Editorial

In this issue of *urbe*, we publish the second part of the special section on "Migration of urban ideas in Portuguese-speaking world". Today, the so-called Lusophony is seen as something more complex and extensive than simply the ability to share a form of oral and written communication. It is seen as a process of structuring a cultural identity of communities that share the Portuguese language, and will also, in our case, include the forms and concepts involved in the actions of planning and urban management.

The search for similarities and differences between the various cases discussed here, does not seem to be the best strategy. It might not even be a valid strategy, considering the significant historical and contemporary differences between the Portuguese-speaking countries – but a careful reader will recognize that mutual learning with local experiences represents the beginning of a journey which, we reckon, does not end in these two issues.

To complement this issue, we also present five papers that bravely discuss authentic and difficult topics of today’s city management. Brasilmar Ferreira Nunes Viana and Heitor Moura present an article titled “Imaginário urbano e conjuntura no Rio de Janeiro”, about the ongoing transformation on the image of Rio de Janeiro supported by its commitment to host global events in the coming years, led by investments from the public and private sectors. The discussions address the issue both through the evolution of a macro-social reality and intra-urban structural problems (such as public security concerns) that interfere with the formation of the city’s own image.

Sibila Corral de Área Leão Honda introduces the piece “Política habitacional de baixa renda e a atuação do capital privado: o Programa de Arrendamento Residencial em Presidente Prudente (SP)”. The article discusses the production, by private sector, of social housing in medium sized cities in Brazil. The focus is on the effects of actions of the private capital, through the social housing program, by the Federal Government, in the production of segregated and exclusionary urban spaces.

Isabelle Oliveira Soares, Aline Werneck Barbosa de Carvalho, Geraldo Browne Ribeiro Filho and Neide Maria de Almeida Pinto, in the article “Interesses especulativos, atuação do Estado e direito à cidade: o caso do programa Minha Casa Minha Vida em Uberaba (MG)”, show interesting aspects of the behavior of the real estate market, connected to the interests of municipal government, in the recommendations for the location of social housing developments for the program Minha Casa Minha Vida, by the Brazilian Federal Government. While most of the academic work in this direction is acclimated in large Brazilian cities, from the case study of the city of Uberaba, in the state of Minas Gerais, the authors show that the impacts of such program extend well upon small and medium sized towns; in these towns none of the new housing built under this program were located in areas previously defined as suitable for social housing.

Ivo Marcos Theis, in his essay “A Sociedade do Conhecimento realmente existe na perspectiva do desenvolvimento desigual”, discusses the prospects of inequality that the information, knowledge and innovation society produces to the economic profile of the worldwide population. According to the author, this emphasis favors the development of an already wealthy population, which further amplifies inequalities among social classes.
Finally, on “Cartoneros, recolección informal, ambiente y políticas públicas en Buenos Aires 2001-2012”, Verónica Paiva stimulates an interesting debate about the importance of the informal collection of recycling residues in the contemporary city, as well as its possible impacts upon the environment and public policy at the municipal level, while having Buenos Aires as her reference for the empirical work.

Thus, urbe continues to pursue its style of knowledge dissemination in urban studies, with the greatest possible diversity of approaches and points of view. We are sure that this has given us support over the last few years to achieve acceptance levels that helped the journal to be included in scientific repositories and databases such as DOAJ, RedALyC, Latindex and, from this year, SciELO Brazil. We are convinced that this only increases the demands for more quality articles and better standards in the editorial process followed by our editorial board.

We wish you a good reading!

Rodrigo Firmino and Harry Alberto Bollmann
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