


Editorial Preface

Citizens as Sensors in Smart Cities and in Smart Urban Planning

Carlos Nunes Silva, Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, Universidade de Lisboa, Libson, Portugal

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0265-6575>

With this issue, the *International Journal of E-Planning Research* (IJEPR) concludes one more volume, in a year marked by important advances in the emerging field of urban e-planning and by sustained progress in the consolidation of the IJEPR as a reference for the publication of research outcomes in this field. After being included in 2017 and 2018 in two highly prestigious journal index - SCOPUS and Web of Science Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI), the International Journal of E-Planning Research is now, in total, integrated in 17 index, namely in the Ei Compendex and in IET-Inspecc, two of the broadest and most complete scientific and technical databases. The journal was also included in the list of scientific journals adopted by ANVUR - The Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes - for 2018-2020, a rating of scientific journals carried out by ANVUR for the purpose of calculating the indicators used for the National Scientific Habilitation and for the purpose of accreditation of PhD programmes. In this context an application has also been made recently for the classification of the IJEPR as 'Class A journal' which will put it, if successful, on the top list of scientific journals in that country. The IJEPR continues to follow the information, debates and reflections received from the Committee on Publication Ethics. Also worth noting is the recent decision by IGI Global, the publisher of the International Journal of E-Planning Research, to select the IJEPR as one of IGI Global's Core Journal Titles. Through this selection, IGI Global have noted that the journal contains impactful and highly-cited content making it a top publication from IGI Global full collection of 185+ scholarly journals.

This final issue of 2019 comprises four research articles that address the following themes: Citizen as sensors and the integration of urban sensing in urban planning; Small and Medium-Sized Smart Cities; and E-Governance in the Housing Sector.

Andrew Mondschein, Zihao Zhang, and Mona El Khafif, from the University of Virginia, USA, in "Community-Centered Urban Sensing: Smart Engaged Planning and Design in a Dysfunctional Urban Context", examine the integration of urban sensing into engaged planning, exploring whether enhanced urban data improve citizen participation in planning and design, rather than obstruct it, even in those cases in which current urban planning and design practices are dysfunctional. Based on these findings the authors argue that the smart city paradigm must also include modes and methods that work even when the local urban system is dysfunctional.

In the next article, "Conceptualizing Small and Medium-Sized Smart Cities in the Mediterranean Region: An Ontological Approach", Maria Panagiotopoulou, Margarita Kokla, and Anastasia Stratigea, from the National Technical University of Athens, Greece, offer important new insights on the need

to review the concept and ontology of smart city, in order to encompass the conditions of particular spatial contexts, as is the case of Mediterranean small and medium-sized cities.

In “Citizen as Sensors’ Commitment in Urban Public Action: Case Study on Urban Air Pollution”, Gwendoline l’Her, Myriam Servières, and Daniel Siret, from the UMR Ambiances Architectures Urbanités, School of Architecture of Nantes and the École Centrale Nantes, France, examine how a group of urban public actors re-uses methods and technology from citizen sciences to raise the urban air quality issue in the public debate, and discuss the impact of the hybridisation between citizen science and urban public action on participants’ commitment.

Ouahiba Belhocine, Kahina Amal Djiar, and Meriem Lagati, from the Ecole Polytechnique d’Architecture et d’Urbanisme (EPAU), Algiers, Algeria, in the following article - “Performance Evaluation of the National Housing File (FNL) for the Development of E-Governance in the Housing Sector in Algeria” - assess the strengths and weaknesses of the National Housing File, which has been conceived as a decision support tool to housing supply. In the article the authors examine the process through which data is gathered and how the evaluation of potential beneficiaries is made. They identify the conditions that affect the right functioning of the National Housing File and how they affect negatively the development of e-governance in Algeria.

This fourth issue of volume 8 includes also a report on the 4th International Conference on ‘Urban e-Planning’, organized in association with the International Journal of e-Planning Research, in the University of Lisbon, Portugal, on 23-24 April 2019.

To conclude, I would like to express my gratitude to all colleagues engaged in the publication of volume 8 of the *International Journal of E-Planning Research*: the authors of the articles submitted for publication in the IJEPR, members of the editorial board and the external ad-hoc reviewers. The contribution of 58 reviewers, ad-hoc reviewers and members of the editorial board, from 20 countries, in all continents (Europe, America, Africa, Asia and Oceania), is acknowledged in the list of IJEPR reviewers engaged in the review process for volume 8 referred below in this preface. I also wish to express my esteem to the IGI Global editorial staff for their support in all stages of the editorial process, from initial submission of manuscripts up to the publication and dissemination of the journal.

Carlos Nunes Silva
Editor-in-Chief
IJEPR

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

IJEPR Reviewers for 2019 Issues

Abderrahmane Diafat, Université F. A. Sétif 1, Algeria
Aiofe Corcoran, University College Dublin, Ireland
Alenka Poplin, Iowa State University, USA
Anastasia Stratigea, National Technical University of Athens, Greece
Anna Bernaciak, Poznań University of Economics and Business, Poland
Ari-Veikko Anttiroiko, University of Tampere, Finland
Barney Warf, University of Kansas, USA
Bauke de Vries, Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands
Beniamino Murgante, University of Basilicata, Italy
Daren Brabham, University of Southern California, USA
David Beri, Virginia Tech, USA
Francis Harvey, Leipzig University, Germany
Francisco Artigas, Rutgers University, USA
Ian Bishop, University of Melbourne, Australia
Igor Mayer, NHTV Breda University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands
Jennifer Minner, Cornell University, USA
Jing Ran, University of Cardiff, United Kingdom
Jiri Panek, Palacky University Olomouc, Czech Republic
Joanna Saad-Sulonen, IT University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Johan van Braak, Ghent University, Belgium
John Bricout, University of Minnesota, USA
John Danahy, University of Toronto, Canada
John Zacharias, Peking University, China
Karen Mossberger, Arizona State University, USA
Kheir Al-Kodmany, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA
Lawrence Harvey, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia
Lech Janczweski, University of Auckland, New Zealand
Liisa Horelli, Aalto University, Finland
Linda See, International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis, Austria
Lukasz Damurski, Wroclaw University of Technology, Poland
Malgorzata Hanzl, Lodz University of Technology, Poland
Michael McCall, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico
Michele Campagna, University of Cagliari, Italy
Nadia Chabi, Constantine University 3, Algeria
Nancy Obermeyer, Indiana State University, USA
Nancy Oendaal, University of Cape Town, South Africa
Nina Hälker, HafenCity University, Germany
Paul Baker, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA
Pilvi Nummi, Aalto University, Finland
Reinout Kleinans, Delft University of Technology, USA
Rina Ghose, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, USA
Ron van Lammeren, Wageningen University, The Netherlands
Said Madani, Université F. A. Sétif 1, Algeria
Sarah-Kristin Thiel, Aarhus University, Denmark
Soon Ae Chun, City University of New York, Staten Island, USA
Stephen Aikins, University of South Florida, USA

Stuart Charter, Lincoln University, New Zealand
Sylvie Occelli, Istituto di Ricerche Economico Sociali del Piemonte, Italy
Tassilo Herrschel, University of Westminster, UK
Teodora Constantinescu, Hasselt University, Belgium
Thomas Sanchez, Virginia Tech, USA
Titiana Ertio, University of Helsinki, Finland
Umberto Berardi, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada
Verna Nell, University of the Free State, South Africa
Vit Pászto, Palacky University Olomouc, Czech Republic
Walter Castelnovo, University of Insubria, Italy
Wayne Williamson, Macquarie University, Australia
Zorica Nedovic-Budic, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA

Carlos Nunes Silva, PhD, Professor Auxiliar at the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal. His research interests are mainly focused on urban and metropolitan governance, history and theory of urban planning, urban planning in Africa, urban e-planning, urban planning ethics, local government policies, local e-government, and research methods. He is Chair of the International Geographical Union Commission 'Geography of Governance', and the founding Editor-in-Chief of the 'International Journal of E-Planning Research' (IJEPR).