Tuna Taşan-Kok

Professor of Urban Governance and Planning
University of Amsterdam

Profile

Tuna Taşan-Kok is Professor of Urban Governance and Planning and Research Programme Director of the Urban Planning Group at the University of Amsterdam. She is an urban social geographer and planner with a sustained record of academic leadership, international collaboration and research on contemporary urban transformation.

Her research examines how spatial planning, regulatory frameworks, property markets and investment dynamics shape urban development. Drawing on political economy, new institutionalism, regulation theory and relational approaches to governance, she developed the concept of spatial governance landscapes to analyse the fragmented institutional, organisational and regulatory infrastructures through which cities are produced.

Her recent work focuses on relations among public regulators, property investors, developers, financial actors and market intermediaries, including the role of property-market intelligence in planning and investment geographies. Her emerging research brings these concerns into dialogue with land ownership regimes, land rent theory and climate governance, with a broader commitment to transparent, accountable and socially just urban transformation.

Selected areas of expertise

- Urban governance and spatial planning
- Property-led development, land and investment dynamics
- Regulation, public accountability and institutional change
- Housing, regional affordability and socio-spatial inequality
- Climate governance, land ownership regimes and land rent theory

Current academic appointment

2021-present **Research Programme Director, Urban Planning**. University of Amsterdam
2018-present **Professor of Urban Governance and Planning**. University of Amsterdam

Academic leadership

2021-present **Founder and Chair**. Urban Governance Research Network, UGoveRN
2022-2026 **Chair**. Foundation of the International Journal of Urban and Regional Research

Education

2004 **PhD in Human Geography, Utrecht University**. Thesis: Budapest, Istanbul and Warsaw: Institutional and Spatial Change
1996 **MSc in Regional Planning with distinction**. Middle East Technical University
1992 **BA in Urban and Regional Planning, summa cum laude**. Dokuz Eylül University

Selected funded research

Taşan-Kok has contributed to securing more than €10 million in competitive international and national research funding, including grants from EU Framework Programmes, NWO, the Open Research Area and transnational funding partnerships.

2020-2023 **Stepping Out**. Co-applicant; NWO Research Agenda. Transdisciplinary learning for sustainable transitions in port-area development

2019-2022 **What is Governed in Cities? (WHIG)**. Project co-coordinator, scientific steering committee member and team leader; Open Research Area

2015-2018 **Public Accountability to Residents in Contractual Urban Regeneration (PARCOUR)**. Principal investigator; FAPESP, NWO and ESRC

2013-2017 **Governing Urban Diversity (DIVERCITIES)**. Project co-coordinator, scientific steering committee member and team leader; EU FP7

2009-2011 **Sustainable Land Use Policies for Resilient Cities (SUPER-CITIES)**. Project co-coordinator and Dutch team leader; Urban-Net

2005-2007 **Spatial Planning to Strategic Projects (SP2SP)**. Research coordinator; KU Leuven

Current advisory roles

2025-2027 **Steering Committee Member**. HypeRent, LISER

2024-2031 **International Academic Advisor**. New Housing Alternatives, SSHRC Partnership Grant

2024-2027 **Scientific Advisory Board Member**. ReHousIn, Horizon Europe

Current editorial and scholarly service

- Chief Editor, European Journal of Spatial Development
- Associate Editor, European Urban and Regional Studies
    - Editorial and advisory roles for leading journals, including International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, Journal of Planning Literature, and Cities

Selected publications (last 5 years)

Books and selected peer-reviewed work. Full publication record available through ORCID, Google Scholar and the UvA profile.

- Taşan-Kok, T., Özoğul, S. and Legarza, A. (2026). Spatial Governance Landscapes: Regulation, Property, and Planning. Routledge.
- Nowak, M. J. and Taşan-Kok, T. (2026). When flexibility backfires: justification of flexibility and legal loopholes in Poland's adaptive Housing Specust law. Urban Research & Practice, 19(2), 206-224.
- Özdemir-Ulutaş, E. and Taşan-Kok, T. (2026). Navigating the paradox of consensus: Insights from Amsterdam and Ankara. Planning Theory.
- Taşan-Kok, T., Özoğul, S., Dröes, M. and Kady, N. (2026). Unlocking value in property investment and development for urban planning. Planning Theory, 25(3), 209-225.
- Pizzo, B. and Taşan-Kok, T. (2026). Urban Rent and Financialisation: Convergences, Tensions, and Planning Perspectives in the Light of Publicness. In A. Bruzzese (ed.), Publicness, città e territori, 75-90.
- Kurt-Özman, E. and Taşan-Kok, T. (2025). Community politics in urban regeneration under authoritarian entrepreneurial governance. Urban Studies.
- Taşan-Kok, T. (2024). Navigating the city: Role of property-market intelligence channels in urban governance networks. European Urban and Regional Studies.
- Taşan-Kok, T. and Raco, M. (2024). Crossing boundaries in real estate and planning research and why it matters. Planning Theory & Practice, 25(2), 247-278.
- Kady, N., Özoğul, S. and Taşan-Kok, T. (2024). Lost in translation: Unlocking planning's potential to harness social value from property development projects. European Journal of Spatial Development, 21(4), 57-81.

- Kurt Özman, E. and Taşan-Kok, T. (2024). From entrepreneurial to responsive spatial governance: Unveiling innovative strategies of self-organization in Istanbul. Cities, 151, 105144.
- Kurt Özman, E., Taşan-Kok, T. and Erkut, G. (2023). How to unravel pathbreaking trajectories in the left-behind areas of Istanbul? Regional Science Policy & Practice, 15(7), 1532-1552.
- Raco, M. and Taşan-Kok, T. (2023). The ambiguities of property-led planning reforms: Being in and against the market. In A. Balducci (ed.), La città invisibile. Hoepli.
- Taşan-Kok, T., Legarza, A. and Özoğul, S. (2022). Governing regional affordability: Rethinking the production of affordable spaces across the Metropolitan Region Amsterdam. Regional Studies.
- Taşan-Kok, T. (2021). New relational understandings of city building: Reading the city through dynamic landscapes of spatial governance. Transactions of the Association of European Schools of Planning, 5(1), 1-8.
- Taşan-Kok, T., Özoğul, S. and Legarza, A. (2021). After the crisis is before the crisis: Reading property market shifts through Amsterdam's changing landscape of property investors. European Urban and Regional Studies, 28(4), 375-394.
- Taşan-Kok, T. and Özoğul, S. (2021). Fragmented governance architecture underlying the production of residential property in Amsterdam. Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space, 53(6), 1314-1330.

PUBLICATION LINKS Google Scholar | ORCID

Selected keynotes and invited lectures (last 5 years)

2025 **The Economic Dimension of Publicness: Financialization and Urban Land Rent**. Keynote, Italian Society of Urbanists National Conference

2024 **The Chaotic Blueprint: Fragmented Governance Landscape of the European City**. Keynote, AESOP Annual Congress, Sciences Po Paris

2022 **Rethinking property-led planning through spatial governance landscapes**. Sir Peter Hall Lecture, UCL Bartlett School of Planning

2022 **Practicing Critical Scholarship: Rethinking affordability through relational regional governance**. Public lecture, London School of Economics

2022 **A Comprehensive Perspective on the Affordable Housing Challenge**. Invited lecture, European Federation for Living

2021 **Understanding the dynamic actor landscapes in the entrepreneurial city**. Keynote, World Planning Day

2020 **Quiet revolution: New state-market-citizen relations and the changing role of urban planning**. Keynote, Israel Planners Association Conference

2020 **Rethinking the Role of Urban Planning in New State-Market-Citizen Relations**. Keynote, Dortmund Conference on Spatial Planning and Research

Teaching and curriculum leadership

Taşan-Kok has designed, coordinated and taught courses across bachelor, master, research master and doctoral programmes. Her teaching connects urban governance and planning theory with property-led development, regulation, institutional analysis, and critical professional practice.

2021-present **Contemporary Urban Transformation**. Research Master in Urban Studies, University of Amsterdam

2015-present **Contemporary Approaches in Property-Led Urban Planning**. MSc Urban and Regional Planning, University of Amsterdam

2019-2023 **Urban Planning: Building the City**. BA Urban Planning, University of Amsterdam

2017-2024 **Introduction to Urban Planning**. BA Human Geography and Planning, University of Amsterdam

2017-2022 **Academic Trajectory Coordinator**. BA Urban Planning, University of Amsterdam

2010-2013 **Human Geography Track Coordinator**. University College Roosevelt, Utrecht University