

Demographic Changes and the New Landscapes for Planning

Call for Papers for International Planning Studies – Deadline 1 February 2008

IPS aims at improving and enhancing discussion and exchange on current and emerging planning issues; on the development of theoretical and methodological framework; and on innovative perspectives within the field. Within these aims, IPS opens a call for papers on the topic of 'Demographic Changes and the New Landscapes for Planning'.

Demographic studies have seen huge changes in the past years, due to changing nature of the object of their studies. New trends have emerged in population growth and decline, as well as population movements and attitudes. These changes increasingly affect behaviours towards location and the use of space undertaken by individuals and societies. This has become a concern in both developed as well as developing countries. Most European countries see an increasingly ageing population; internal migrations from peripheral to central territories; and strong pressure by migrants coming from other countries external to its borders. Other parts of the world register similar or complementary changes. Many research work have been initiated and conducted on this issue and published papers cover some of the dynamics described in different contexts. While the Anglo-American world is slow in taking up, in other planning contexts a plethora of papers have addressed the subject, though only few of these findings are available for English readers.

Too few have taken the occasion for reflecting on these issues as elements changing the landscapes of planning. With 'landscape' we mean here two different types of landscape. The economic, social and – most of all – political landscape within which planning acts at local level. This is the institutional landscape of planning; it changes abruptly following demographic changes and in-forms (often restricting) the space for planning. The second landscape we refer to here is the physical, emotional, identity-laden landscape that constitutes the material background for people's and local societies' behaviours in respect to land and its uses.

Within this background demographic changes represent a challenge to change and review the principles (for example, growth as taken for granted and constituting the main element) upon which planning has been traditionally based and has flourished for nearly a century. Are territories in decline (in terms of population and/or economy) and shrinking cities necessarily negative for planning? They certainly are if we accept the current framework and conditions of and for development as paradigmatic and unchangeable, but could we think of and develop alternative paradigms and modes for action? Are there case studies that seem to favour innovative and different approaches to this subject? Could we envisaged new and emerging approaches to face these new challenges for planning theory and practice? The call for paper will be open until Friday 1 February 2008, papers will have to be submitted to the Editorial Manager and will subsequently follow the usual peer-reviewing procedure. Selected papers will be published in a special issue edited by Klaus Kunzmann, John Lovering and Francesca Sartorio in Autumn 2008. Any query to the editors or Denise Phillips (PhillipsDE@cf.ac.uk).

Planning, at the urban, regional and national and international levels, faces new challenges, notably those related to the growth of globalisation as both an objective socio-economic process and a shift in policy-maker perceptions and modes of analysis. IPS addresses these issues by publishing quality research in a variety of specific fields and from a range of theoretical and normative perspectives, which helps improve understanding of the actual and potential role of planning and planners in this context. Specific policy areas covered include, but not solely, urban design, economic development, environmental policy, spatial planning, housing, transport, social inclusion. IPS fills a gap between the more specialist theoretical and empirical journals in planning and urban-regional studies. In doing so it throws new light on the influences on, and effects of, the evolution of planning theory, practice and process, and the outcomes of planning, past and present. Contributors are invited to submit articles based on original empirical or theoretical work, or assessments or critiques of existing studies that offer new perspectives, critical insights, or new data to stimulate and inform debate over the future development of planning.

Dr. Francesca S. Sartorio
Lecturer in Planning
Cardiff University
School of City and Regional Planning
Glamorgan Building
King Edward VII Avenue
Cardiff CF10-3WA
Wales - UK

tel. +44 (0)29 20 87 6221
fax +44 (0)29 20 87 4845
e-mail: SartorioF@cf.ac.uk