

Editorial

In this first issue of the third volume, the journal **urbe** publishes for the first time a special section of themed articles, on 'digital cities'. Papers in this section approach important topics on a field of study increasingly closer to urbanism and urban planner, where researchers describe and analyze since the relationship between urban and digital spaces, the interface between cities and technologies, as well as policy-making for economic growth and social integration in sub-national, regional and urban levels. These themes make the special section together with the other papers that, in general, present discussions about the relation between cities and globalization in the context of the Social Sciences, and its relation with public policy, structural preoccupations with economic growth and unemployment, as well as qualitative analyses about the power of supra-national urbanistic instruments, and the discussions around the way public resources can be better allocated in terms of social justice.

Recognizing the importance of the topic approached by a few papers in the previous issues about the transformations triggered by information and communication technologies, **urbe** opened up a space for this discussion in a special section for the first time, on digital cities. This is a very actual subject, where papers published here build an interesting dialogue about the way technologies can print some marks in the way space and the urban territory is organized. "Between urban and digital spaces, or the unfolding of practice" by Vinicius Moraes Netto approach the nature of the relationship between urban and electronic spaces, and the social practices that emerge among the material and historical experience of places in the city, beyond digital and telematics networks of communication. Through this approach, the author proposes an analysis of the conditions for materialization in a context of growing presence of information and communication technologies or, as the author refers to, a socio-technical reality marked by properties such as trans-spatiality and mobility, multiplicity and simultaneity. By investigating the conditions for these different materialities as inherent to practice, the author proposes a role for urban space potentially renovated by the complexity of the social world.

In the same context of the reading of these transformations, Polise Moreira de Marchi, in the article "Interface between city and technology: technological space experience" presents that the experience of urban space has been changed by extensions, expansions and simulations thanks to the incorporation of technological development to the very physical constitution and language of the city, so that technology has established new forms of mediation and settings in the urban space of contemporary cities.

In addition to these two articles and on other issues, Alessandro Gentile in his article "Urban governance activation of employment: the case of *Barcelona Activa* (Spain)" focuses, through the experience of the local agency of the City Council of Barcelona, in the fact that activation policies have to be interpreted as initiatives qualified for economic growth and social integration on sub-national level and specifically in urban and regional contexts.

The next three articles focus their discussions on the constitution of a global economy and its implications, reinforcing the understandings at the regional, meso-regional and local levels. "Urbanism, culture and globalization in Portugal: analytical and territorial development models", by Paulo Castro Seixas, puts in question the relationship between city and globalization in the last 25 years in Portugal, within the social

sciences and its relation with public policies. Leobardo de Jesús Almonte and Yolanda Carbajal Suárez, in their "Economic growth and unemployment in the State of Mexico: a structural relationship" intend to identify the structural factors that affect the ability to create new jobs, in order to contribute with arguments that explain the problem of growth and unemployment in Mexico. In the same perspective, but with a different focus, Flávio de Matos Rocha, Jandir Ferrera de Lima and Carlos Alberto Piacenti, in the article "Municipal and social spending in the South region of Brazil", address the evolution of available public resources and their allocation to social spending in southern Brazil. These articles point out, therefore the conditions of public policy facing the inflections of the local-global relations.

The seventh article emphasizes the contribution of a qualitative research about the development of planning tools. In the article "The reflection from practice: the case of three Catalan coordination urban plans", Pablo Elinbaum hints that some strategies of qualitative research can enrich the study on the planning instruments, expanding their social and disciplinary meanings. Thus, the author brings important contributions to the understanding of urban planning instruments, noting that these should not be approached solely from a deductive way, and indicating the potential of qualitative methods from the practice, according to the postulates of Donald Schön. To this end, the author explains how to implement this method by analyzing three Master Plans in Catalonia.

The article by Naomi Anaue Burda and Leonel Brizolla Monastirsky, titled "Geographic perspective of the architectural heritage of the city of Lapa, PR" highlights the importance of knowing a heritage not only visually, but to apprehend it as an instrument of identity, memory and recognition. To the authors, recognize and associate their own history to the history of society through the cultural heritage is an exercise of citizenship. By expanding the reading of scientific literature on the built heritage of the city of Lapa, the article seeks to contribute to the geographic scope of science regarding the relationship between urban space and cultural heritage.

Finally, in the last article, "Socially-organized housing, a new approach to urban structure II: practical suggestions for making project work" (the second of three part series approved), Nikos A. Salingaros, David Brain, Andrés M. Duany, Michael W. Mehaffy and Ernesto Philibert-Petit present an interesting discussion about social housing and offer several practical suggestions for making housing projects work, both with regard to materials, funding, and strategies for the residents to stay and have an enjoyable life in social houses. Thus, the authors continue to contribute to new methods as alternatives to models of social housing historically promoted by various governments. Happy reading!

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