

## Editorial Preface

# Smart Cities, Emotional Responses and Online Communication in Urban e-Planning

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The International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR) addresses in the first issue of volume 5 three major themes in the field of urban e-planning studies: emotional responses in urban contexts, smart cities and citizen participation, and online communication in urban planning. While smart cities and online communication in urban planning have been in the front line of the discussions carried out in the last few years in the e-planning literature, and in the IJEPR as well, the study of emotions in urban planning is a relatively new theme.

In the first article, *'Geostatistical analysis for the study of relationships between the emotional responses of urban walkers to urban spaces and its Isovist field parameters'*, Ihab Hamzi Hijazi (An-Najah University, Palestine), Reinhard Koenig (ETH Zurich, Switzerland), Sven Schneider (Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Germany), Xin Li (University: School of Urban Design, Wuhan University, China), Martin Bielik (Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Germany), Gerhard Norbert Johannes Schmit (ETH Zurich, Switzerland) and Dirk Donath (Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Germany) explore the correlations between urban spatial configurations and emotional responses of urban walkers. Based on a small sample, the authors measured people's emotions while they walk along a path in an urban area. For that they used an instrument that measures skin conductance and skin temperature. Despite the small size of the sample, this test results suggest that certain spaces or spatial sequences cause positive or negative emotions while other spaces seem to be neutral. This article thus offers a promising new methodology to study the interrelationships between urban configurations and people's emotions in the field of urban e-planning.

The second article, *'The smart city and its citizens: Governance and citizen participation in Amsterdam'*, written by Carlo Capra, from the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies - IHS, in the Netherlands, explores from a critical point of view the theme of smart cities and citizen participation, based on the case of Amsterdam. While smart cities have been associated in the literature mainly with modern technology and infrastructure, Carlo Capra follows a different approach by discussing the possibility offered by smart cities to all those interested to enhance the involvement and contribution of citizens to urban development that. The article explores, based on the

Amsterdam Smart City program, the role that governance has in the process of citizen participation in smart cities projects and of how the different characteristics of the governance process can influence or determine the different typologies of citizen participation.

The third article, 'Recent progress in online communication tools for urban planning: A comparative study of Polish and German municipalities', written by Lukasz Damurski, from Wroclaw University of Technology, Poland, offer a comparative analysis of Polish and German online communication tools for urban planning. The article follows a similar study conducted in 2012 by the author, being now enhanced with mobile applications for planning. By using the same regional capital cities, as sample cities, the article makes possible the comparison of the ICT tools in the years 2012-2015. Lukasz Damurski shows how public planning institutions improved and developed their online communication in urban planning processes, which in his opinion has been done aligned with citizens' expectations. The author also points out the fact that these emerging trends in citizen e-participation in urban planning share similar characteristics in Poland and Germany despite the different historical background, political processes and the socio-political and technological contexts as well.

This issue ends with a review of the book '*Connections. Exploring Contemporary Planning Theory and Practice with Patsy Healey*', edited by Jean Hillier and Jonathan Metzger, an important tribute to the work of Patsy Healey, one of the world references in planning theory in the last decades, whose writings and ideas are also highly influential in the way urban e-planning is conceived and practiced worldwide.

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