Not the Same, but Close Enough... and Moving Forward

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From July 2018, when the latest issue of JSSJ was published online, to October 2019, it took more than a year for this thirteenth issue to go to print, so to speak. The scale of the changes and recompositions announced in issue 12’s editorial has forced us to take a step back and to give ourselves time to implement this change. For a year, we have learned to work within the framework of renewed and expanded editorial and editors-in-chief boards, thanks to the mobilization of a younger generation that has become involved alongside some of the journal’s founders. Among the latter, some remain. Others, after 10 years, have chosen to leave the editorial board to devote themselves to other tasks. Many wished however to sustain their connections with the journal: they joined our network of correspondents, the reviewers’ pool, or the scientific advisory board; they also keep on contributing informally to our discussions.

These transformations were driven by three principles. First, the international dialogue, which has always been at the heart of our project, is strengthened by the arrival of 3 colleagues from Luxembourg and one from Montreal. They responded to our open call last year, and with them, discussions immediately began about their involvement in the journal and in the journal’s seminars. In this context, JSSJ took part in the seminar “Geography(ies) of injustice”, organized in the spring of 2019 at the University of Luxembourg (see the “Public space” section of this issue). The journal also joined an international network on Spatial Justice, led by Russell Smith (University of North Carolina), who applied for funding for the network from the National Science Foundation (USA). Secondly, our collective has expanded to include colleagues in Sociology, in order to strengthen interdisciplinary dialogue, present at the heart of our editorial project but not sufficiently represented within the committee. However, this widening confirms the domination of geographers in our collective, as they are probably more easily inclined to engage in spatial issues. This imbalance also
underlines the eternal difficulty inherent in the concrete practice of interdisciplinarity within Social sciences. We will nevertheless continue to build these bridges, patiently. Thirdly, JSSJ now welcomes in its editorial board specialists from less represented areas of research, in particular when it comes to the field of environmental studies.

It seems to us that from these restructurings, JSSJ comes out strengthened, and able to engage scientific discussion in an enlarged, enriched and more lively network than ever before. The institutional partnerships with the various organizations that finance the journal have also been renewed: the CNRS (French National Centre for Scientific Research) has given us its support in the form of a part-time editorial secretary position, and we can consequently contemplate the future of the journal with a little more serenity, even if all the difficulties have not been overcome yet.

Moreover, the public face of JSSJ has not changed: the same structure, the same sections, the same website and a constancy to the editorial project that has been close to our hearts for more than 10 years (bilingualism, international dialogues, ideological pluralism, diversity of fields, approaches and themes, pluridisciplinarity...). The only innovation, which has been called for for a long time, comes in the creation of Varia issues. In addition to calls for articles in thematic issues, calls will now be regularly posted online to allow articles to be submitted as part of non-thematic, but regularly scheduled issues. We hope that within this space, new themes, new topics, new perspectives can be expressed that will contribute to renewing the debate on spatial justice.

A rich programming agenda testifies to this renewal: issue 14, coordinated by Marie Gibert and Gabriel Fauveaud, will present the first harvest of freestyle submissions for a Varia issue. Issue 15, coordinated by Gerald Aiken and Cyria Emelianoff, will focus on community initiatives, particularly in the context of energy transitions. This particular topic will be a continuation of the reflections developed in this issue 13 on local autonomy and justice. With these two issues echoing each other, the aim is to keep on debating the scalar dimension of spatial justice, initiated in previous issues (for example by Sabine Planel and Bernard Bret). Issue 16 (see the online call for articles, active until December 20), coordinated by Sophie Moreau, Jean Gardin and Jean
Estebanez, will focus on “animal justice”. It is the natural development of a seminar organized last March in Paris with the active contribution of the journal. Keeping up with this rapid pace of new proposals in development, the journal’s future agenda is rife with additional ideas as varied as “police and violence”, “justice and borders”... and we hope there will be many more to come. On this occasion, we wish to reiterate the invitation made to all those who wish to propose a thematic issue: please do not hesitate to contact us.

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