

# NEWSLETTER

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RESEARCH CENTRE FOR TERRITORY TRANSPORTS AND ENVIRONMENT

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## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Altieri M, Silva C, Terabe S (2020) 'Give public transit a chance: A comparative analysis of competitive travel time in public transit modal share', *Journal of Transport Geography* 87. DOI: 10.1016/j.jtrangeo.2020.102817.

Alves, F, Cruz, S, Ribeiro, A, Bastos Silva, A, Martins, J, Cunha, I (2020) 'Walkability Index for Elderly Health: A Proposal', *Sustainability* 12(18), 7360. DOI: 10.3390/su12187360.

Cadima, C, Silva C, Pinho, P (2020) 'Changing student mobility behaviour under financial crisis', *Journal of Transport Geography* 87. DOI: 10.1016/j.jtrangeo.2020.102800

Ferreira AC (2020) 'Dilemmas, conflicts, and worldview diversity: Exploring the relevance of Clare Grave's legacy for planning practice and education', *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, July. DOI: 10.1177/0739456X20940797

Ferreira AC (2020) 'Reconsidering the merit of market-oriented planning innovations: Critical insights on Transferable Development Rights from Coimbra, Portugal', *Land Use Policy* 99, 104977. DOI:10.1016/j.landusepol.2020.104977

Ferreira AC, von Schönfeld K (2020) 'Interlacing planning and degrowth scholarship: A manifesto for an interdisciplinary alliance', *disP - The Planning Review* 56, 53-64. DOI: 10.1080/02513625.2020.1756633

Ferreira AC, Igreja J, Miranda A (2020) 'Collaborative governance in Portugal? A critical perspective based on an empirical survey', *Revista Portuguesa de Estudos Regionais* 55, 109-127.

Ferreira AC, Ribeiro-Santos J, Breda-Vázquez I (2020) 'Transcending dilemmas in urban policy-making: Envisioning versus adapting, growing versus stabilizing', *Planning Theory and Practice* 21, 76-93. DOI: 10.1080/14649357.2019.1703029

Ferreira AC (2020) 'O crescimento da mobilidade e turismo em Portugal: Solução ou problema? O caso do novo aeroporto de Lisboa [Mobility and tourism growth in Portugal: Solution or problem? The case of the new Lisbon airport].', *Finisterra* 55, 195-210. DOI: 10.18055/Finis18769

## EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

I am writing this editorial in late December after three important international announcements were made: the official start of the vaccination campaign against Covid-19 in all EU Member States, the confirmation of Biden's electoral victory in the US, and the EU-UK final agreement on Brexit's commercial conditions. With the very positive prospects that the pandemic will finally be curbed over the next months and that a new administration is about to come in in the US, and the sad confirmation that the EU will definitely lose one of its most influential member states, it is time to think and look ahead to the next year. From global to local, my concern is, of course, with CITTA.

In 2021, we will see some significant changes in the Centre. Total staff will keep its moderate trend upwards in numbers and experience. Unfortunately, with the current university policies to restrict new entries and promotions in the "academic career", such changes will only be particularly visible in the so called "research career". Indeed, in the next couple of months, and at the top level, the number of Principal Researchers will increase from 1 to 4. At the bottom level, 16 new PhD grants will be allocated in the first weeks of January increasing, significantly, the total number of research students enrolled in our PhD Programmes in Spatial Planning and in Transport Systems.

CITTA's overall development strategy (2018-2022), set some years ago, is likely to remain unchanged in this coming year. However, there are already clear signs (and outspoken voices) that some internal organizational changes are needed and should be carefully thought through, widely discussed and, if approved by the Scientific Council, implemented during 2021.

I'm referring, in particular, to the constitution of a strategic set of "thematic areas of research", embracing current and emerging topics, across disciplinary fields, and on a temporary basis according to their own dynamics, intersecting existing research groups and proposed by a certain number of researchers under specified conditions (to be consensually defined after a thorough internal discussion). These "thematic areas of research" should reflect spontaneous bottom-up initiatives, counterbalancing and complementing CITTA's Research Groups, which, as we know, were largely conceived as a top-down framework to organize the Centre's human resources and the management of the different research projects.

In addition, a profound reorganization and redesign of CITTA's website should take place during 2021, turning the present website from a mere mirror to the outside world of CITTA's different activities, realizations and main outputs - an objective that has been satisfactorily achieved over the last years and should be pursued anyway - into a real working tool and management platform, to support the daily preparation and implementation of all the different projects and events carried out within the Centre.

Finally, with or without current pandemic restrictions, an ambitious programme of research gatherings, events and conferences should be re-established with the utmost urgency, to bring together, once again, all CITTA researchers, junior and senior, to share experiences and discuss new ideas and projects. Some of these initiatives should be essentially internal in nature, others should be open to a wider national and/or international audience. In this respect, I do hope we will find in 2021 the necessary conditions to organize, once again, our annual international conference that, sadly, had to be cancelled in 2020.

Paulo Pinho



## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Ferreira AC, Papa E (2020) 'Re-enacting the mobility versus accessibility debate: Moving towards collaborative synergies among experts'. *Case Studies on Transport Policy* 8 1002-1009. DOI: 10.1016/j.cstp.2020.04.006

García-Pérez S, Oliveira V, Monclús J, Díez C (2020) 'UR-Hesp: a methodological approach for a diagnosis on the quality of open spaces in mass housing estates', *Cities*. DOI: 10.1016/j.cities.2020.102657

Ibraeva A, Santos G, Silva C, Antunes A (2020) 'Transit-oriented development: a review of research achievements and challenges', *Transportation Research Part A* 132, 110-130. DOI: 10.1016/j.tra.2019.10.018

Klimová, A, Pinho, P (2020) 'National policies and municipal practices: A comparative study of Czech and Portuguese urban mobility plans', *Case Studies on Transport Policies* 8(4), 1247-1255. DOI: 10.1016/j.cstp.2020.08.005

Lopes, M, Santos Cruz, S, Pinho, P (2020) 'Publicness of Contemporary Urban Spaces: Comparative Study Between Porto and Newcastle', *Journal of Urban Planning and Development* 146(4). DOI: 10.1061/(ASCE)UP.1943-5444.0000608

Oliveira V, Zaitter B (2020) 'Uma introdução ao estudo da forma urbana no Brasil', *Urbe*. DOI: 10.1590/2175-3369.012.e20200000

Oliveira V, Medeiros V, Corgo J (2020) 'The urban form of Portuguese cities', *Urban Morphology* 24, 145-166.

Oliveira V, Vaz R (2020) Is the concept of urban metabolism useful for planning practice?, *European Planning Studies* 28. DOI: 10.1080/09654313.2020.1740173

Oliveira V, Yaygin M (2020) 'The concept of morphological region: developments and prospects', *Urban Morphology* 24, 35-52.

Soria-Lara JA, Batista L, Le Pira M, Arranz-López A, Arce-Ruiz RM, Inturri G, Pinho P (2020) 'Revealing EIA process-related barriers in transport projects: The cases of Italy, Portugal and Spain', *Environmental Impact Assessment Review* 83. DOI: 10.1016/j.eiar.2020.106402

Teixeira, J, Lopes, M (2020) 'The link between bike sharing and subway use during the COVID-19 pandemic: The case-study of New York's Citi Bike', *Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives* 6, July. DOI: 10.1016/j.trip.2020.100166

Teixeira JL, Silva C, Sá FM (2020) 'Empirical evidence on the impacts of bikesharing: a literature review', *Transport Reviews*. DOI: 10.1080/01441647.2020.1841328

Tiboni, M, Botticini, F, Sousa, S, Jesus-Silva, N (2020) 'A Systematic Review for Urban Regeneration Effects Analysis in Urban Cores', *Sustainability* 12(21), 9296. DOI: 10.3390/su12219296.

## RESEARCH GROUP 1

By the end of 2020, Research Group 1 - the Planning and Environmental Assessment (PEA) Group comprised a total of 35 members, divided into 19 junior and 16 senior. Most of the junior researchers, 15 out of 19, are currently carrying out their PhD. Among the senior staff, i.e. staff with a doctoral degree, 6 are attached to the academic career and 10 are attached to the research career. The strong presence of this latter subgroup of researchers is perhaps one of the distinctive features of the PEA Group within CITTA.

In 2020, the PEA group was responsible for the publication of 24 papers in ISI and SCOPUS Journals, which corresponds to a raw productivity rate of 1.5 papers per senior researcher per year. Although this figure is already significantly higher than the average figure of 0.8 observed in the period 2013 - 2018 for the entire Centre (a performance that was then well above the European average for similar research centres) there are reasons to believe that in the next years, and despite all the disruptions caused by the Covid pandemic, the present productivity indicator can still increase a bit more.

Although the establishment of publication targets was never assumed by the present Directory Board of the Centre as a strict official policy, there has been a general consensus that an overall satisfactory performance would be achieved if, on a three year running average, each senior academic member, with a 50% dedication to research, would author two papers per year, and each senior (fulltime) researcher would author four papers per year (in both cases in ISI or SCOPUS journals only).

Lots have been said about this, for some, nonsense race to publish in scientific journals, fuelling an increasingly profitable and quasi-monopolistic international publishing activity, largely outside the control of the scientific communities such activity is expected to serve. To make things worse, more recently, the key indicator in the publishing field, the impact factor, is becoming a misleading indicator of (some) journals' reputations.

I have to recognize that this is true, in particular, of some more recent online publications, charging significant amounts of money to the authors and yet, practicing doubtful scientific reviews and applying suspicious quality publication criteria. The term predatory publication has been widely used to characterize such journals that tend to be conceived and marketed as interdisciplinary. By attracting unadvised authors coming from different scientific disciplines, they manage to rapidly increase their impact factors, which no longer represent the true scientific quality of the respective journal.

In our general fields of spatial and transport planning, these predatory publications are so far relatively marginal. Fortunately, we can still count on a wide array of journals of recognized reputation in which to publish. However, given the small size of the international scientific community we belong to, oftentimes these journals still have relatively small impact factors as compared to older and more established journals in engineering and health sciences.

Nevertheless, given the present national and international rules of the game prevailing in research activities, we cannot ignore that the funding of a research group and so, its survival and future development, largely depends on the respective quality and quantity of the regular publications it is able to produce. Similarly, the recognition and reputation of each individual researcher, and so its capacity to go up the ladder whether in the academic career or in the research career, is still largely measured by the publication output he/she is able to produce on a regular basis.

Coming back to the RG1 activities in 2020, a final note on the significant number of research projects which have been concluded recently or are about to be concluded in the next couple of months. I'm referring to projects such as SPLACH, MIA, 3S RECIPE, BooST, URBYSSENSE, MOBI-AGE, Citizen Sensing, EPUM and IPTC. A significant effort, involving all senior researchers, has to be channelled to replace all these projects with new ones taking advantage of a new round of national and European funding opportunities that will soon be open. I'm sure we'll be able to do it, once again!

All the best for 2021!

Paulo Pinho