

EDITORIAL

The current issue of the *Revista Brasileira de Estudos Urbanos e Regionais* – RBEUR (the Brazilian Journal of Urban and Regional Studies) is being published at a particularly auspicious moment for the Journal. In recent years, the universe of readers and collaborators has expanded significantly, moving from 120 submissions in 2014 to an average of 173 articles per year over the last three years. Just 15% of this amount has been approved and published, plainly attesting to the fact that all material undergoes a rigorous qualitative evaluation process, thereby making it one of the main destinations for the specialized production.

In 2017, after several years of monitoring RBEUR standards and indicators, the admission process to **SciELO's** (Scientific Electronic Library Online) was completed, and RBEUR was finally indexed. The community of ANPUR has therefore, much to celebrate. SCIELO makes one of the most rigorous scientific journal's selection –in the world, which not only attests to the credibility acquired by the Journal, but also to its consolidation within the select national and international research network in the field of urban and regional studies. It is important to acknowledge the enormous editorial effort made by former RBEUR Editorial Board coordinated by our colleagues Ana Cristina Fernandes and Norma Lacerda, and Tiago Cargnin, as executive secretary, who all embraced this challenge. Henceforth, it is now a matter of ensuring the standards of rigor that have distinguished the Journal, as well as its constant improvement as a privileged channel for publishing Brazilian and international scientific production in the area.

We also take this opportunity to publicly reinforce our gratitude to former members of the previous Editorial Commission, Maria Lucia Refinnetti Martins from USP, and Maria Laura Silveira from CONICET, and we also extend our thanks on this occasion to the notable group members of the Editorial Council, who have collaborated to the Journal for the last years. We are also pleased to welcome the new collaborators who have joined our team, within the Editorial Commission, Professors Leila Christina Duarte Dias from UFSC and Roberto Rocco from UTDelft; and within the Editorial Council: Adrián Gorelik, Ana Cristina de Almeida Fernandes, Ana Maria Fernandes, Clara Irazábal-Zurita, Clélio Campolina Diniz, Eduardo Marques, Frederico Rosa Borges de Holanda, Gwendolyn Wright, Heloisa Soares de Moura Costa, Luiz Renato Bezerra Pequeno, Madalena Cunha Matos, Maria Encarnação Beltrão Sposito and Teresa Pires do Rio Caldeira.

The present issue not only illustrates how the Journal has grown in quality, but steadfastly forges ahead with three sets of questions, which currently are of utmost relevance. First, it conducts a review of the relations between specialized knowledge and social movements in confronting the urban question; secondly, it focuses on the processes of segregation and socio-spatial mobility, especially with regard to the formation of suburbs and popular territories; and finally, it takes up the regional question both from the viewpoint of recent development strategies and of the reduction in interregional disparities.

The article by Silke Kapp reflects on the analytical performance of the concept of the “socio-spatial group” in order to understand the experiences of technical assistance practices in architecture and planning in Brazil over recent decades. By stepping back and taking a directly committed look at the theme, the author discusses the relationships between specialists and social movements, within the fields of land tenure, housing and economics. In response to the same problem, João Marcos de Almeida Lopes conducts a critical discussion on the practical, political and semantic bonds involved in the performance of architects working with social housing. Taking as his reference both the activism of advisors and the technical and political vicissitudes concerning the homeless and landless movements, as well as the ambiguities of the Brazilian professional Association of Architecture and Urbanism in defining specific policies for technical assistance, the author indicates the urgent need to re-establish the space of education and practice of architecture. Bruno Siqueira Fernandes and Sibelle Cornélio Diniz, on the other hand, address the

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22296/2317-1529.2018v20n2p189>

relations between the specialized and traditional knowledge in the field of economics. Starting from a de/colonial Latin American perspective, they discuss the theme of popular and cooperative economies as a possibility for the production of “frontier spaces”.

In the set of articles that follows, popular territories are discussed from another perspective. On the one hand, the article by Renata Monteiro Siqueira focuses on the case of the São Vito building, a modernist skyscraper occupied by a low-income population in São Paulo central area, that suffered a process of stigmatization conducted by the press, which is carefully interpreted by the author as being a key factor for understanding both the urban intervention proposed for the area and its actual demolition in 2011. The article by Pedro Henrique Campello Torres, in turn, focuses on the impacts caused by the construction of Avenida Brasil in Rio de Janeiro in 1947, especially on a huge peripheral area, now occupied by factories, warehouses and working-class homes. Advancing onto the definition of suburb within the dynamics of the production of the city, the author conducts a specific investigation into the connections between expressways and the formation of favelas. Leonardo de Oliveira Fontes returns to contemporary São Paulo to measure the impact of the dynamics of social mobility on residential segregation within the metropolis. Based on numbers and maps related to the first decade of the 21st century, the article reiterates the need to analyse the territorial impact of the significant social mutations observed during this period. The author also addresses the relations between segregation and inequality as distinct, although sometimes converging phenomena, and which are also spatially diverse, both in the urban centres and peripheries.

The issue of regional development, a theme associated with post-war planning and the formulation of public policies in the 1960s and 1970s, structures the third set of articles. By confronting different approaches to the concept of regional development in Brazil, the articles expose the current complexity and relevance of the theme. The intent of Anderson Tadeu Marques Cavalcante, Marco Crocco, Fabiana Santos and Mara Nogueira is to overcome the general, non-spatial concept of financialization, used in many regional and urban studies. They have sought to understand the manners in which the process spreads throughout the regions, especially in Brazil, together with its character of inequality, as an intrinsic part of the capitalist reproduction system.

New approaches on locational determinations are examined by Ariana Ribeiro Costa and Renato Garcia in order to analyse the information technology industry in the Metropolitan Region of São Paulo. From a historical perspective, Jefferson Cristiano Tavares holds the hypothesis that the model for regional planning in the state of São Paulo, based on the production of public and private capital, is representative of a pattern of development that prevailed across the country throughout the twentieth century.

The relationship between planning and development is also approached by Humberto Rocha, whose empirical reference deals with the construction of hydroelectric plants. His article brings a theoretical discussion on the promotion of development through large scale projects, identifying concepts such as economic growth, human development and living conditions. Two studies have placed their focus on a very recent period so as to analyse regional differences. With a territorial approach in the state of Bahia, Libania Araújo Silva and Luiz Carlos de Santana Ribeiro seek to study the dynamics involved in the disparities between the microregions of the state and the regional growth of employment. On yet another scale, Soraia Aparecida Cardozo demonstrates how, between 2004 and 2014, the national economic space was linked heterogeneously to the insertion process of Brazilian trade as an exporter of natural resource-intensive products. These articles provide fresh empirical evidences on social inequalities and help to explain, from a theoretical viewpoint, the continuities of this process in Brazil.

José Tavares Correia de Lira
Editor-in-chief RBEUR – Universidade de São Paulo,
Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

Maria Cristina da Silva Leme
Assistant Editor RBEUR - Universidade de São Paulo,
Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, São Paulo, SP, Brazil