

Call for papers: Special issue on

PLANNING THEORIES FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH

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Please send your abstract by 30th October 2019 to planextjournal@gmail.com.

Authors writing on planning in the Euro-American context have dominated the Euro-American publishing industry. Although there are journals dedicated to international planning, the 'internationality' has been questioned both from editors' and authors' perspectives. In recent years a growing number of planning theorists located in, or writing on, the global south has argued that theories based on assumptions of a northern context do not 'fit' or are not applicable in global south contexts. Hence there is a need to challenge northern bias in planning theory and to develop new concepts and vocabularies from southern perspectives.

This in turn has given rise to further questions: how can we avoid simple north-south binaries in planning theory? On what basis and with what justification do we challenge dominant northern planning theories? What methods can we use to develop southern planning theory? How do we address ethics and values in southern planning theory – are planning values universal or specific to a context? How can we promote recognition of southern planning theory in journal publishing?

Theories from the South have put forward a number of concepts as alternatives to dominant Euro-American planning ideas. One example is Vanessa Watson's phrase: 'conflicting rationality' to describe state-society relations in planning in highly conflictual southern contexts where consensus-building or collaborative participatory processes are unlikely to be effective. Faranak Miraftab refers to 'insurgent planning' where communities take over planning from the state. Oren Yiftachel has used the term 'gray spaces' to refer to how government can use planning to marginalize minority communities.

While theories travelling, or even transported, from the North to the South have been debated, the importance of South-South learning has attracted much attention. As argued by many scholars, the global North-South divide is being challenged, where marginality is no more between the geographical global North and South, but within the global North and within the global South, as well as within the global East and within the global West. We are at a time of urban transformation and globalization, and we question what is even considered as global South (for instance, whether this includes only post-colonial countries or others as well). The aim of southern planning theory-building is to produce more appropriate analytical and normative planning concepts (rather than use northern ideas which claim universality) but also to learn from comparison between north and south. Miraftab's work portrays nicely how migrants from the global South build spaces and communities within the global North, both being physically present there, or even from a distance, and makes a case for planning students from the North learning about South and other non-North geographies. With the rapid urbanization in the global South, and considering that



patterns of urbanization in the global South can be quite different in character and dynamics, it is important for northern planners to learn from the non-North.

We would like to welcome contributions from early career and senior scholars writing about planning practices within the global South, both geographically, and conceptually. Contributions can include research papers and shorter pieces that report empirical and/or theoretical inquiries in relation to cases from the global south. Contributions can be based on cases from planning practices within the 'conceptual' and not only 'geographical' global South, and can explore South-South learning. The potential contributions could address one of the following themes, but are not limited to these:

1. Planning culture: Scope of planning as a discipline in the global south, both in terms of theory and practice;
2. Urban transformation: Knowledge on the current process of transformation and urbanization in emerging economies, including the impact of climate change as a dimension, neoliberal economies as a driving force, and marginality, informality and illegality in the processes of spatial and institutional transformation. What are the implications of these for planning theory and practice?;
3. 'Conflicting rationality' (Watson) or other concepts from southern planning theorists;
4. Problematizing the global south: Why urban challenges cannot be divided by global North-South?
5. Planning and postcoloniality in the global south: how do colonial histories influence urban settlements and planning?
6. How international are the international planning journals, in terms of authors, editors and content?

The Submitted manuscripts will be published in the open access journal *PlaNnext–Next Generation Planning* (<http://journals.aesop-planning.eu>). Please send an abstract (150 words) expressing your interest by **30th October 2019**. Your abstract should outline the special theme, geographical area, and research questions clearly. Once you have been notified of abstract acceptance you will be asked to submit a full paper (7000 words) by **31st March 2020**. We plan to publish the issue during Fall, 2020.