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EDITORIAL COMMENTS

(RE)THINKING ABOUT CONTEMPORARY CITIES: CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEBATE

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Today's cities are different from the cities of the past. They have become more complex, denser and have several problems in common, such as solid urban waste, urban mobility and environmental sustainability. The needs of citizens are diverse, but similar to other cities around the world. Living in a city establishes relationships with the urban and with nature, as well as presupposes what Raffestin (1993) called lived territory in contrast to what Pecqueur (2005) called given territory. The city is a multifaceted space with other territories that often overlap. Other times they contrast and dispute space (physical and symbolic), which provides them with an urban dialogue through their conflicts, partnerships, and relationships with each other and with the environment.

Cities have been the focus of global discussions such as: sustainability, urban planning, housing for low-income people, periphery, conflict and partnerships between social actors, territorial and cultural identity, density, population, mobility, city intelligence, digital and strategic cities, virtual cities, city brands, city image, flows, migrations, sustainable energy. At each time frame urban spaces are rediscovering and reinventing themselves, leading to new uses and appropriations, as well as conflicting or corroborating with the plurality of discourses and practices that embrace it.

Urban spaces appear in before underused or empty locations, such as Pocket Parks and Parklets (Purper, Rigati & Almeida, 2019) or urban roofs (Almeida & Engel, 2018). Identities emerge and dispute symbolic territories with hegemonic identities that use territorial marks (Almeida, 2018). Urban rankings created that list the best and the worst cities to live in, do business in, live

in and visit (Almeida, 2019). The image of urban public space is symbolically reconstructed (Almeida & Engel, 2017). New opportunities and challenges arise for cities in the 21st Century (Almeida & Engel, 2109), including their symbolic reconstruction (Almeida, 2019; Almeida, 2020). There is a paradox in which brands promote territory, territories promote brands, and spread to territories perceived as brands (Almeida, 2018; 2019).

Flows emerge from shared urban problems. Old problems demand "new" environmentally sustainable solutions. The city is plural by nature and its problems go with the dynamics of its mosaic of territories. Over time, these relationships become more and more complex, requiring reflection and new practices. It is necessary to deepen the challenges of cities in face of the reality an immense urban population that grows daily. In view of this, the Thematic Dossier "Urban Challenges in Contemporary Cities" intends to give with reflections about the current urban realities.

Thus, we present the Dossier "Urban Challenges in Contemporary Cities", with the participation of the guest editor Dr. Giovana Goretti Feijó de Almeida. The researcher has a Post-Doctorate in Urban Management with emphasis on Strategic Digital City from the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (PPGTU-PUCPR, Brazil), PhD and Master in Regional Development from the University of Santa Cruz do Sul (UNISC, Brazil). He received an Honorable Mention in the Capes de Teses 2019 Award, Urban-Regional Planning and Demography area. Bacharel in Social Communication with lato sensu post-graduation in Branding (UNISC). Visiting Professor at PPGTU/PUCPR (2018-2020, Brazil). Researcher-member of the Research Group on Strategic Digital Cities

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The January-June 2020 edition of JPBReview brings two articles from the Dossier "Urban Challenges in Contemporary Cities". One of the articles is about the Micro-Scales of Regional Development that address the Right to the City of LGBTQI+ People, whose authorship is the researchers Mariana Barbosa de Souza and Marcio Jose Ornat. The second is by Edson Modesto de Araújo Júnior who investigated social cartography in the narratives of territories can applied to urban territories. The researcher presented the case of riverine populations in the region known as Legal Amazonia, in Brazil.

In the July-December 2020 edition of JPBReview eight discussions about the cities presented. Jussara Ribeiro Lopes and Fernando de Almeida Santos discuss the deficit of precarious housing in central São Paulo, Brazil. Thiago de Souza Beté, Diego De Melo Conti, Meriellen Nuvolari Pereira Mizutani and Carlos Alberto Nunes de Oliveira discuss the possibility sustainable vehicles for urban mobility in the cities of the future. Author Sarah Marroni Minasi brings us the possibilities of remote sensing in research on tourist urbanization. Juscelino Gomes Lima investigates the backlands of Piauí through the dilemmas and challenges for urban management in city of regional command of Piauí.

The authors Juliana Fabris, Rógis Juarez Bernardy, Simone Sehnem and Andrezza Aparecida Saraiva Piekas bring the reflection on the ways and possibilities of sustainable cities. Renata Maria Aponte Rodrigues de Carvalho discusses intelligent cities and citizen participation. Lucília Cardoso, Noélia and Angela raise the question La imagen Top of Mind

as a tourist destination during a Mega-event through the study of El caso de Viana do Castelo and the Vodafone Paredes de Coura Festival. And the authors Rylanneive Leonardo Pontes Teixeira and Zoraide Souza Pessoa research climate change, public policy experimentation and adaptive capacity city of Curitiba, Brazil. The discussions and themes encompass multiple perspectives on contemporary cities that due to their complexity distinguished from cities of past centuries.

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