

EDITORIAL

“TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY!”

I begin this editorial by feeling both honored and yet, at the same time – saddened. Honored – by the kind invitation I received from the Editorial Board of this journal to issue a call for issue 3 of Year 18.

Saddened and mournful, over the early departure, on August 19th of this year, of our friend and colleague Rodrigo Ferreira Simões, president of ANPUR, elected in May 2015, for the period 2015-2017. I first met Rodrigo Simões at ANPUR, and together we formed the Fiscal Council while Leila Christina Duarte Dias was administrating (2009-2011). Later, Rodrigo Simões made an active contribution to many noteworthy activities during my administration (2011-2013). He effectively collaborated towards ANPUR participation in the II Development Conference (2012), and on the Commission for the National Conference on Regional Development (2012), in Brasília. His impish humor, his passion for *Atlético Mineiro* football club, his love for Inácio and Teresa, his deep, contagious joy, and his sharp, critical and engaging comments, will be greatly missed by all those who worked and lived with him. Somehow, like other friends, colleagues, and companions who have departed over the last five years, among them: Maurício Abreu, Ana Clara Torres Ribeiro, Bertha Becker and Brasilmar Nunes, he remains very much alive in our memory, in our practices, lessons, and research.

I am also saddened by the moment in which we are living. A moment marked by another coup against democracy and the rule of law, thus placing us side by side with Paraguay, Honduras, Argentina, and Turkey, in consonance with the intensification and expansion of a worldwide conservative movement, currently manifesting itself in some different countries. A conservative movement that is gaining momentum on an increasingly global scale with the UK voting to leave the European Union (BREXIT), besides Donald Trump's recent victory in the United States presidential election. This movement has taken on different forms in different places, at times with fascist characteristics, which takes advantage of the media power of large corporations and of the mobilization of sectors within the middle class to legitimize the state of exception. Since the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff was a political trial with a juridical seal, conducted by a parliament with many members facing corruption prosecutions. The entire process not only demonstrates the pharisaical spirit that permeates the legal and political institutions of our country. But, it also exposes, brutally and crudely, the conflicts of interest that permeate contemporary Brazilian society. Revealing the promiscuous relationship of its elites and their representatives with spurious international hegemonic interests, as well as the lack of commitment, and social and political awareness of the elected political representatives, who, once the impediment was released, began to plunder the wealth of the nation.

At the same time, as the patrimonialism and archaism of the old oligarchies erupt with all their virulence, they expose the mounting crisis of contemporary sociability. A crisis marked by an ever-increasing alienation from the blatant social differences, which characterize our society, by contempt for others and for that which is different. A society where a media empire has continually contributed to converting citizens into consumers, lobotomizing their hearts and minds with vicious, biased

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approaches that naturalize exploitation, criminalizing poverty and minorities, invisibilizing injustices and seeking to annihilate the social rights and achievements of recent years.

Sadder still is to perceive the social alienation of even those, both the salaried and small businesses, who have benefited and grown from the social policies and achievements implemented over recent years. Policies, which have also enabled so many to cross over the thresholds of hunger and poverty, and many others to realize their dream of upward social mobility through access to vocational training in technical and higher education. The social alienation that manifests itself supporting fascist positions, making use of the identification of the dominated with their dominators hegemonic ideals.

We are undergoing a severe crisis of political nature and representativeness. Now, we are experiencing the effects of the incomplete political reform of the 1988 Constituent Assembly. We remain in a defective representative political system; a legacy inherited from almost a quarter of a century of dictatorship. Political parties became plain numbers, and commitment to partisan ideals and programs has become nonexistent, except for a few rare exceptions. Which reminds me of the snake cartoons by Luis Fernando Veríssimo, where on leaving his spaceship, an extraterrestrial asks the snakes: "Take me to your leader", to which they reply: "Would a football player do? Or a singer of Brazilian popular music?"

It is down to the left to provide some self-criticism. Since, as Jessé de Souza says, the Worker's Party (PT), together with a significant part of the left, became lost along the way by allowing itself to be colonized by liberal ideology, seduced by the apparent emergence of an illusory new middle class. They forgot to show to this "emerging middle class" that at the root of their increasing purchasing power and their social gains regarding access to education, goods, and services, lay the expansion of social achievements and of inclusive policies, which depends on the will of the government to make this happen.

For this to take place, it was necessary to confront the elites and the media who, on behalf of a generalized pseudo-interest, succeeded in co-opting the middle classes leading them onto the streets to fight against even their own interests.

We find ourselves at a crossroads, where democratic social movements and fascist tendencies have been brought face to face. We are now entering a neocolonial process, since neoliberalism with its privatizing furor in countries such as ours, is nothing more than a means, an excuse, to legitimize the subordination of national interests to the predatory interests of international capital, to violate national and popular sovereignty. This alliance of spurious interests has paved the way for a neo-colonizing drive, which may be named neo-civilizing, in terms of satisfying the latent yearnings of middle-class consumption so as to turn us into a tropical Miami, into a consumer bubble surrounded by abject poverty. Thus, Brazil's democratic and social achievements have been put at risk, together with the advances made in terms of regional development and of country's international insertion. It also puts at risk our national wealth, our water, oil, and mineral extraction, at auctions with marked down prices. The production of knowledge has also been jeopardized, with cuts in education, science and technology, and with proposals for "non-partisan schools". The state's secular character is also endangered, with the growing promiscuity between religion and politics. Finally, what kind of country is this that extinguishes and then recreates the Ministry of Culture, and that unites the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation with that of Communications and yet maintains a Ministry of Sport?

We are at a time when, apparently, the dream has come to an end. The sensation of what we are feeling is echoed in Carlos Drummond de Andrade's poem "What now, José?". A poem that closes with these verses: "Alone in the dark / like a wild animal, / with no tradition, / with no bare wall /to lean on, / with no black horse / that gallops away, / you march, José!/José, where to? "

Where to? And the answer comes back at us from our memories, from recalling past mobilizations,

from the legacies of past struggles, which resurface with the same strength and timeliness, which existed during the military dictatorship. As is the case of the song “In spite of you” by Chico Buarque de Hollanda, whose chorus we should mentally chant with all our might: “Tomorrow shall be another day!”. The struggle for another more democratic and egalitarian society continues. One that demands the construction of another space and other practices, and for which other planning is needed. Planning that surpasses the disciplinary, technocratic barriers that go beyond, far beyond hegemonic, corporative, market interests, because planning is too important to only be placed in the care of technicians and submitted exclusively to the direction and desires of urbanistic architects, who seek to secure their market reserve.

At a time when the country destiny is being discussed by ex-ministers from the dictatorship, such as João Paulo dos Reis Velloso, former minister of General Emílio Garrastazu Médici government, in the conference “The Brazil we want”, given at the closing of the National Forum for the National Institute of Higher Studies at the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES), sponsored by large banks, confederations of entrepreneurs and institutions linked to market capital¹. A time in which we face a crisis of political representativeness, as well as the search for alternative forms of struggle and action in order to create another society, another city, another space, the conference by **Faranak MirafTAB** – “Insurgency, planning and the prospect of a humane urbanism”, together with the eight articles, selected from over forty that were submitted, and that compose the theme of the call for this journal issue **Beyond Planning and Urbanism: in search of a differential space**, take on this situation, where the hope of another tomorrow, more just and egalitarian becomes necessary.

Faranak MirafTAB draws attention to the need to decolonize the future, to develop imagination in planning which, in her words, requires no blueprint planning.

This is a vision that we share, by understanding that planning cannot only be restricted to the domain of drawing boards and urbanistic proposals, nor subordinate to market interests or a corporate vision that seeks to defend one area of professional performance. This is why we conceive planning as something more, something that goes beyond drawing, although it may benefit from it. Because,

[...] to move towards another planning, to go beyond plans and projects, requires a broader understanding of planning and, in particular, urban planning, as part of the public social production of space, and which enables us to grasp the political nature of the spatial practices of the country, its role in modernizing the national states and their inseparability from concrete space processes (author’s translation)².

This call for articles has therefore served to resume the debate that began in previous issues of the journal, as detailed below, and to clear the way for discussions regarding planning and alternative means of intervention and social action from the perspective of producing another city and a more equanimous society, that defy the status quo. Therefore, this thematic issue of the *Revista Brasileira de Estudos Urbanos e Regionais* has received articles that sought to reflect on the relationship between the fields of planning and urbanism, as well as on alternative practices for social intervention in the urban space, including those in which the protagonists are the city dwellers, especially those more vulnerable, who implement direct actions within the urban space, with proposals that meet both their needs and those of accumulation. These are initiatives that challenge the dictatorship of capital increasing fast

¹ Available at: <<http://www.inae.org.br/patrocinadores/>>. Accessed on: 15th November 2016.

² LIMONAD, E. Muito além do jardim: planejamento ou urbanismo, do que estamos falando? In: COSTA, G. M.; COSTA, H. S. M.; MONTE-MÓR, R. L. M. (Org.). *Teorias e Práticas Urbanas: condições para a sociedade urbana*. Belo Horizonte: C/Arte, 2015. p. 71-102.

time, that count on the engagement of those who place themselves within the perspective of building a fairer urban society, in other words, of a differential space.

Following on from the Faranak Miraftab conference is a thematic dossier consisting of eight articles, selected from among over forty manuscripts that attended this call. The dossier begins with the instigating article “The field and the transformative praxis of Planning: reflections for a Brazilian Agenda”, by **Jeroen Johanés Klink**, **Sandra Momm**, **Silvana Zioni**, **Arlison Favareto** and **Mariana Mêncio**, a collective of professors at the Universidade Federal do ABC, which brings with it the challenge of hosting the first bachelor’s degree in the country for Territorial Planning. As the title suggests, the article draws attention to the urgent need for reflection on a national agenda regarding planning. It retrieves, and makes imperative to resume a debate initiated years ago by Philip Gunn³, Ana Clara Torres Ribeiro⁴, revisited in 2008 by Rosélia Piquet and Ana Clara Torres Ribeiro⁵, within the framework of the Seminars on Teaching and Research and Extension in Urban and Regional Planning, to which are added the most recent contributions of Rainer Randolph⁶ and João Rovatti⁷. The article, in addition to resuming the discussion on a planning agenda, seeks to reflect on how “transformations during the post-1970s have produced new skills and abilities for the planning of space and territories that go beyond traditional formation” (p. 382-383) in the area of urban planning, which requires and implies the training and qualification of other professionals.

Hereinafter, the article “Capitalist urban planning: notes for a critical reflection on the social production of space”, by **Jorge Mario Carmona Vanegas**, addresses the importance of urban planning as a “necessary and strategic mechanism for the construction of a mode of capitalist production” (p. 393, our translation), and also questions the ideological character of the primary intention of planning in establishing order in an illusory disorder, which is also manifested in other Latin American countries.

Fernanda Sánchez, **Fabrcio Leal de Oliveira** and **Poliana Gonçalves Monteiro**, in “Vila Autódromo in dispute: subjects, instruments and strategies to reinvent the space”, address the conflictual space and the forms of resistance that the residents of Vila Autódromo have used to prevent the advance of capital, reinventing their space to inscribe it into the public sphere. From a similar perspective, the article “Urban Occupations: the territorial poetics of politics” by **Natália Lelis** discusses urban occupations as a microcosm of the clash between the homogenizing forces and differential capacities that challenge consolidated practices and demand other viewpoints, since they evidence the latent contradictions between professional practice and the spatial practices of residents in occupations

In addition to these articles, “Differential space projection based on urban rehabilitation and social participation: the case of a cultural center and a green area (La Redonda and Parque Federal), in Santa Fe, Argentina”, by **María Mercedes Cardoso**, reflects on the urban practices associated with the rehabilitation of buildings and deteriorated areas, questioning, from the case in question, whether these practices would constitute a proposal aimed at social appropriation and with the potential of generating a differential space, or just another commercializing strategy for an area of the city.

3 GUNN, P. Retratando os avaliados nas áreas básicas da Capes em 2001: a pesquisa nos programas brasileiros de pós-graduação segundo uma “área ANPUR”. *Revista Brasileira de Estudos Urbanos e Regionais*, v. 4, n. 1/2, p. 45-61, maio/nov. 2002. <http://dx.doi.org/10.22296/2317-1529.2002v4n1-2p45>

4 RIBEIRO, A. C. T. O ensino do Planejamento Urbano e Regional: propostas à ANPUR. *Revista Brasileira de Estudos Urbanos e Regionais*, v. 4, n. 1/2, p. 63-72, maio/nov. 2002. <http://dx.doi.org/10.22296/2317-1529.2002v4n1-2p63>

5 PIQUET, R. P.; RIBEIRO, A. C. T. Tempos, idéias e lugares: o ensino do Planejamento Urbano e Regional no Brasil. *Revista Brasileira de Estudos Urbanos e Regionais*, v. 10, n. 1, p. 49-59, maio 2010. <http://dx.doi.org/10.22296/2317-1529.2008v10n1p49>

6 RANDOLPH, R. Em busca de uma agenda para o Planejamento Urbano e Regional: uma homenagem a Ana Clara Torres Ribeiro. *Revista Brasileira de Estudos Urbanos e Regionais*, v. 15, n. 1, p. 11-31, maio 2015. <http://dx.doi.org/10.22296/2317-1529.2013v15n1p11>

7 ROVATI, J. Urbanismo versus Planejamento Urbano? *Revista Brasileira de Estudos Urbanos e Regionais*, v. 15, n. 1, p. 33-58, maio 2015. <http://dx.doi.org/10.22296/2317-1529.2013v15n1p33>

From the standpoint that playfulness is a part of human nature, and which tends to be inhibited in everyday life by imposing the rationality of the single thought, **Jana Miranda Mendes Lopes**, in her article “On the swing set installations in public spaces: what can they tell us about the development of contemporary cities?”, attempts to show that the installations of swing sets in public spaces are based on proposals from different agents. Her investigation into swings leads to surprising places and demonstrates how a simple idea put into practice contributes to the singular, heterogeneous productions of the city, with the diverse forms of social appropriation.

This dossier of the current issue of the journal closes with an article entitled “From the carnivalization of Urban Planning to Belo Horizonte-for-war: from politics to the political and vice versa” by **Frederico Canuto**, and another entitled “Planetary urbanization or urban revolution? Back to the hypothesis of the complete urbanization of society” by **Rodrigo Castriota**, which although they address different topics, are consistent with the call of this dossier. By discussing the concept of festivities as a field for the production of new forms of living within the city, Frederico Canuto remains in line with other articles of the dossier by demonstrating the contribution of festivities in producing other spatialities, which serve to contaminate and produce new multiplicities. Rodrigo Castriota in his turn takes the idea further by bringing together a rich selection from the current discussion on planetary urbanization, based on readings by several authors who seek to contribute to a new epistemology of the urban, from the perspective of conceiving a differential space.

In closing, while the articles that make up this issue focus on several different topics, together they provide a small contribution to the advance of state-of-the-art studies related to the tension between planning and urbanism, as well as to alternative forms of the appropriation, intervention, and transformation of social space. They range from issues related to the teaching and practice of urban planning and the discipline of urbanism, and from actions and interventions of collectives and social movements to produce another space, and which thus helps to build new knowledge, even ludic initiatives and minimalist interventions such as swings. To all of this may be added the role of festivities and planetary urbanization, which contribute to the tone of the current character of the urban. We trust that these articles serve to inspire our readers to reflect and to raise questions that will bring continuity to this ongoing debate.

Enjoy your reading!

Ester Limonad

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