

Call for Papers

*TRIALOG Journal*¹

Issue Theme: Just Cities

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Abstract deadline: 31 October 2020

In the 21st Century, urbanization has become a global phenomenon that dominates the ways we engage with space. As we relate our social well-being to spatial conditions, the urban realm provides the space where fairness is negotiated and re-negotiated among citizens and institutions. Theories of justice in relation to the city have been discussed for decades. The concept of the *Right to the City*, for example, has been interpreted in various ways: from Henri Lefebvre's vision as a moral rather than a legal right; David Harvey's critique on the undermining of the social function of the city due to capitalist accumulation in the city; to Purcell's interpretation of the *Right to the City* as a potential, pluralistic umbrella for social movements to challenge existing hegemonies. The *Right to the City* encompasses recognizing heterogeneity and the presence of inequality with a commitment to addressing existing injustices. Susan Fainstein presents the *Just City* as a place where just processes lead to equitable outcomes. She identifies three pillars of the *Just City* - democracy, diversity and equity; while at the same time recognizing the inherent tensions between them. Leonie Sandercock also stresses the importance of diversity in increasingly multicultural societies. Additionally, Marcuse's work on the quartered city demonstrating the 'involuntary confinement' and the unequal allocation of resources in the city relates to theorizing the *spatiality of justice* in the city. Edward Soja has contributed to further understanding spatial justice, pointing out that unjust geographies are produced through varied societal processes, policy and planning. All this brings out an important realization that notions of justice are not universal: they vary between and within societies, influenced by individual ideologies and can compete and co-exist at the same time.

The above-mentioned and many more scholars indicate that the continued injustices in cities are far from being adequately addressed. The existing urban injustices in cities related to dispossession and displacement of property, forced evictions, spatial segregation and related politics of difference, inequality of access to places of necessity and opportunity, racial and gender discrimination remain ever so present and ever so eruptive in most cities worldwide. These few examples of urban injustices reflect the inequalities experienced in every part of the world. Existing power imbalances affirm that opportunities for negotiating equitable outcomes for all are not evident. Yet, there

have been counter-movements of residents advocating for more justice, be it environmental, social or spatial.

The way we plan cities can potentially contribute to more justice in the particular space or place. For example, there are several planning strategies and instruments specifically aiming at spatial justice, such as inclusionary zoning, extending public services, improving public transport, public value capture, stakeholder involvement in the planning process, etc. However, the impact of these planning measures can be perceived in various ways: for example, perceptions of safety can be varied between gender groups - while men might enjoy a public space, the way it was designed might make women feel unsafe.

This Call for Papers seeks to advance the understanding of the just city and critically discuss urban injustices situated within space and grounded in cities globally; the relevance of urban planning and policy for justice; citizens' responses to injustices in the city and what current trends of urban growth and challenges of urbanization will entail for these concepts. We welcome theoretical, empirical, experimental, and case study contributions that address the theoretical and practical implications of urban injustices in cities. The topics may include but are not limited to:

Conceptualizations of the Just City

- Understanding of the Just City (Definition and Characteristics)
- Right to the city: theory and application
- Spatial justice and the city
- Relation between social and spatial justice and dynamics in societal perceptions.
- Cultural differences in understanding the Just City

Manifestations and Perceptions of the (Un)Just City

- Urban poverty
- Diversity and discrimination in the city
- Urban justice and intersectionality
- Inequality in access to mobility, urban social services, facilities and infrastructure
- Segregation and spatial inequalities
- Power imbalances in governance, policy and planning
- Politics of urban inequality
- City residents' experiences, perceptions and expectations, in relation to urban injustices

Strategizing the Just City

- Contributions of planning, policy towards just cities
- Urban Insurgency, activism and advocacy

- Diversifying justice in different global contexts

Researching the Just City

- Emerging and innovative research methods and methodologies on social and spatial justice

Contact

Interested authors are invited to submit an abstract of up to 300 words describing the topic, methods, (expected) results and relevance of their articles on understanding the concepts relating to Just Cities in either English or German. Please include full contact details and a brief biography of each contributing author (up to 100 words) and submit as a single document to:

Dorcas Nthoki Nyamai editor@trialog-journal.de by **October 31, 2020**.

Authors will be notified of the outcome by November 30, 2020. Full papers to be submitted to the same email will be due on March 31, 2021.

Important dates

Abstract submission deadline: October 31, 2020

Decision on abstract proposal: November 30, 2020

Manuscript submission deadline (4,000 – 5,000 words): March 31, 2021

Reviewers' Feedback: June 15, 2021

Revised paper's submission deadline: July 15, 2021

(second revision if necessary)

Expected date of publication: October 31, 2021

Selected readings

Fainstein, S. S. (2010). *The Just City*. Cornell University Press.

Harvey, D. (2010). *Social justice and the city* (Vol. 1). University of Georgia Press.

Lefebvre, H., & Nicholson-Smith, D. (1991). *The production of space* (Vol. 142). Oxford Blackwell.

Marcuse, P., 1989. 'Dual city': a muddy metaphor for a quartered city. *International journal of urban and regional research*, 13(4), pp.697-708.

Purcell, M. (2009). Resisting Neoliberalization: Communicative Planning or Counter-Hegemonic Movements? *Planning Theory*, 8(2), 140–165.



Sandercock, L. and Bridgman, R., 1999. Towards cosmopolis: Planning for multicultural cities. *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*, 8(1), p.108.

Soja, E. W. (2013). *Seeking spatial justice* (Vol. 16). U of Minnesota Press.

ⁱ What is Trialog?

(Association for Scientific Research into Planning and Building in the Developing World) TRIALOG e. V. is registered as a non-profit organisation. The association is an independent forum of academic, consultancy, and practical professionals from the spheres of planning and building in a global context with the aim of improving the understanding of planning-related issues and societal developments arising on the different continents, particularly in regard to socio-spatial theories and planning methods. Trialog is publishing the quarterly TRIALOG-Journal.

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