

EDITORIAL

This edition of the *Revista Brasileira de Estudos Urbanos e Regionais - RBEUR* (Brazilian Journal of Urban and Regional Studies) consists of eight articles, selected from those submitted to the journal in continuous flow, i.e., not responding to a call for a suggested specific theme. The articles focus on several different topics, such as conflicts involving socio-spatial identity, gender issues and the notion of modernity of a pioneering front in the mid-twentieth century. From among the topics of interest in the area of Urban and Regional Planning, many have brought reflections on the resilient permanence during the second decade of this century, of conflicts concerning the right to the city and land-related issues.

Although presenting new approaches, amongst which there is a strong emphasis on the cultural perspective, debate regarding the aforementioned conflict has permeated a significant portion of the manuscripts sent for peer review to the Journal of the *Associação Nacional de Pós-Graduação e Pesquisa em Planejamento Urbano e Regional - ANPUR* (Brazilian Association of Graduate Studies and Research in Urban and Regional Planning). They are testimony to the enormous challenges that still persist in counteracting the hopes and promises of social justice both in the cities and in the countryside, despite the advances brought by academic research, legal frameworks and by the mobilization of organized society. These challenges currently carry with them a genuine risk of regression, together with the approaching threat to the country's democratic rule of law. However, it should not be forgotten that housing and land issues both in our cities and in the countryside, go beyond the limits and specificities of Brazilian society, and may well appear and intensify in the most diverse corners of the planet with deepening income inequality, as observed by the French economist Thomas Piketty, even in countries referred to as developed. Recent perspectives on the relationship between income inequality and socio-spatial inequalities in the contemporary world, particularly in the emerging BRICS, may certainly give rise to lively debate in future issues of RBEUR. In the current issue, we have attempted to launch this idea with contributions in the English language in order to reach non-Brazilian readers interested in the way that the phenomenon has appeared in Brazil.

Thus, this edition provides an indication of what those involved in the field of urban and regional planning and related areas are producing in Brazil. The selected articles have allowed us to assemble an issue, which we believe will stimulate academic debate within the area and an interchange with articles published in future editions. This issue opens with a fascinating article by **André Guedes Dumans**, entitled "Land and territory struggles, deterritorialization and territory as a social form". Here, readers will encounter a unique interpretation of these struggles, inspired through a combination of anthropological and historiographical strands in order to problematize the much-debated concept of territory. By suggesting the idea of territory as "form" and "a political project", Guedes draws attention to a "certain paternalism" contained within in a number of analyzes that adopt an idealization of the situation prior to dispossession, besides maintaining that "the struggle for land" should be differentiated as "the struggle for territory." The central aspect of the latter is its articulation of references relating to the culture and identity of a particular social group, thus counterpointing the struggles for land, emblematically expressed in the ideals of agrarian reform. The author cautions, however, that territory does not constitute the experience of traditionally communities and peoples enrooted and "placid" when faced with the threat of dispossession by "modernity" - it is instead a starting point for mobilization in order to defend identities, which are materialized, asserted and transformed throughout the struggle.

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Although from within a very different perspective, i.e., urban, the relationship between the production of space and the identity of social groups provides a certain continuity with the next article. With the compelling title, “Between *manezinhos* and *haules*: new and old conflicts in the socio-spatial identity of Florianópolis”, this article by **Marina Toneli Siqueira** relates to the previous article by highlighting the social mobilization surrounding the spatial demands of social identities. For the author, the cultural issue is presented as a decisive factor in the production of space within the city, especially in the context of a globalized economy and interurban competition appropriating local cultural traits. After discussing the theoretical and conceptual aspects of contemporary culture and the formation of urban identities within the abovementioned context, the author recuperates the formation of cultural identity in Florianópolis, drawing attention to the *manezinhos* (descendants of the island’s pioneer settlers, the Azoreans) and the *haules* (tourists and immigrants from other cities in the state of Santa Catarina, and other states and/or other countries). Siqueira identifies the emerging, insurgent sociability among these groups, thus allowing her to conclude that cultural identities and thus, by extension, citizenships, are not complete, cohesive and fixed, but rather social constructions within a continuous process of transformation and a consequence of localized spatial and temporal practices. By assuming a pluralistic view of the city, the author demonstrates the importance of urban planning based on the various narratives of the local inhabitants, thus transforming it into an act of citizenship.

In “Women on the periphery of urbanism: subordinate informality, disarticulated autonomy and resistance in São Paulo, Mumbai and Durban”, by **Luciana Fukimoto Itikawa**, readers are faced with a current perspective on the relationship between informal employment, discrimination and subordination, for which the observational horizon is broadened by focusing on three major metropolises on the periphery of contemporary capitalism from the viewpoint of what the author refers to as “the mainstreaming of exclusion”. By inferring that the global appropriation of markets and of the sources of raw materials is accompanied not only by permanence, but also by the sophistication of exclusionary mechanisms in peripheral countries, the author emphatically registers that: “the land-employment binomial remains one of the passwords for forced removal” here and elsewhere, thus becoming one of the underlying factors for these countries’ selective, subordinate insertion into globalization. Through detailed interviews with informal workers from the three major cities studied, Itikawa identifies the similarities between the three cities that allows her to recognize that center and periphery are facets of the same whole: activation of the exclusion mechanism that causes the workforce to become undervalued does not ensure access to salaries or social rights, thus preventing access to land and housing and establishing accumulation by dispossession (Harvey, 2005). In contrast, Itikawa argues that the differences between cities may be explained through the additional elements of gender, race and ethnic discrimination that reinforce exclusion, and in which the exploitation of women is understood as emblematic, since they are simultaneously affected by unprotected productive work and unpaid reproductive work.

Next in line, the current issue of RBEUR contributes to an updated reflection on the issue of access to housing in large Brazilian cities with the publication of three articles. The first, authored by **Felipe Anitelli** and **Marcelo Tramontano**, focuses analysis on the process of occupying abandoned apartment buildings in the center of São Paulo. The aim of “Abandoned by some, occupied by others: apartment buildings in downtown São Paulo”, through the notion of the social function of urban property - constitutionally established and operationally viable through instruments to deter real estate speculation (The Statute of the City) – is to investigate the manner in which the demands and actions of popular movements (transgressors and controversial) for housing in this urban center have become relevant and present in political struggles. Apart from being based on an updated theoretical framework, the authors use reports published in newspapers and documentaries available on websites, which deal with the building known as *Edifício São Manuel* (The Marconi Occupation). They conclude that the demands of the popular movements, the self-management of the common areas of the occupied

building and the manner in which the residents share their daily activities are in direct conflict with the traditionally adopted public housing policies. Moreover, they infer that the political activism of many of the members of these movements “change the terms in which the production and consumption of housing is understood, at least in central metropolitan areas”.

The theme of access to housing continues with an article by **Patricia Maria de Jesus**, entitled “The inclusion and access of social housing movements to *Minha Casa Minha Vida*: the emergence of the *Entidades* modality”. The decision to publish both this and the following article in English was taken by the Editorial Board of RBEUR, with the consent of the authors, so as to facilitate international debate on the work of Brazilian authors, thus attracting global attention to the empirical and conceptual contributions to a theme that attracts overseas readers, in this case, the issue of popular participation in Brazilian housing policy and the institutions involved. This article by Patricia Maria de Jesus addresses the apparent inconsistency of the relationship between a housing policy designed within the logic of financialization of the economy, through the initiatives of the PT governments in response to the global financial crisis of 2009, and introducing it in a targeted mode for non-profit entities. According to the author, this apparent inconsistency led to this investigation into the context in which the policy and its institutional framework emerged, and in which it was originally configured and that guided its implementation. She concludes that the *Entidades* Program was launched after the *Minha Casa Minha Vida* Program was formulated, in response to the reactions of the social housing movements to the original model that had been submitted late. From this point, Patricia Maria de Jesus leads readers through the negotiation process between the government and the movements, which culminates in a detailed examination of the main characteristics of the design and the operationalization of the program, as well as adjustments to its regulatory role due to the process. By including elements from specific cases where the program was implemented in the city of São Paulo, for which she examines aspects such as the role of the technical advisory services, the relationship between the different levels of government in the approval process and the prevalence of the cost of land in peripheral locations, the author identifies both negative and “virtuous” experiences. For her, the latter “cannot be treated as an exception” and, moreover, they should be viewed as a learning process for the social housing movements with regard to the objective dispute for the appropriation and appropriateness of public policy to their interests, from which their complex relationship with representatives from the state machine is reconfigured.

The debate on access to housing is brought to a close with “Participatory institutions and the housing issue: an exploratory study into the types of debate surrounding participation, resolution and funding” by **Walkiria Zambrzycki Dutra** and **Leonardo Barros Soares**. Through an exploratory and comparative research between two specific contexts - 2009-2010 and 2013-2014 - the authors analyze the minutes and resolutions issued by the member councils of the National Housing Plan (PlanHab): the FGTS Trustee Council (CCFGTS), the Management Council for the National Social Housing Fund (CGFNHIS) and the Council of Cities (ConCidades). Along the lines of the article by Patricia Maria de Jesus, who also addresses the issue of popular participation in housing policy in Brazil, the analytical strength of this contribution is to ascertain the extent to which the organization of the actors involved in public policy may influence the participatory institutions of which they are part. Supported by the category “politically relevant discourse on housing funding”, they examine the resolutions adopted by the first two aforementioned councils between 2009-2010 and 2013-2014, and the minutes of the meetings of the third institution for the years 2009 and 2013. By adopting these investigative procedures, the authors demonstrate the relevance that each of these institutions maintains in relation to the issue of housing funding. In general terms, they conclude that the CCFGTS is the main institution related to this topic, ConCidades is the broader forum of urban policy and CGFNHIS has been drained politically.

We have observed that the abovementioned article, much as the previous two, offers readers a perception of the housing movements as a process that is constituted in experience or, as Paulo Freire

preferred, in praxis, which requires them to be constantly reviewing the routes and even renewing the identities of opposing, confronting interests in the public space. At one point, they were fighting to participate in government decisions. Once this was conquered through mobilization, and accepted by the “progressive” state and celebrated as progress, participating on councils or at meetings within the state apparatus is not automatically translated into an effective influence over the formulation and implementation of public policy, as demonstrated by the authors of the three articles in this series, each, of course, from their own perspective. However, the experience of participation over the last 10 or 15 years, has reset to a new level the challenges facing organized movements facing the contradictions between the “market logic” and the “social logic” - a level that affects the very relationship between public-private or state-society.

With the publication of these articles, we feel that RBEUR is offering its readers - planners, academics and activists – objective and opportune examples so as to promote a greater understanding of the construction of institutions and rights directed towards accessing housing in this young Brazilian democracy, the continuity of which is currently facing real threats of regression, which were not foreseen either by the social movements or the academy. Understanding the impeachment of the President of the Republic as an expression of the disputes regarding the project of a country more or less unequal and sovereign, whatever its outcome, will cause the emergence of a new political-institutional setting, which will push the housing movements to a new level along their rigorous learning course as a political subject, resulting from the confrontation of antagonistic and asymmetric interests in the public sphere constructed in the context of the 1988 Constitution. This new level on which we have now entered, will definitely have among its features the dispute surrounding the preservation or reduction of the public sphere, a phenomenon that needs to be observed carefully by the scientific community, not only by virtue of its intrinsic intellectual curiosity, but also as a reflective resource mobilized to contribute to creating the right to the city.

The issue closes with two articles that refer to urbanism and spatial restructuring, in which the regional level becomes relevant. The text “Modernization and modernity in Maringá 1947-1967: episodes of architecture and a city on a pioneering front”, by **Ana Carolina Pussi de Brito** and **André Augusto de Almeida Alves**, while addressing the discussion about modernity in the mid-twentieth century in a “pioneering frontier” city in the south of the country, is placed in a collection of contributions from the relevant historiography of Brazilian urbanism. Here, the authors take up the controversy of Brazilian and Latin America social thought surrounding the thesis of “ideas out of place” – defended and heralded by Roberto Schwarz (1973), and refuted, most notably by Maria Sylvia de Carvalho Franco (1976) – in criticizing the dualistic theories of Brazilian underdevelopment. Resumption of this debate provides authors with analytical elements to investigate the process of colonization and modernization led by *Companhia de Terras Norte do Paraná/Companhia Melhoramentos Norte do Paraná* (CTNP/CMNP) in Maringá. They have prepared an analytical review of the historiography of this colonizing enterprise on the transport network, the urbanization and layout of the city of Maringa and on some of its buildings. They have also prepared an appraisal of Jorge Macedo Vieira’s urban plan and the projects for CMNP by José Augusto Bellucci. Thus, Brito and Alves bring together architecture, city and social process in the context of a pioneering front, which allows them to capture the complexity of the issues that were at stake in the colonizing process. The investigation of the dynamics mentioned - from the debate and the circulation of ideas - certainly contributes to the formation of a new perspective in the field of research on urbanization processes and the construction of Brazilian territory and cities.

The theme of the dynamics of spatial restructuring, which concludes the article section in this issue, is addressed in the article “New spatial logics of the regional air transport sector in the state of São Paulo” by **Ana Paula Camilo Pereira**. This article deals with a classic problem in regional studies, namely the role of transport in the organization of space, in the network of cities or in urban hierarchy. The article

also seeks to verify the occurrence of spatial discontinuities that for several academics, characterize the current global integration of the production of wealth and of consumption. In this perspective, between the existing modes of transport, the regional air industry sector offers representative evidence to the investigation, thereby justifying the choice made by Camilo Pereira, while at the same time updating the problem by introducing elements from the most recent stages of the spatial restructuring process in the state of Sao Paulo. The author's central argument is that the relationship between the airline industry and the territorial reorganization of the state of São Paulo has intensified, marked by the spatial complementarity between the capital and its metropolitan area and some of the towns in the interior. The author states that "new spatial logics have been defined according to the new role of the towns and their airports within the state of São Paulo". This perception determines the purpose of the text: to examine the role of regional air transport with regard to the new territorial dynamics associated with the decentralization process of industrial activities and services towards the interior, "through a regional dynamic that has extended the connection scale between the interior of the state of São Paulo and the capital, and vice versa". In the context of recent technological and operational changes observed in the industry, the author presents detailed records of the expansion of the sector in the state, highlighting the major airports, and the flow and growth of air routes over the last decade. This allows her to reflect on the urban hierarchy that has resulted from the recent restructuring of the state economy. Following evidence from the literature, Pereira observes that the transference of activities to the interior has stimulated the growth of polarized economic dynamics in some inner cities, a fact that on the one hand has promoted the expansion of their airports and their connectivity to the capital, and on the other, to other parts of the country. However, the author argues, this recent importance of the interior has not challenged the position of the city of São Paulo as being head of the state urban hierarchy (nor of the national hierarchy). On the contrary, since it still expresses its position as the "strategic knot" of the regional and national air network, its dynamism contributes to the strengthening of its leadership in this urban and economic hierarchy. It remains for the reader to ask whether the expansion of the connection to other first order urban centers currently experienced by some towns in the interior of São Paulo has the potential to change the polarization of the capital within the state territory.

This issue of RBEUR concludes with a review by **Beatriz Silveira Castro Filgueiras** of the book *Sinais de fumaça na cidade: uma sociologia da clandestinidade na luta contra a ditadura no Brasil (Smoke signals in the city: sociology of the clandestine struggle against the dictatorship in Brazil)*, by Henri Acselrad. This work, as Filgueiras demonstrates, is a contribution towards understanding the experience of clandestine militancy and its insertion into urban space during the military dictatorship between 1964 and 1985. At a time when Brazilian democracy was deeply threatened, the publication of this review is not just timely, but also necessary. In the words of Filgueiras, "[...] as well as being a valuable contribution for the records and a greater understanding of this historical period [...] it also constitutes a powerful tool for questioning the present and, if sufficient attention is not paid to history, for what is yet to come".

It was exactly at this moment, with our democracy under heavy threat – more precisely on 18th April last, with the echo still ringing in our ears from the stupefying pronouncements by congressmen on agreeing to submit the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff – the sociologist Brasilmar Ferreira Nunes departed, and took his leave from this life. A tireless defender of democracy, he was spared from experiencing the current parliamentary coup. Faced with this loss, this issue of RBEUR pays tribute to this "Anpurian"¹ heart, which reflected brilliantly on the social problems of our country, and will be sorely missed.

We believe that the selection of texts and reflections presented in this issue has introduced a number of new elements into the respective themes addressed, with the possibility of inspiring questions and

¹ From ANPUR - Associação Nacional de Pós-graduação e Pesquisa em Planejamento Urbano e Regional.

reformulations of the ideas presented and thus, in the following issues, provide continuity to the debate which has begun herein. The choice of the figure that forms the cover of this edition considered the following point: science, like history, has no end; its advances result from a social construction which, like a pendulum, swings tortuously, often on unstable soils. The Editorial Board trusts, therefore, that the RBEUR continues to inspire future, thought-provoking submissions of manuscripts.

Enjoy your reading!

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