
This thesis evaluates the emancipatory promise of the Unified New Orleans Planning (UNOP) process in light of participation of organizations in the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2). The research investigated the hypothesis that:

A neighborhood’s level of participation in the UNOP process will be a predictor of involvement in the NSP2, based on an idea of the former resulting in increased capacity of its local organizations.

To test this hypothesis, the research used a mixed methodological approach involving context establishment; organizational analyses; statistical modeling; and interviews.

The research found that participation in the UNOP process, measured in terms of number of community improvement projects included in the district plans, was a significant predictor of involvement in NSP2. Participation in the UNOP process was also differentiated. This finding suggests that critical planning is a necessary component of process to ensure that uneven participation does not result in inequitable outcomes that perpetrate social injustice.