

# EDITORIAL

The first issue of RBEUR in 2019 features eleven papers selected via rolling submissions. It is our pleasure to point out an increase in the number of submissions, reflecting this periodical's prestige among researchers in the areas we cover, as well as its growing prominence in the academic field of scientific publications. We would once again like to thank an expressive number of researchers who have fulfilled our calls for peer reviews with diligence and excellent quality and rigor, most certainly contributing for the quality and the improvement of the papers accepted for publication.

There are three basic themes in this issue. The first focuses urban planning under different perspectives: a new reading of classic texts, the revision of common criticism of Modernist urban proposals, as well as critical analyses around the application of urban planning policies and instruments, all of them renewing and reinforcing the relevance of this field of knowledge. A second theme uncovers the housing issue from different angles: from modes of regulation to sectorial policies, in the city as well as in the countryside, on informal settlements as well as on State- or market-planned initiatives. Finally, a third set of papers covers the regional question from diverse methodological approaches, either from an environment- or health-oriented approach, by looking at the consolidation of a region's memory, or else, in light of an industrialization process as a means of development decentralization.

From a careful reading of the frequently partial and at times superficial approach to Jane Jacobs' book, *The death and life of great American cities*, published in 1961, Bianca Tavolari seeks to bestow the necessary tension to the arguments at hand. Jane Jacobs' criticism had originally fit like a glove to various contexts and trends of urban planning. The successful foray against the road works implemented by North-American urban designer Robert Moses were an important part of her role as an activist in urban social movements. The furious diatribe proffered by Moses against *a bunch of mothers* that dared to oppose, and managed to hinder the construction of an expressway cutting through Washington Square only made the power of new urban movements more evident, especially those organized in Greenwich Village, where Jacobs lived. If those confrontations were put to paper with the due belligerence that marked them in New York City, in other urban realities, the hegemony of road transportation was ever more trenchant, though never producing such a prominent a criticism and opposition.

Critic Jane Jacobs invested against some of the principles of modernist urban planning that resurfaced soon after the Second World War both in the urban reconstruction of cities and in the planning of new cities in Europe, the United States and South America, where the urban planners were part of the international network set up during the CIAM conferences. Setting aside the concern of refuting the common criticism to the restrictive conception of Brasília's Pilot Plan, Fernanda Derntl regresses the outlook back to the 1940s, opening up her analysis of Brasília's region to new document sources. She brings to our attention the instruments and concepts used by certain scientific committees that materialized in the form of guidelines and plans later adopted by Novacap for the organization of the territory, especially regarding the conception of Brasília's "satellite" towns in the beginnings of its construction.

In very different urban contexts – Maringá and São Paulo – two papers look at the formulation of the PEUC instrument (Land Subdivision, Construction or Compulsory Use) and the difficulties faced in its application. It is one of the instruments based on the principle of social function of private property. It bears remembering how hard and time consuming is the process of building up a consensus around in-

stitutional plans, public policies and legislation. In the theses accepted during the first Urban Planning Conference in Brazil in 1941 and the Housing and Urban Reform Seminar in 1963, it is possible to outline a genealogy of the of the concept of social function of the city, finally approved in Brazil's 1988 Constitution. The results of the PEUC's enforcement have been quite narrow, as shown in the analyses presented in the articles about Maringá and São Paulo. It is important to highlight that the political moment was particularly favorable to its application, which leads to the ever-pressing need to discuss the evident regressions looming in the horizon, with the extinction of major institutions such as the federal Ministry of Cities.

In her analysis of the recent re-structuring of São Paulo's municipal Department of Real Estate Licensing, Telma Hoyler seeks to show, in her article, that, although there is a strong influence by real estate's sector over local public agendas, it is unworthy to reduce such private seizing of the State to its theoretical form. Her research thus take part of a recent effort to understand and to systematize the role of private business in the production of cities focusing on its specific strategies towards public powers and policies.

The article authored by Yúri de Alcântara Pinto Rebello, José Júlio Ferreira Lima and Alberto Patrick Cassiano Lima discusses the impact of two public actions over Mártires de Abril settlement in Mosqueiro Island, in the peri-urban area of Belém, Northern Brazil: the Casulo Settlement Project sponsored by the National Institute of Colonization and Land Reform and the Minha Casa Minha Vida Rural Program in the city of Belém, with the support of a Caixa Econômica Federal bank funding. Starting in 1998, as an initiative of Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Terra (Landless Workers' Movement), MST, Casulo settlement presents a complex form of spatial organization, which results from the different public policies there implemented (and lack of them) as well as from the specificities of peri-urban dynamics. The article holds that such basis should be both taken into account in the making of any housing policy for the region.

The housing issue also appears in Stephen Treuke's article. It seeks to bring light to the ways by which the structures of opportunities are socio-spatially allocated among different neighborhoods. Based on qualitative research with a controlled set of residents in the city of Salvador, Bahia, it intends to grasp certain patterns of interaction between Calabar shantytown inhabitants and those living in the gated condos in the surrounding neighborhoods of Barra, Ondina, and Graça. The basic topics at hand have to do with the impacts of such neighborhood arrangements upon the well being of the local populations and, more specifically, with the levels of inter-classes relationships, beyond professional relationships, between the shantytown residents and those in the wealthier neighborhoods around it.

The article signed by Leandro Blaque Becceneri, Humberto Prates da Fonseca Alves and Daniel Arias Vazquez also addresses to issues concerning socio-spatial forms of segregation. However, both the focus and the method are different here. Based on statistical data about socio-occupational stratification, their research means to grasp major changes and continuities, as well as the patterns of homogeneity and heterogeneity in the spatial distribution of social classes among elite areas and the peripheries in metropolitan São Paulo, throughout the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The focus of Franciclei Burlamaque Maciel's, Júlio César Schweickard's, Jessé Burlamaque Maciel's, and Izaura Cristina Nunes Pereira Costa's article is on devel-

opment policies undertaken in the Amazon Region, especially on their effects on the local ecosystems and on the health of the Tapajós region populations. The focus on the interplay between development, environment and public health intends to reveal the limits of the dominant Neo-Liberal strategies for the region as well as to strengthen socio-environmental criteria for the control and planning of public and private investments there on a long-term basis.

The paper authored by Margarete Fagundes Nunes, Ana Luiza Carvalho da Rocha, and João Alcione Sganderla Figueiredo addresses to the regional issue from an interdisciplinary perspective. Based on an ethnographic research in the region of the Sinos River Valley, in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, the authors propose to bind together territorial representations and the life histories of the local leather industry workers. Based on a wide range of individual memories and on-site observations, it means to understand the impact of major shifts in the local worlds of labor, and the impact of local environmental conflicts upon the changes and meanings of the urban landscape in the region.

Finally, the paper written by Marcus Vinicius Gonçalves da Silva and Djalma de Sá calls back to the issue of regional planning seen through an state-funded economic planning strategy for the industrial development of the Metropolitan Region of Curitiba between the 1970s and the years 2000s. By linking sectorial public policies and location factors in the State of Paraná, southern Brazil, the authors propose to review the roots of industrial concentration in Curitiba and the difficulties posed to recent efforts to de-concentrate and decentralize development factors.

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