planning will provide greater insight into the nature of resource allocation process, the basic processes generating allocation conflicts, as well as assist in determining the impact of resource investment decisions upon the environment and vice versa.

The present stage of Nigeria's development calls for greater concern for regional and environmental issues. To continue the present strategy of yearly and periodic financial allocation is to deliberately perpetuate inequalities, poverty, unemployment, and ethnic/regional crisis in Nigeria. Thus, a basic program of socio-economic and spatial re-organization in conjunction with sustainable resource utilization and environmental management and control will help to; break the fetters which at present enslave, incapacitate and emasculate majority of Nigerians' from the development process (Mabogunje, 1978).

Resilient Transformation Planning

Disasters are becoming more severe and frequent, and are causing more damage globally and Nigeria has not been an exception. In 2009, almost 90% of all disasters were weather related; 99% of victims and 80% of deaths were due to weather related disasters (CRED, 2010). Floods are the most prevalent and recurring environmental hazards in Nigeria, with at least 20% of the population at risk from one form of flooding or the other. Between 1988 and 2012 the incidences of flood disasters increased dramatically with ten major incidents recorded. The human and environmental impacts have also progressively increased. The 2012 Nigeria floods began in early July 2012, killed 363 people, injured 5,851, affected 3,891,314, and displaced 3,871,063 people. As a result of this unprecedented damage and losses there was the need to determine the impact of the floods and the resulting recovery, reconstruction, and resilience needs. A Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) was conducted between November and December 2012, and I was the South-South coordinator of the study.

The report has been published as the "Nigeria Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), 2012 Floods". The findings show the remote and immediate causes of the floods and estimated a total amount of I,138 billion Naira (US$7.1 billion) requirements to ensure economic recovery in all affected sectors and 884,231 billion Naira (US$5.5 billion) more are required to finance disaster-resilient reconstruction of assets that were destroyed (FGN, 2013).

The reconstruction process must be holistic and geared towards community sustainability and capacity building with a focus to reducing risks and vulnerabilities to future disasters through the integration of disaster risk reduction into the development planning process (Arokoyu, 2013). Resilient planning will provide opportunities in deciding the future direction and scope of national development in line with perceived strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Disaster risk reduction and adaptation management will be an illusion unless based on valid assumptions about human behavior, incorporates an inter-regional perspective, tied to resources and known and accepted by the people (Quarantelli, 1985).

An effective resilient transformation planning requires a good understanding of the underlying social vulnerability of the people and a supportive contingency plan (Lawal & Arokoyu, 2015). A contingency plan, also called an emergency response plan is the overall process of preparing for unexpected event, occurrence, incident or emergency to protect life, property, environment or business operation. These events could be natural, man-made or human induced. Thus, a contingency plan is the set of procedures to be followed to minimize the effects of such an abnormal event. It serves as a guide or reminder of the steps to take during disaster response and identifies personnel and their responsibilities.

Scope of contingency planning

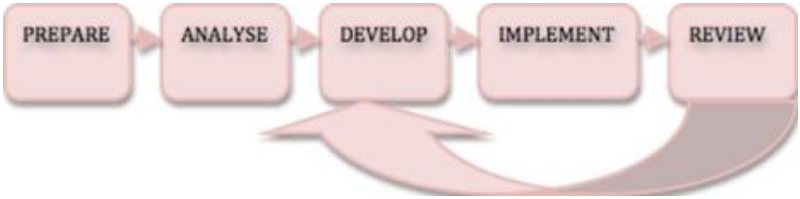
Developing a contingency plan involves making decisions in advance about the management of human and financial resources, coordination and communications procedures, and being aware of a

range of technical and logistical responses. Such planning is a management tool, involving all sectors, which can help ensure timely and effective provision of humanitarian aid to those most in need when a disaster occurs. Time spent in contingency planning equals time saved when a disaster occurs. Effective contingency planning should lead to timely and effective disaster-relief operations and better business.

The contingency planning process can basically be broken down into three simple questions:
• What is going to happen?
• What are we going to do about it?
• What can we do ahead of time to get prepared?

This guide helps planners think through these questions in a systematic way. Contingency planning is most often undertaken when there is a specific threat or hazard; exactly how that threat will actually impact is unknown. Developing scenarios is a good way of thinking through the possible impacts.

Contingency planning can be broadly broken down into five main steps, shown in the diagram below (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, 2012).



In order to be relevant and useful, contingency plans must come from collaborative efforts. They must also be linked to the national and regional development plans and planning systems.

Contingency Planning Activities
Contingency planning activities involve the following planning frameworks;

- ❖ Strategic prevention framework
- ❖ Preparedness framework
- ❖ Risk mapping framework
- ❖ Vulnerability and capacity assessment
- ❖ Risk assessment framework
- ❖ Disaster knowledge base
- ❖ Disaster education
- ❖ Emergency plans
- ❖ Early warning and response systems
- ❖ Disaster prevention investment plan
- ❖ Business continuity plan

Strategic Transformation Planning

Strategic transformation management involves deciding the future direction and scope of the environment, in line with perceived opportunities and threats while ensuring that the required resources are or will be, available in order that the chosen strategies can be implemented. The basic concern is ensuring that planning concentrates on identifying and evaluating alternative courses of action for the environment, so that more opportunities are created.

It views intended strategies as possibly the outcome of both a formal planning process and visionary leadership and treats all intended strategies as incremental changes upon their implementation. This process ensures that there is innovation and change (Thompson, 2001).

Also, strategic transformation planning must be seen as management tool through which the government operates through system thinking and sees transformation issues as circular, interdependent, progressively complex, in which the effect of changes in one part can be traced through the whole of the system. It permits the introduction of new adaptive strategies when fresh opportunities are sported.

Key Success Factors

The following are the basic key success factors in the use of strategic transformation planning:

- ❖ Appropriate national, regional and local organization structure and culture.
- ❖ Visionary leadership who can see the future and communicate same to the subordinates.
- ❖ Planning systems which can ensure that strategies are selected carefully and systematically through an analytical process.
- ❖ Appropriate, feasible and desirable strategies.
- ❖ In turbulent and less predictable national emergency setting, strategic success requires flexibility and the ability to learn about new opportunities and to introduce appropriate changes continuously.
- ❖ Core competencies involving distinctive skills which yield competitive advantage in solving national problems (e.g. technologies, capabilities or processes and good organizational structure).
- ❖ Participation, responsibility sharing, local knowledge, needs of the local people and sense of ownership by the local communities are important keys.
- ❖ Strategies should, as much as possible, be based on past experience (e.g. with extreme events) and developed according to the lesson learned.
- ❖ Adaptation must be seen as a social learning process and location specific while the monitoring of outgoing adaptation and risk management practices should be indicator based to determine success or problem.
- ❖ Mitigation and reconstruction initiatives must be holistic and system-based to avoid negative secondary effects.
- ❖ Applying a livelihoods perspective is helpful in order to identify local vulnerabilities and capacities (Thompson, 2001; Arokoyu, 2014).

Knowledge Societies

Knowledge societies are about capabilities to identify, produce, process, transform, disseminate and use information to build and apply knowledge for human development (UNESCO, 2005). They require an empowering social vision that encompasses plurality, inclusion, solidarity and participation. Since the speeding-up of

technical progress makes competences obsolete increasingly rapidly, it is advisable, in all fields of knowledge, to encourage the acquisition of flexible forms of learning instead of imposing a well-defined set of knowledge.

Three sets of initiatives that could be viewed as the pillars on which genuine knowledge societies for all can be built have been identified by UNESCO (2005):

- A better valuation of existing forms of knowledge to narrow the knowledge divide;
- A more participatory approach to access to knowledge;
- A better integration of knowledge policies

Thus the key drivers are in information, learning, innovation, industrialization, networks and economy. An important pillar for creating a knowledge society is appropriate knowledge economy. The knowledge economy is a particular knowledge-driven stage of capitalist development, based on knowledge, succeeding a phase marked by the accumulation of physical capital. Knowledge thus viewed is in the process of taking the place of the workforce, and wealth created is being measured less on the output of work itself, and more and more on the general level of science and the progress of technology (UNESCO, 2005).

The Word Bank (2002b) report on 'Constructing Knowledge Societies' also emphasized the importance of constructing knowledge societies. Briefly, the main messages of the report are as follows:

- Social and economic progress is achieved principally through the advancement and application of knowledge.
- Tertiary education is necessary for the creation, dissemination, and application of knowledge and for building technical and professional capacity.
- Developing and transition countries are at risk of being further marginalized in a highly competitive world economy because their tertiary education systems are not adequately prepared to capitalize on the creation and use of knowledge.

- The state has a responsibility to put in place an enabling framework that encourages tertiary education institutions to be more innovative and responsive to the needs of a globally competitive knowledge economy and the changing labor market requirements for advanced human capital.

However, the challenge is that the global knowledge system has continued to encourage global knowledge production that is geared towards meeting the development challenge of external economies. On the other hand, the academic production environment of universities in Nigeria has failed to meet the requirements for competitive scholarship and the graduates are having challenges to be globally competitive and locally relevant. An enviable knowledge production environment in Nigeria requires the 'big push' in infrastructural development, up-to-date equipment and personnel in our institutions of learning.

Creative Economy

An important aspect of the knowledge generating mechanism of regional economic growth and transformation is the creation of knowledge clusters of creative cities. This approach has its origin in individual and community ingenuity, skills and talents. It has to do with spatial formation of regions of economic clusters and cultural innovation involving economic hawking of heritage for the purpose of promoting tourism. This strategy of marketing cultural heritage and intellectual property should be strongly-oriented to the formation of economic clusters of employment, investment and infrastructure. The growth performance potential of this envisaged local knowledge industries is enormous. It is an important place-making strategy and a promoter of spatial transformation. The university system in Nigeria must key into this production of local intellectual in creativity, skills and talents. The Department Geography and Environmental Management, University of Port Harcourt has the enviable record as the pioneered Department in environmental management in Universities in Nigeria. The Department is also at the fore front in pioneering Disaster Risk management in conjunction with the National Emergency

Management Agency. We are happy to announce that the Senate of the University has graciously approved the commencement of Ph.D programmes in the specialties of Disaster Risk Management and environmental Management; in addition to approving a Master of Science programme in Geographic Information System (GIS).

Emancipatory Transformation

Emancipatory knowledge for transformation focuses on the identification of contextualized patterns that can guide action and serve as models for analysis and analysis-guided policies. This knowledge derives from the context of local societal realities and, grounded in empirical condition, seek to generate systematic scientific knowledge relevant to the understanding of the workings of the world with a central moral purpose of eliminating oppression and creating appropriate conditions for human flourishing. However, this change process requires: i) The elaboration of a systematic diagnosis and critique of the world as it exists; (ii) the envisioning of viable alternatives to the understanding of reality and (iii) the understanding of obstacles, possibilities and dilemmas of transformation (Delanty, 1997). Wright (2014) lent his voice when he argued that emancipatory science is grounded in two foundational propositions:

1. Many forms of human suffering and many deficits in human flourishing are the result of existing institutions and social structures.
2. Transforming existing institutions and social structures in the right way has the potential to substantially reduce human suffering and expand the possibilities for human flourishing.

Wright went on to add that an emancipatory science responding to these propositions faces four broad tasks: specifying the moral principles for judging social institutions; using these moral principles as the standards for diagnosis and critiques of existing institutions; developing an account of viable alternatives in response to the critique; and proposing a theory of transformation for realizing those alternatives.

Thus, an audacious planning process responding to human emancipation must of necessity identify a central moral purpose in the production of knowledge. The knowledge produced must be of a particular type and form which is capable of freeing from the inhibitions imposed by conventional social research morality, and liberating from the servitude of the pursuit of scientific truth as an absolute form of knowledge. This freedom from the rationalistic inquiry in the quest for objective truth, as a scholarly tradition committed to challenging orthodoxy, will increase self awareness and transform experiences (Delanty, 1997). Thus, the study of spatial science will become problem-oriented and with a focus to change the society for the better. The most serious problems of planning derive from the practice; the problems relate to the question of the connection between knowledge and its public role. This prompted Davoudi (2015) in his consideration of the epistemological nuances and challenges of the knowledge-action relationship, to call for a shift from 'evidence-based planning' to 'planning as the practice of knowing' (i.e. a shift from knowing to doing).

Since the 1980s, the global central question of the connection between social knowledge and its public role has revolved around the notion of policy orientation. Many Social Scientists have become conscious of the failure of planning to deliver the promises of founders whose vision of was the "amelioration of social evils and the rational reconstruction of the society" (Delanty, 1997). In Nigeria, the matter of the concern of the public role of social knowledge has been awaken by the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research in their workshop on the impact of Social Science on policy in Nigeria, as far back as 1981. The major finding of the workshop is the fact that Social Science as it was then currently understood in Nigeria was dominated by the "Western perspectives". Today, after over thirty years of that statement, one wonders if the situation has hardly changed. The historical fact of the Western domination of Social Science ontology and epistemology is "very important for the understanding of the current predicaments and limitations of Social Sciences in the Nigeria society" (Sanda, 1981). This is an important indictment on scholars

and scholarship in Nigeria. Apart from the limitations imposed by basically Western and received theories, the professional requirements of the planners which tend to reorient them towards the use of foreign Eurocentric methodologies and practices tend to act as barriers to effective communication. Also, there is the total lack of coordination of research activities in the planning sciences, and a complete absence of interdisciplinary orientation. Thus, the need for appropriate planning value orientation has not only become important but very urgent.

The following issues challenged the need for an emancipatory approach to socio-spatial transformation planning science and education in Nigeria.

Firstly, emancipatory spatial transformation recognizes the influence which social conditions have on the development of knowledge and on the conception of the link in the relationship between knowledge and society. Social reality is no longer an object but is itself constituted by scientific discourse, which also can no longer be seen to be independent of society. Thus, the social reality of Nigeria today is the presence of myriads of problems such as corruption, kidnapping, militancy, terrorism, insecurity, inequality, poverty, unemployment, to name just a few. The task therefore is not just the diagnosis and critique of the causal processes that generate these harms, but also to demonstrate that existing social structures and institutions of political arrangements in Nigeria systematically cause harm to people. These problems which are socially produced, have spatial forms and locations, and are the product of the failure of the productive transformation of the space of Nigeria.

Secondly, emancipatory social transformation science believes in the importance of social moments as change agent and the understanding that social actions constitute social reality in the production of meaning, as the construction of social actors varies, depending on their positions in the objective structures of society. This entails a commitment to social transformation through critical engagement with society and science and the system of knowledge.

Finally, the dialectical process of homogenization and differentiation that is constituted by the relative position of people and spaces in the development of scale in the country is the product of global orientation of regional plans and planning orientations. The effective functioning of the process is contingent on a functionally differentiated and interrelated national system which is currently outward directed. Nigeria must cash in on this process of functional differentiation arising from economic, cultural and environmental diversities to make significant impact. This should occur at various spatial scales and social organizations. At present, these differentiation has been the major source of heighten tension in the country. Their analysis and subsequent domestication must become sources of generating hope rather than despair. An audacious emancipatory knowledge orientation and planning strategy must form the bedrock of any meaningful transformation process (Arokoyu, 2009).

Audacious Human Movement Policy

Human movement or migration is the process of territorial movement of human population from one spatial unit to another. It is basically an adjustment mechanism for the relocation of mobile factors of production from well-endowed to poorly-endowed areas. It is implicated in the territorial process of urbanization, spatial structuring and restructuring, spatial concentration of activities, production and reproduction of geographical patterns of flows, promoting better utilization of factors of production and an important process in the reduction of spatial iniquities in the space-economy of a nation. These migration benefits have tended to be elusive. There is the need for planned settlement of migrants in Nigeria. Due to the emerging crisis generation potentials of separate ethnic enclaves in many urban centers, it is my considered view that audacious and bold actions are required to change the system. Migration should not be a divisive process but one of cultural homogenization and integration (Arokoyu, 1990; 1995).

Thus, internal migration requires a consciously defined and clear policy which must be pursued with vigor. This bold migration policy must concern itself with creating conditions which will improve unhindered movement in all parts of the country (Arokoyu, 1995). The abrogation of dichotomous indigene and non-indigene (settler) status, as is done in other civilized societies, will be a welcome audacious transformation generating policy.

Settlement Spatial Forms and Sizes

Settlements Urbanization is associated with settlement becoming urban. The process is associated with the concentration of population into towns and cities arising from economic agglomeration.

Components

- As a process of structural change, urbanization produces cities that are foci of the exchange process of industrialization and the optimum location for the production functions.
- As a behavioral process, urbanization produces large cities that are indentified as centers of social change, and modify attitudes, values and behavioral pattern.
- The demographic component of urbanization is the outcome of economic process.
- The structural component of urbanization provides the driving force for scale economics and economic development.

Urbanization is the driver and mediator of the city's productive, consumption and development generating activities. These activities are the outcome of several exchanges, involving:

- Scale economics in exchange
- Innovation in manufacturing
- Innovation in transportation
- Innovation in energy technology
- Scale economics and market areas
- Urbanization economics – sharing, pooling and matching
- Knowledge spillovers.

The good urban environment that is desirable has been identified as composed of the following basic qualities (Cox, 1972):

1. A nuisance free environment – free from crime, congestion (housing & transport)
2. A healthful environment (promote good health)
3. An employment – opportunity environment
4. A recreational - opportunity environment
5. A housing - opportunity environment
6. An educational - opportunity environment
7. A modern amenity environment
8. A health – opportunity environment
9. Equal – opportunity environment
10. Beautiful, aesthetically appealing environment.

However, these characteristics are seen more as unattainable utopia among Nigerian cities. What we see are poorly disposed waste, environmental degradation, poverty, squalor, inadequate/poor housing, poor/lack of urban services, crimes, poor transportation networks, etc. These problems are products of poor urban forms, such as slum, squatter and sprawl. These un-priced externalities are crisis generating and are related to the spatial structure of traditional cities.

CONCLUSION

Vice-Chancellor sir, spatial transformation is a very complex human activity requiring audacious comprehensive efforts. No wonder the present piecemeal efforts are not achieving the desired results. The analyses indicate that improved and appropriate spatial knowledge can become engine of economic growth and development. No doubt, social science and social scientists have contributed in no small measure to Nigeria's development. However, these contributions will be obliterated as the daunting issues of terrorism, militancy, religious fundamentalism, suicide bombing, etc have acquired importance in the face of failed national and global governance. Nigerian social scientists will need to develop tested appropriate local spatial strategies tailored to properly manage the development damping and poor transformation generating processes confronting Nigeria. This will not be a simple solution as it will require that appropriate structures are put in place for the benefits of nationhood

to be achieved. These are issues requiring urgent and appropriate attention, and our contention is that Geographers have important roles to play in socio-spatial transformation of Nigeria. However, audacious actions are required to bring about change in the power relation within the research process to deconstruct the failed transformation planning social knowledge that has continued to alienate, disempower and disenfranchise Nigerians.

Thank you for listening.

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CITATION ON
PROFESSOR SAMUEL BANKOLE AROKOYU
B.Sc, M.Sc, PhD (UPH)

Professor Samuel Bankole Arokoyu was born to the late Chief Arokoyu Gabriel Olowole and Mrs Florence Arokoyu of Iyere in Owo Local Government Area of Ondo State. He attended St. John's Primary School, Iyere; New Church Grammar School, Owo and St. Leo's College, Abeokuta. He proceeded to the Unique University of Port Harcourt in 1979 and graduated in 1983. After his national service, he proceeded to acquire a Master of Science (M.Sc) in 1987 and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree in Regional Development Planning (2001) from the University of Port Harcourt.

Professor Arokoyu was employed by the then Rivers State College of Education in 1986 as Graduate Assistant and rose to become Lecturer Two in 1990. In 1991 he was employed by the University of Port Harcourt as Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Geography. He rose to the rank of Associate Professor in 2005 and then Professor of Urban and Regional Planning in 2010.

Professor Arokoyu is an accomplished scholar. He has eighty-seven (87) published works, which include fifty-two (52) scholarly journal articles published in four continents. Also, he has presented over twenty conference papers, six of which were lead papers. He has

successfully supervised eight (8) Doctoral Theses, forty M.Sc. dissertations and several PGD and B.Sc. projects.

Vice-Chancellor Sir, our inaugural lecturer was part of the national delegate to the Third Session of the United Nation's Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and World Reconstruction Conference, Geneva, Switzerland in 2011; and The 5th Africa Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2014. He is also the University of Harcourt Coordinator of the Climate Impact Research Capacity Enhancement Program for Sub-Saharan Africa (CIRCLE) of the African Academy of Sciences and the Association of Commonwealth Universities. He was the South-South Coordinator of the 2012 Nigeria Flood Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA); the first successful elaborate report on a major disaster in Africa. He has also participated in twelve research and socio-economic consultancy jobs, including the Dredging of the Bonny River and Tanker Mooring Area, International Institute for Environment and Development/GRET Research on Negotiating Access to Land in West Africa, and the Dualisation of the East-West Road.

In the area of University Administration, Professor Arokoyu was a former Head of Department of Geography and Environmental Management (2005-2007), Director Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Development Studies (2010-2014), Associate Dean Faculty of Social Sciences (2014-2015), and currently the Associate Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. He has served in several committees and Boards in the University, which include Hall Warden, Student Disciplinary Committee, Housing, Research Fair, etc.

Professor Samuel Arokoyu is a member of Association of Nigerian Geographers (ANG), Nigerian Environmental Society (NES), Nigerian Institute of Corporate Administration (NICA), Institute of Certified Geographers of Nigeria (ICGN), West African Research and Innovation Management Association (WARIMA), and a Registered Environmental Manager (REM). He is a fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Industrial Administration (FIIA), Nigerian

Institute of Corporate Administration (FCAI), and Institute of Certified Geographers (FCG).

His other academic services include serving as external assessor for Professorship for candidates in nine Universities spread across the country. He has served as external examiner for Graduate pragrammes for University of Calabar, University of Benin, Imo State University, Ambrose Alli University, Rivers State University of Science and Technology and The Nigerian Defence Academy.

Professor Arokoyu is a committed family man, and a loving and God-fearing husband and father. He is married to his friend and heartthrob, Abosede Ajoke, and the marriage is blessed with children.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, ladies and gentlemen, it is my singular honour and privilege to present to you our inaugural lecturer of today; a consummate and erudite scholar, a complete and unassuming gentleman, a God-fearing and family loving man, and a versatile university administrator to present the 127th Inaugural Lecture titled: The Audacity of Spatial Transformation Planning.

Professor Omenihu C. Nwaorgu
Orator