

Anniversary?

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« The creation of this scientific journal is based on the conviction that space is a fundamental dimension of human societies and that social justice is embedded in space. The understanding of interactions between space and societies is essential to understand social injustices and to reflect on the planning policies that aim to reduce them »

The paragraph above is from the editorial of the first issue of this journal. We quote it here as an invitation to our readers to return to this first issue which stated our project, and maybe reflect, along with us, about the ways in which we have managed to contribute to scholarly thinking about justice—a pursuit inseparable, for us, from thinking about engagement with, and involvement in, social issues. Now is the time for reflection because the present issue was put together in difficult times for our journal, because we lack the means to keep going in a context, in academia in general, that allows ever less space and time for projects like ours. This accounts partly for the exhaustion of those who work for the journal on a voluntary basis. In early 2018 JSSJ will publish its twelfth issue, ten years after the inaugural Nanterre conference of March 2008. This anniversary will be an opportunity to explain further the situation the journal finds itself in, but also the reasons we have to be optimistic about what we have accomplished. We will host contributions which cast light on some parts of the international network created around JSSJ. This is why no call for contributions appears in this installment of our journal.

This issue, is the result of a long-term project conducted by Béatrice Collignon and Irène Hirt about spatial justice and indigenous people, the theme of the entire issue, including the Public Space section. This field seems to demonstrate anew how effective and fruitful it is for research and a general understanding of the world to engage with the idea of spatial justice.

So-called indigenous people clearly define themselves in relation with space, and stake territorial claims as part of their self-organization and struggle for recognition and redistribution. Many of the papers in this issue also make clear the need to think issues of justice at several scales simultaneously, as local, regional, national and global. While this is a feature of indigenous movements, it also applies more generally: thinking about spatial justice implies thinking about the various dimensions of space, in reference, be it implicitly, to Henri Lefebvre, but also about politics of scale; thinking, that is, about the articulation of scales but also understanding how one can act, mobilize at various scales and which are most efficient for so doing. Our

journal began with a call for transdisciplinary research, and it is a position we stand by more than ever and keep calling for (as much as the issues call for it), as we believe cooperation between social sciences and more urgently still, between social sciences and research in the field of law, which also question space.