

John Sturzaker  
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School of Life and Medical Sciences  
Department of Psychology, Sport and Geography  
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## Research interests

**Community Planning and Localism:** Localism, decentralisation and devolution are changing the way planning happens around the world, perhaps most radically in England, where the 2011 Localism Act gives communities the power to prepare their own plans - "Neighbourhood Plans". John has explored how these new powers are being taken up, including exploring the initial view that they would be more popular in areas with a wealthier local population, and is now investigating whether Neighbourhood Planning can be used in a progressive way, particularly in urban areas. His 2020 co-authored book, *Rescaling Urban Governance*, published by Policy Press, brings together much of his research in this area.

**Interrelationships between urban and rural:** John is interested in the processes by which urban growth happens, specifically including the translation from the broad policy objectives of "higher" tiers of government (whether European, national or regional) into local outputs; the exercise of power to influence the planning system; and how "sustainable" is interpreted in different ways in different places and by different people. He was co-author of *Green Belts: Past; present; future?* and has written several papers and a book chapter looking at this topic in England, Europe, India and China.

**The governance of public policy:** John has published on professionalism in planners and fear amongst planning practitioners. He is currently working on a research project looking at ethics and the public interest in the planning profession.

## Employment

### Chair

School of Life and Medical Sciences  
University of Hertfordshire  
8 Sept 2021 → present

### Department of Psychology, Sport and Geography

University of Hertfordshire  
6 Apr 2021 → present

### Centre for Future Societies Research

University of Hertfordshire  
2 Apr 2022 → present

## Research outputs

### Automatic for the people? Problematising the potential of digital planning

Potts, R., Lord, A. & Sturzaker, J., 15 Apr 2024, (E-pub ahead of print) In: *Urban Studies*.

### Ideology, Statecraft and the 'Double Shuffle' of Conservative Planning Reform in England

Shepherd, E., Inch, A., Sturzaker, J. & Marshall, T., 1 Mar 2024, In: *Town Planning Review (TPR)*. 95, 2, p. 151-174 24 p.

**Planning's value, planners' values: defining and redefining for contemporary practice**

Sturzaker, J. & Hickman, H., 29 Feb 2024, In: Planning Practice & Research. 39, 2, p. 157-170 14 p.

**Profit or public service? Tensions and alignment in private planning practice**

Sturzaker, J. & Hickman, H., 29 Feb 2024, In: Planning Practice & Research. 39, 2, p. 339-354 16 p.

**Sustainability trade-offs in Climate Change Geographies in England**

Sturzaker, J., Catulli, D. M. & Kubitz, B., 9 Jan 2024, In: Sustainability. 16, 2, p. 1-14 14 p., 549.

**Planning in a Failing State: Reforming Spatial Governance in England**

Sturzaker, J. (ed.), Sykes, O. (ed.), Dunning, R., Moore, T., Nurse, A., Lord, A., Smith, M., Madeddu, M., Dembski, S., O'Brien, P., Cowell, R., Fischer, T., Thakur, U. & Chen, C-L., 23 Nov 2023, Bristol: Policy Press. 202 p.

**The Plan-less system. The dysfunctional approach to planning for housing in England**

Sturzaker, J., 30 Apr 2023, In: Town and Country Planning Journal. 92, 2, p. 98-101 3 p.

**Playing games around climate change - new ways of working to develop climate change resilience: New ways of working to develop climate change resilience**

Buck, M., Sturzaker, J. & Mell, I., 10 Nov 2022, In: Journal of Environmental Planning and Management. 65, 13, p. 2538-2555 18 p.

**When Is a Park More Than a Park? Rethinking the Role of Parks as "Shared Space" in Post-Conflict Belfast**

Mell, I., Sturzaker, J., Correia, A., Gearey, M., Blair, N., Lang, L., O'Sullivan, F., Hensel, M. U. (ed.), Hensel, D. S. (ed.) & Battisti, A. (ed.), 20 Sept 2022, (E-pub ahead of print) In: Land. 11, 10, 20 p., 1611.

**Disruptive Localism - How Far Does Clientelism Shape the Prospects of Neighbourhood Planning in Deprived Urban Communities?**

Sturzaker, J., Sykes, O. & Dockerill, B., 5 May 2022, In: Planning Theory and Practice. 23, 1, p. 43-59 17 p.

**Ethical principles in an increasingly diverse planning profession: The potential impact of different types of planners**

Hickman, H. & Sturzaker, J., 1 May 2022, In: Town Planning Review (TPR). 93, 3, p. 241-249 9 p.

**Putting the COVID-19 pandemic into perspective: Urban planning scholars react to a changed world**

Dockerill, B., Hess, D. B., Lord, A., Sturzaker, J. & Sykes, O., 1 Jan 2021, In: Town Planning Review (TPR). 92, 1, p. 1-2 2 p.

**The people: Where will they go?**

Sturzaker, J., 1 Jan 2021, In: Town Planning Review (TPR). 92, 1, p. 11-17 7 p.

**Rescaling Urban Governance: Planning, Localism and Institutional Change**

Sturzaker, J. & Nurse, A., 26 Feb 2020, Policy Press. 206 p.

**The urban/rural green infrastructure conundrum**

Mell, I. & Sturzaker, J., 20 Feb 2020, In: Town and Country Planning Journal. 92, 1, p. 53-58 6 p.

**Localism: a planning panacea?**

Taylor, E., Santamaria, F. & Sturzaker, J., 1 Sept 2019, In: Town Planning Review (TPR). 90, 5, p. 481-496 16 p.

**Settlement, strategy and planning**

Sturzaker, J., 28 Jan 2019, *The Routledge Companion to Rural Planning*. Taylor & Francis Group, p. 369-377 9 p.

Fear: An Underexplored Motivation for Planners' Behaviour?

Sturzaker, J. & Lord, A., 8 Aug 2018, In: Planning Practice & Research. 33, 4, p. 359-371 13 p.

Democratic tensions in decentralised planning – Rhetoric, legislation and reality in England

Sturzaker, J. & Gordon, M., 1 Nov 2017, In: Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space. 35, 7, p. 1324-1339 16 p.

'The planners' dream goes wrong?' Questioning citizen-centred planning

Lord, A., Mair, M., Sturzaker, J. & Jones, P., 4 May 2017, In: Local Government Studies. 43, 3, p. 344-363 20 p.

Opposition and resistance: Governance challenges around urban growth in China and the UK

Sturzaker, J. & Verdini, G., 11 Mar 2017, In: Journal of Urban Management. 6, 1, p. 30-41 12 p.

Urban form, policy packaging and sustainable urban metabolism

Davoudi, S. & Sturzaker, J., 5 Feb 2017, In: Resources, Conservation and Recycling. 120, p. 55-64 10 p.

Green belts: Past; present; future?

Sturzaker, J. & Mell, I., 25 Nov 2016, Taylor & Francis Group. 197 p.

The rising Chinese middle class and the 'construction' of a new countryside

Sturzaker, J. & Law, A., 1 Jan 2016, *Urban China's Rural Fringe: Actors, Dimensions and Management Challenges*. Taylor & Francis Group, p. 33-60 28 p.

Localism in practice: Lessons from a pioneer neighbourhood plan in England

Sturzaker, J. & Shaw, D., 1 Sept 2015, In: Town Planning Review (TPR). 86, 5, p. 587-609 23 p.

"I Think That Sometimes Reading Is Overrated": Tactical, Strategic, and Epistemological Reflections on Planning Education

Sturzaker, J., 20 Dec 2014, In: Journal of Planning Education and Research (JPER). 34, 4, p. 465-471 7 p.

Sustainable urban development in tightly constrained areas: A case study of Darjeeling, India

Mell, I. C. & Sturzaker, J., 11 Mar 2014, In: International Journal of Urban Sustainable Development. 6, 1, p. 65-88 24 p.

Rural housing

Shucksmith, M. & Sturzaker, J., 1 Jan 2012, *International Encyclopedia of Housing and Home*. Elsevier, p. 226-231 6 p.

Can Community Empowerment Reduce Opposition to Housing? Evidence from Rural England

Sturzaker, J., 21 Dec 2011, In: Planning Practice & Research. 26, 5, p. 555-570 16 p.

Planning for housing in rural England: Discursive power and spatial exclusion

Sturzaker, J. & Shucksmith, M., 1 Jan 2011, In: Town Planning Review (TPR). 82, 2, p. 169-193 25 p.

The exercise of power to limit the development of new housing in the english countryside

Sturzaker, J., 1 Apr 2010, In: Environment and Planning A (EPA). 42, 4, p. 1001-1016 16 p.

## Awards

**Just neighbourhoods? Understanding the potential of community-led planning in left behind places.**

Sturzaker, J.

1/09/23 → 31/03/26