

# EDITORIAL

This issue comes out a few months after the third edition of the Meeting of Urban and Regional Planning Scientific Journals, held at the Institute of Economics at the University of Campinas (Unicamp) last May, within the IX Seminar on the Evaluation of Education and Research in Urban and Regional Studies. The Meeting is an event that has since 2014 been establishing itself as a fundamental part of ANPUR's official calendar, and as a unique opportunity to discuss topics common to the area's scientific journals.

Focusing on the “*Strategies and Challenges of Scientific Journal Internationalization*”, the event was organized in four consecutive moments: an opening lecture on the internationalization rhythms and trends in Latin America, by Abel Packer, one of the creators of SciELO and the current Coordinator of the SciELO/FAPESP Program; a roundtable on the journal-ranking sources adopted by CAPES, hosted by the institution's area coordinators Clóvis Ultramari (Urban and Regional Planning) and Wilson Ribeiro dos Santos Junior (Architecture and Urbanism); a table focused on three of the area's main journals in Brazil (RBEUR, URBE and PÓS-FAU), comprised of their respective editors; and the three simultaneous working groups that discussed the “*requirements of the journal-indexing sources*”, the “*network of scientific journal reviewers*” and “*authorial and editorial ethics*”, coordinated by the editors of RBEUR, Oculum Ensaios (PUC-Campinas) and PARC-Unicamp, respectively.

The opportunity to discuss these matters with the range and openness offered by an event such as this is certainly fundamental for the advancement of the area's scientific research and diffusion, to beyond the basic and mainly quantitative criteria that have dominated the evaluation of academic productivity in the last few years. As such, this Third Meeting was important not only for the alignment of diverse scientific and editorial policies, but also for the qualification of RBEUR as a legitimate convergence space for the scientific production of the more than 70 Brazilian postgraduate programs associated with ANPUR, as well as a whole community of researchers dedicated to urban and regional studies in Brazil and abroad.

This issue explores a wide range of themes and approaches, which nonetheless echo the broader debates regarding spatial organization. Generally, the texts can be brought together by two or three shared topics.

The first set of texts refers to the territory's ecological and, at the same time, cultural nature, as well as the conflicts associated with its occupation by diverse groups in positions of inequality, hierarchy and resistance. Considering models and practices of segregation/integration, as well as discussing the dynamics and strategies for establishing ethnic and social minorities, the first four articles problematize technical, theoretical and political paradigms of spatial organization, in order to seek critical, ecological and cultural alternatives to the hegemonic tendencies.

As such, the article written by Ana Cláudia Castilho Barone, “*Harland Bartholomew and racially informed zoning: the case of St. Louis*”, maps the trajectory of the United States planner Harland Bartholomew, head of one of the most successful urban planning offices in the United States, highlighting his long career in a city noted for its strong racial tensions. In an attempt to revisit the racial foundations of comprehensive zoning, the author investigates the overlapping of racial and residential segregation, discussing the permeability of North American zoning legislation and housing policies to the racist and racialist paradigms that are so influential in that country.

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The paper authored by Agni Hévea dos Santos, “ *Environmental justice and the new constitutional rights: the socioenvironmental function of the quilombo territories in the Pedra Branca State Park*”, returns to the topic by examining the pertinence of a certain “environmental racism” at the roots of canonical environmentalism. Focusing on two officially recognized quilombola territories in the lowlands of Jacarepaguá, a region under the tensions of the real estate market and major sporting events in the adjacent city of Rio de Janeiro, the paper discusses the importance that cultures and ecologies of resistance have for the formulation of socio-environmental principles in countries that, such as Brazil, are marked by the recurring burdening of vulnerable ethnic and lower-income groups with the damages caused by economic strategies and decisions/omissions in public policies.

In “ *Discovering the territory and other premises of territorial development*”, Marcos Aurélio Saquet aims to develop a counter-hegemonic concept of territory suited for cooperations between geographers and groups of minorities from rural and urban areas. The author examines experiences with agroecological farmers and peripheral dwellers in the state of Paraná, in order to review an entire theoretical tradition of “rediscovery of territory” as a strategy to understand its reticulated production methods in their different levels and contemporary political and economic means of deterritorialization and reterritorialization. It is ultimately a question of thinking about the prospects of a geography capable of responding actively and creatively to the self-organization and participatory practices of traditional populations, in order to produce multidimensional and locally-based territorial development.

The importance of observing physiological and anthropological needs, daily practices, nearness relations, and local knowledge and practices of the population, when formulating alternatives to territorial development policies, is addressed in the article “ *Place, the plurality of existence and democracy*”, by Marcos Xavier. A reflection on the contemporary dystopic moment, in which democratic projects are absent, serves as a starting point to ponder on the uses of the Brazilian territory, beginning from the second half of the XX century, while also reflecting upon the potentials of geographical space considered as a diverse “federation of places” that is inhabited by actual individuals along with their inherited historical conflicts, needs, values and practices, as a way to devise public policies focused on redistributing resources, obligations and prerogatives.

The second set of papers deals with the formulation of urban and regional policies, an important matter in the investigations pertaining to the relationships between civil society and the State. The papers unveil strategies for coping with the increasingly urgent urban, environmental and fiscal issues.

City councils dedicated to urban policy-making have come forth, since the Constitution of 1988, as new spaces of negotiation and interrelation between society and the State. In “ *Urban Policy and Citizen Participation: Presence and voice in the City Council of Curitiba*”, Andrea Luiza Currálinho Braga and Huáscar Fialho Pessali examine the presence and voices of both civic representatives and the State. By investigating the records of Curitiba’s City Council meetings, the authors show the growth of an institutionalized space that can be understood as one of potential interaction, discussion, and decision, complementing other forms of urban policy-making in the city.

While describing the conception of the environmental policies originally developed for an old mining area in Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France, later adopted as references for the metropolitan planning proposals of Belo Horizonte, authors Ana Mourão Oliveira and Heloisa Soares de Moura Costa propose a critical reflection on the possibility of adopting a model developed for such dissimilar regional realities, in the paper “ *The blue and green network in spatial planning: approximations and distances*”. The term “green and blue weft” is associated, in France, with the notion of ecological urbanism, has a strong environmental appeal and seems to serve the purpose of creating identities and narratives useful for public policy development. In the regional context of Belo Horizonte, the planning proposals, even more than their dimension as public policies, have the potential to connect and strengthen social movements under the perspective of socio-spatial transformation.

In order to understand the different dimensions of the recent water crisis in the São Paulo macrometropolis, authors Renato Mauro Richter and Pedro Roberto Jacobi conducted a qualitative investigation with some of the stakeholders involved, focusing especially on the representatives of civil society. In “*Conflicts in the São Paulo macrometropolis from the perspective of the water crisis*” the authors analyze the interests concerned and reveal, on one hand, new dimensions of the relationship between environmental issues and society and, on the other hand, the asymmetries that emerge in these new administrative practices that are clearly uneven with respect to the means of access to water.

In another line of research, Luís Mauricio Borges hypothesizes that fiscal policies can help clarify the conflicts and interests present in the urban policies of cities. The article “*Property Tax: a critical reflection on the cases of the Municipality of São Paulo and the City of New York*” describes the different forms and systems of urban land property taxation that were applied in São Paulo and New York City between the years 2000 and 2015. The author seeks to identify the spaces, organizations, coalitions and interests that emerge from the arrangements of political and real estate dynamics.

This publication closes with a discussion proposed by Cibele Saliba Rizek around the theses presented on Jesse de Souza’s recent book “*A elite do atraso: da escravidão à Lava-Jato*” (Leya, 2017), concerning the historical roots and social structures still operational in Brazil in the present moment of urgency, aggravated by the reality of a coup taking place in the country.

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