

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Branco Teixeira L and Santos A (2016) 'Reabilitação Urbana: Novo Paradigma das Políticas Urbanas na Cidade do Porto', A *Obra Nasce, revista de arquitetura e urbanismo da UFP* 11, 87-106 (ISSN: 2183-427X).

Breda Vázquez I (2016) 'A Capacidade Transformadora da Regeneração Urbana', A *Obra Nasce, revista de arquitetura e urbanismo da UFP* 11, 9-15, (ISSN: 2183-427X).

Oliveira C (Editor), Morais M P, Conceição P and Breda-Vázquez I (Organizers), *Boletim Regional, Urbano e Ambiental*, 14 (Edição Especial: Europa), Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada, Brasília, 2016.

Oliveira C and Breda-Vázquez I (2016) Políticas territoriais e coordenação inter-municipal em Portugal: os dilemas da ação coletiva. *Boletim Regional, Urbano e Ambiental*, Edição Especial Europa, IPEA-Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada, Diretoria de Estudos e Políticas Regionais, Urbanas e Ambientais, (14):83-92 (ISSN 2177-1847).

Ornelas C, Guedes J and Breda-Vázquez I (2016) 'Cultural Built Heritage and Minimum Intervention Criteria: a systematic analysis of building codes and legislation of Southern European countries', *Journal of Cultural Heritage* 20, 725-732.

Ornelas C, Guedes J and Breda-Vázquez I (2016) 'The role of a systematic analysis of building codes to support an assessment methodology for built heritage', in Modena, da Porto & Valluzzi (Eds), *Brick and Block Masonry - Trends, Innovations and Challenges*, Taylor & Francis Group, London, 701-708 (ISBN 978-1-138-02999-6).

Ornelas C, Guedes J and Breda-Vázquez I (2017) 'Integrated Built Heritage Assessment: The Development of MAPEH', *ASCE Journal of Architectural Engineering* (accepted for publication).

Rebello E M (2017) 'Metropolitan governance', *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Urban and Regional Studies* (accepted for publication).

Rebello E M (2017) 'Land betterment capture revisited: a methodology for territorial plans', *Land Use Policy* 69, 392-407.

EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

The choking forest fires that in only two odd days killed over one hundred lives, destroyed remote and disadvantaged rural communities, and devastated 4.5% of the surface of Portugal mainland, were able to generate an unprecedented wave of spontaneous solidarity throughout the country, and an intense and rich public debate with, let's hope this time, profound implications for the future.

These editorials are too short for any attempt to analyse such a serious and complex issue, which technicalities, particularly on the side of fire detection and fire fight, are, let's be clear, beyond our knowledge and understanding. Nevertheless, some facets of the current debate reflect the way our wider society is starting to rediscover the importance of physical planning as a public policy, as well as a research and a professional field.

The tragedy of this year's forest fires showed the unacceptable extent of the existing territorial inequalities in Portugal, calling for stronger and more effective and inclusive regional and rural development policies. In addition to an operative and, in most cases, responsive municipal level, the regional and the local community (parish) levels have to be better equipped in human and technical resources, in the first case to design and implement regional and rural policies and programmes far more ambitious than the present regional plans (PROT) and, in the second case, to provide the essential proximity response and assistance to aged local populations living in remote areas.

Ironically, some years ago, the only visible side of the then attempt to *rationalise* the Portuguese territorial administration from top to bottom, was the closing, merging and amalgamation of public services and local community authorities (parishes) into larger spatial units that, in particular in rural areas, had the negative effect of distancing even further the local people from some basic, but essential, services and support mechanisms. With these and other initiatives, the end result of this administrative reform, typical of the austerity period of the *troika* intervention, and based on the then fashionable liberal principle of *less state, better state*, was an even weaker and centralised public administration, as one could easily anticipate. The almost complete destruction of the *Pinhal de Leiria*, the largest forest area owned and poorly managed by the State despite its overall conservation value and important historical roots, is in that respect quite eloquent.

Curiously, on the aftermath of this recent tragedy, even right wing and liberal politicians in Portugal seem to converge with the left parties that the most essential public services, namely of monitoring and supervision (e.g. the SIRESP) should not be on the hands of outsourced private companies or PPPs without full state control. And this same surprising convergence on the importance of a strong state and of a strong public sector could be seen nowadays in the generalised consensus on the essential role attributed to physical planning at regional level to reorganise our vulnerable and dispersed patterns of settlement and all our vast forestlands, making them more resilient to forest fires.

The important and often neglected role of scientific knowledge and research, and of scientific evidence in decision-making was also made publicly clear by this tragedy. Soon after it happened, the country discovered that its universities had quite a number of competent academics and researchers able to produce solid and comprehensive reports on the causes and consequences of the forest fires with very precise and far-reaching recommendations, which implementation seem now to gain a generalised support and a sense of utmost urgency.

Finally, if doubts still persisted, climate change - the main theme of this year's CITTA annual conference - is here, hitting this country, and very strongly. The magnitude and extent of this year's forest fires have only been possible after several months of draught and unprecedented heat waves. Indeed, the two single days of horror occurred not in the summer season as one would expect, but the first in the late spring and the second already well into the autumn. Portugal, like Galicia or California - judging by the similar severity of the forest fires that also occurred in these regions - don't seem to be satisfactorily prepared for such climate change challenges, either in terms of adaptation or mitigation strategies (cont.).

COMMUNICATIONS AND PAPERS IN PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

Affonso C and Rebelo E M (2017) 'Capital city anchoring, intermediary theories and actors: the negotiation between capital spheres', *Regional Science Association Annual Conference "The Great Regional Awakening: New Directions"*, Dublin, Ireland, 4-7 June.

Coimbra I and Breda Vázquez I (2017) 'Shaping spatial policies: outcomes of community mapping processes', *AESOP Annual Congress "Spaces of Dialog for Places of Dignity: Fostering the European Dimension of Planning"*, Lisbon, Portugal, 11-14 July.

Rebelo E M (2017) 'Assessment of sustainable urban mobility: a set of planning indicators', *ISOCARP-OAPA Conference "Smart Communities"*, Portland (Oregon), USA, 24-27 October.

Rebelo E M (2017) 'Contemporary urban development in the global area: a methodological assessment', *7th Annual International Conference on Urban Studies & Planning*, Athens, Greece, 5-8 June.

Rebelo E M (2017) 'Location of foreign investment: theoretical assessment and practical outcomes in Portuguese regions', *24th APDR Congress "Intellectual Capital and Regional Development: New Landscapes and Challenges for Planning the Space"*, Covilhã, Portugal, 6-7 July.

Rebelo E M (2017) 'Regeneração urbana em centros históricos: preservação das condições de vida dos mais desfavorecidos', *8º Congresso Luso-Moçambicano de Engenharia*, Maputo, Moçambique, 4-8 September.

Rebelo E M (2017) 'The clue for success in urban governance: the integration of governance, institutions and civil society', *2017 ERSA Congress "Social Progress for Resilient Regions"*, Groningen, Holland, 29 August-1 September.

Rebelo E M (2017) 'Urban rehabilitation and qualification for socially deprived residents', *AESOP Annual Congress "Spaces of Dialog for Places of Dignity: Fostering the European Dimension of Planning"*, Lisbon, Portugal, 11-14 July.

Serrano T and Breda Vázquez I (2017) 'Circuits of Urban Policy Mobilities: relationships types and their interferences', *AESOP Annual Congress "Spaces of Dialog for Places of Dignity: Fostering the European Dimension of Planning"*, Lisbon, Portugal, 11-14 July.

Serrano T and Breda Vázquez I (2017), 'Mobility Circuits: Reflecting on Evolutionary Trajectories of Urban Policy', *The Regional Studies Annual Conference*, Dublin, 4-8 June.

Serrano, T. and Breda Vázquez, I. (2017), 'Urban Policy-making as Policy Assemblage', *CITTA 10th Annual Conference on Planning Research*, Porto, Portugal, 12 May.

RESEARCH GROUP 2

The transformative potential of urban policies, in a context of structural change, continued to be the main focus of the research group on Urban Planning and Housing - UPH (RG2). Within this general theme, several lines of research have been developed:

- Learning, with special attention to the procedures of community mapping and of (local) production of knowledge in spatial policies;

- Urban policy mobility and policy-making, with focus on composition processes on the ways successful policies are transferred, adapted, imitated, and translated by several stakeholders across multiple spatial and temporal scales;

- Evaluation in spatial planning, with special attention to the role of institutions in the "monitoring and evaluation" indicators systems used in urban and regional planning;

- Innovation and creativity, with special attention to urban creativity and the spatial patterns of cultural production;

- Austerity, with special attention to the impact of austerity on the cities and on the planning system.

- Planning tools and economic and financial sustainability of urbanization and infrastructure provision.

Furthermore, the links between urban policies, housing and evaluation have been explored through three main applied research projects:

- Study of the urban rehabilitation market and database of local indicators of housing needs (for AICCOPN, a construction industry association);

- Real estate evaluation and its relationship with spatial planning, territorial management instruments and expropriation processes;

- Assessment of rehousing needs in the municipality of Porto (for Domus Social, the municipal housing company). The project aims to assist the municipality of Porto in responding to a nationwide survey of rehousing needs, which will provide information for a new rehousing programme. The assessment has four main parts: a conceptual reflection on rehousing needs, housing precarity and housing deprivation, and on the spatialities of housing problems; a systematization of local knowledge on housing precarity; a fieldwork aiming to collect relevant information for the survey; and the production of recommendations for urban and housing policies.

With regard to internationalisation, the links between RG2 and Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada (Brasil) have been strengthened, and a special edition of the journal *Boletim Regional, Urbano e Ambiental* was co-edited, with a focus on spatial planning in Europe. It should be noted, also, the integration of some researchers in the Working Group "Urban change and regional development at the margins of Europe: evaluating the effects of the EU's policy" in the context of EURA - European Urban Research Association.

Isabel Breda Vázquez

EDITORIAL (cont.)

These exceptional periods of severe draught, hot temperatures, strong winds and very low air humidity are becoming more and more common, and Planning, through research and reflexive professional practice, has to be able to design new means and instruments to respond to these new challenges for the benefit of our entire communities, wherever they choose to live and work along the coastal strip or in the inner hills, valleys and planes of this country.

Paulo Pinho