

Editorial Preface

Smart Urban Governance, Citizens' E-Participation and Local Spatial Planning

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This issue of the International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR) contains four research articles that address important issues in the field of urban e-planning: Smart Urban Governance, Citizens' e-Participation, the role of spatial planning in the integration of universities with cities and the study of human mobility based on cell-phone data.

In the first of these four articles: "A Sociotechnical Framework for Smart Urban Governance - Urban Technological Innovation and Urban Governance in the Realm of Smart Cities," Huaxiong Jiang, Stan Geertman and Patrick Witte (Utrecht University, The Netherlands), present and discuss a socio-technical framework for smart urban governance as an alternative to the entrepreneurial form of urban governance, often referred as dominant over the past decade. The authors give a special emphasis on the socio-spatial transformation of cities by identifying the impacts of urban contexts on the sociotechnical interaction between urban technological innovations and urban governance in the sphere of smart cities on three specific case studies. The main conclusion of this study suggests that the urban context is crucial and that smart urban governance is not simply about using technology, as it requires the integration of technologies within the cities and the development of governance institutions based on each specific urban context.

Raúl Machado and Antonio Joaquim Azevedo (University of Minho, Portugal) in the following article: "Determinants and Consequences of Citizens' E-participation: the Case Study of the App MyHomeCity," discuss the determinants of digital active citizenship, such as e-participation through the use of reporting urban apps. In the article, the authors offer a comparison between two groups of citizens, one of which used MyHomeCity, a reporting app. The findings of this study suggest that users of MyHomeCity have higher scores for the satisfaction for living in the city, for self-esteem, self-efficacy, and for perceived happiness. The implications of this and other findings for public decision makers, app developers and citizens' organizations are discussed by the authors.

The next article "Research on Collective Human Mobility in Shanghai Based on Cell Phone Data" by Xiyuan Ren and De Wang (Tongji University, China) present a study of human mobility based on big data produced by cell-phones. With the increasing mobility within the cities the traditional data sources seem to be no longer appropriate or enough thus requiring the use of new sources, namely those associated with recent advances in location-based technologies. In the article, the authors explore human spatial movements in Shanghai and their aggregate distribution using large-scale cell phone data. Based on this new kind of individual trajectory data the authors propose and develop an indicator system that covers aspects such as mobility intensity, mobility stability, influential range, and temporal variation which allow the analysis and discussion of the structure of human mobility in this city.

The fourth and last article: “How to Integrate Universities and Cities through Local Spatial Developments: Case Study of Wuhan, China,” by Wenjing Luo (Wuhan Planning & Design Institute, China), Haijun Li (Wuhan Planning & Design Institute, China) and Han Zou (Hubei University of Technology, China) examine and discuss the interactions between universities and the cities in which they are located and how to plan, design and develop knowledge cities around these infrastructures. In the article, the authors examine how local government in Wuhan, China, has developed the idea of a ‘Univercity,’ as a way of planning and building a knowledge city.

This first issue of volume 9 includes also a book review on the increasingly complex interrelations between real and virtual spaces in the planning and urban design professional practices.

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