

The multiple faces of Spatial Justice

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The journal *Justice Spatiale / Spatial Justice* is (nearly) ten years old. Ever since it was created, and by dealing with a variety of issues, JSSJ has contributed to the acknowledgement of critical positions and diverse points of view on space. Written in both French and English, it has been internationally open. Members of the editorial committee look back fondly on this collective adventure that allowed for exchanges with an extraordinarily large readership – over a million readers throughout the world for the eleven issues, all published open access while respecting the highest standards for peerreviewing. In these issues, we sought to articulate diverse interventions, dealing with epistemological aspects, critical thought, ethical positions and engagement. Looking at different scales, at the « global North » as well as the « global South », at cities as well as rural areas and the environment, issues of governance and technical systems, the approach in terms of spatial justice has proven itself useful for many scholars, instructors, students, local activists and citizens, in France as well as internationally.

2017 was a year of many challenges and hesitations, as we faced ever worsening constraints. Operating on a voluntary basis with actual or implicit public funding (through time we as academics spent working for the journal and some funding from universities and research groups for translations) seemed to have reached its limit. We also felt that the journal had to be given precedence over people, and that changes were necessary to enlist new energies. The editors, after years of diverse and fascinating work, offered to stand down and hand over. Simultaneously, changes in the composition of the editorial committee were undertaken.

A call for ideas and proposals was sent out, and many answers flowed in, with encouragements and suggestions, from France, the UK, Luxemburg, Canada, and several other countries. Some were individual offers of help, others structured collective proposals to take over, and they all played a part in convincing us that what started ten years ago had to carry on. Many thanks to all!

Since spring 2018, we have been granted support from the CNRS to assist with the administrative handling of the journal. This was crucial for the continuity of the journal. It is a scientific recognition as much as a much-needed response to our material needs. It gave us the conditions to work more serenely on what JSSJ is to become.



As a result to these changes, a new team of editors is now in charge and steering the transition and the continuity of the journal with the support of an enlarged and renewed editorial committee. The call for papers for issue 13 is out (in this very issue) and the one for issue 14 is under preparation.

This is what a journal needs, evolutions. Those underway are causes to rejoice. These speak to the future, and are grounded in a past of which this issue, edited and coordinated by the three signatories of this editorial, aims to give an account. What we aimed for was an issue that could describe the multiple « faces » of spatial justice (a reference to the title of a famous chapter of Iris Marion Young's Justice and the Politics of Difference), the diversity of approaches, how far we have come, and the debates that came up on the way. Diversity, differences, debates, disagreements, whatever the exact term, this is what we stand for, exchanges and not monologues. The Public Space section includes interviews of some collectives with which we have complicities and some disagreements. In some of these strongly divergent points of view are expressed. In the «JSSJ Reviews » section, by contrast, we and members of the editorial board worked together to make explicit some theoretical references shared by all or only some of us. These papers derive from seminar sessions organized by the journal and they are not mere book reviews. They aim to state our positions with respect to major authors (mostly from the field of political philosophy). Some of the papers gathered here attempt to sum up some ongoing debates, for instance the one written by Marianne Morange and Aurélie Quentin about the normativity of social sciences visible through the use of the phrase « spatial justice » over the past two decades. Other papers open up new areas of research, for instance the one written by Bernard Bret about scales or the one by Jean Gardin, Jean Estebanez and Sophie Moreau on animal justice (a field as yet unexplored by our journal). We also made place for colleagues and partners from abroad, for instance Carlos Salamanca and Francisco Pizarro writing from Latin America where the notion of spatial justice has been widely deployed, or from other disciplines. We are particularly glad to have a contribution from a legal scholar, Laurence Sinopoli, which clearly demonstrates how fruitful exchanges are between law, geography, urbanism, sociology... Lastly, we couldn't but find a place in this issue for Edward Soja. Sophie Didier writes of our reception of his important work *Postmetropolis* and salutes the memory of a great man that visited us several times and that we were sad to lose a few months ago. This is what hasn't changed at JSSJ: if space is at the center of our thought, it is space in all its complexity and political dimension, with an inspiration with, through Edward Soja, goes all the ways back to the work of Henri Lefebvre.

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