The paper argues that a number of modern technologies appropriate to urban research can be combined into a coherent urban approach that will also allow us both to model resilience and to critique structural adjustment policies as they have been applied in the poor countries of the globe. On a philosophical level, this approach adds ideas from complexity theory to the neo-Kantian framework of Robert E. Park's sociological approach. Transformational growth matrices (TGMs) developed by E. Nell and Federico Major are measures of qualitative relationships between indexical variables (such as for education, health, income, demography, political awareness, capital) normalized on a scale of negative one to positive one. This scaling facilitates later analysis. Following Park, all variables are assumed to be contextual. It may seem obvious today that three years of Quranic school can have a fundamentally different role in different parts of a city or in different cities but the same must be understood for other variables. Due to their qualitative focus it is also easy to incorporate such variables as Bourdieu’s cultural, economic and social capital into indexical variables. This will allow us to have agents with common characteristics achieve different results based on the socio-economic context in which they are located (within the model). It also allows us to transform that context using structural adjustment policies (e.g. the implications of less funding for education or health can be translated into contextual changes impacting agent behavior) to measure resilience.