

## THE NEED FOR JUSTICE IN THE CHANGING CITY Beyond social, economic and spatial polarization processes

### Call for papers

After forty years of “resistable rise” of neo-liberalism, both in terms of economic doctrine and public policies, the increase in inequality and social polarization seems to have become an ineliminable trait of contemporary life. Originally serving the purpose of supporting the growth of the productive system, and subsequently at the aim of counteracting the market crisis, deregulation and the State’s withdrawal from many areas of social intervention have grown to the point that they are being passively accepted, with the consequence that a widespread and pressing demand for redistributive equity risks remaining unanswered.

As extensively evidenced by independent scientific debate, the change occurred in the governance of economy has caused the widening of the gap that divides the area of hardship and social exclusion from a small segment of the population which holds a very large part of the national wealth. This growing asymmetry has determined a very marked territorial dualism that the city faithfully reflects, causing an increasingly unbalanced social structure which results in an urban arrangement which places, side by side, the exclusive enclaves of privileged people and the slums of those who are marginalized.

Paradoxically, the city is on the one hand the place where the demand for greater social equity proves to be pressing and almost always unheard, but on the other hand it constitutes the potential scope for a possible change of perspective, which could prove that it is in the urban context that the goals of a less abstract and unrealistic justice can be concretely approached.

For urban studies, the concept of a just city can become a paradigm of fundamental importance in view of a reconfiguration of the principles, targets and planning instruments, with applications ranging from the access to the common assets to the design of public spaces, and from the right to mobility and social housing - these latter usually dealt with by local governments - to the less tackled issues of security, accessibility for all, the right to health and aspiration to beauty.

It can be proved that conceptualizations and experiments conducted on the urban scale can bear an obvious symbolic value, useful for the same national policies, which seem paralyzed by the great number of families without an income and living in relative or absolute poverty, by the increase of the elderly population and of those who living in hardship due to physical, sensory, perceptual and cognitive disabilities, estimated between 15% and 20% of the population, who can however draw inspiration and encouragement from the results, certainly partial but significant, achieved by a growing number of local administrations.

Facing with the difficulty of interaction between different levels of decision-making and intervention, scholars of territorial and socio-economics disciplines may offer a fundamental contribution to the elaboration of an original and integrated point of view on the project of a *just city*, which is able to constitute a reference and a model of a more equitable, accessible and convivial society.

### Conference goals and planning

In repositing the formula successfully adopted in the previous editions of Urbanpromo (2016 and 2017), INU and Urbit aims at providing insights and contributions at next Congress of the *Istituto Nazionale di Urbanistica* [National Institute of Urban Planning], which will take place in Riva del Garda, through the organization of an international scientific conference that will be held at the Triennale di Milano during the 15th edition of Urbanpromo (20-23 November, 2018).

The main target groups of the conference are researchers, scholars and professionals working in universities, companies and public administration. The event is organized in collaboration with two important scientific journals: *URBANISTICA* and *Planum-The Journal of Urbanism*.

While Planum journal will ensure the full and timely publication of the submitted papers, which will therefore be disseminated and submitted to the discussion already during the Conference, *URBANISTICA* will publish in a special issue a wide selection of papers considered of greatest interest.

In order to more effectively address the reflection of those who intend to send an original contribution, the following thematic articulation is proposed:

1. **a map of wealth and social well-being** as a result of the unequal distribution of social capital and of existing gaps in local development;
2. **the new phenomenology of urban poverty** (proposals of multidimensional indicators of socio-economic disadvantages, extension and functioning of social networks, etc.) and related policies of contrast (job orientation, Local Exchange Trading Systems, micro-credit, solidarity economy networks, housing-first, etc.);
3. **conflicts and synergies between local and global values triggered by globalization** (paths of metropolitan growth, economic base evolution, relevance demographic and social context significance, policies of social cohesion, use of endogenous socio-cultural resources as a source of innovation, etc.);
4. **progressive achievement of relational, circular and reciprocal economies as base of a new paradigm of the urban economy**, capable of promoting a redistribution of wealth and job demand and to contrast the trend towards polarization;
5. **enhancement of the conditions needed to access to common goods, spaces for collective use and major urban functions**, with interventions that affect both the supply (infrastructural equipment) and the demand (real-time information on traffic, reduction of forced displacement, shared tracking of paths accessible to all, adoption of remote working jobs, etc.);
6. **disintermediation, collaborative consumption and co-housing**, as factors of change in collective behavior and preferences, with possible effects also on lifestyles and earnings distribution;
7. **urban rent seeking and capture processes**, also with reference to the activation of gentrification trends;
8. **health, well-being and quality of urban life improvement**, achieved through measures to mitigate the importance of cultural differences and income on an urban and neighborhood level;
9. **urban policies aimed at improving hospitality, inclusion, cohabitation and creativity** of the city public spaces, services and facilities, based on civic engagement and an integrated urban planning for a fair management of diversities (nationality, income, gender, culture, physics, sensory and perceptual ones);
10. **adapting strategies to climate change**, also considering the effects that may derive from individual and collective behavior and the "willingness to pay" of residents (urban densification, pedestrian and low-speed zones, promotion of urban energy autonomy, etc.);
11. **involvement of citizens in decision-making processes and urban management**, in order to ensure a better access to knowledge and recognition of the of social justice goals (open data, public wi-fi in the city, thematic forums, urban centers, co- housing, co-working, etc.).

### Requirements for conference participation and application

Participation in the conference is open to all. Anyone intending to submit a written contribution is invited to send an abstract in Italian or in English (min. 300 - max 400 words) to the following email address: [bisognodigiustizia@urbit.it](mailto:bisognodigiustizia@urbit.it). In addition to indicating the name of the author or authors, the institution to which they belong and the reference to one or more topics proposed in the Call to be developed, the text must clearly propose the thesis supported and a concise overview of the arguments and supporting data.

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Following the favorable opinion of the reference committee, authors will be informed of the acceptance of the proposal and will be invited to send in Italian or English the final text of the contribution (the maximum text length is 20,000 characters) in Italian or in English, as well as any figures and tables, to the mentioned email address.

The layouts for the preparation of Abstract and Paper will be available on the Urbanpromo, INU and Planum websites and it is strictly necessary to follow these rules for the acceptance of the contribution to the Conference. The papers accepted will be published on Planum Publisher ([www.planum.net](http://www.planum.net)) before the beginning of the conference.

### **Scientific referee activity**

An Evaluation Committee, composed of both the members of the Scientific committees of the Conference and the ones of the two Journals, will be established to promote a wide and qualified selection of the most significant works sent to the organizers of the Conference.

Said committee will select at least 10 papers, which will be presented by the authors during the International Conference.

Through the same anonymous evaluation, a wider range of contributions will be selected for the publication in a special issue of the journal URBANISTICA.

The authors must draw up the final version of their papers, consistent with the indications of the Evaluation Committee, the layout guidelines and the deadlines indicated by URBANISTICA.

### **Application fee payment**

The payment of an application fee of 300 euros (250 euros for the INU members) is required for the presentation of a paper at the Conference and its publication.

In addition to the Conference, the registration includes the entrance to all the sessions of the XV edition of Urbanpromo, which will be held in Milan at the Triennale from 20 to 23 November 2018.

For payments made before September 15th 2018, the registration fee is reduced to 250 euros (200 euros for the INU members).

It is necessary to send the receipt (CRO) of the payment by October 31, 2018. Failure to comply will result in exclusion from the Proceedings of the Conference.

For billing information and PA payments please send an email to: [bisognodigiustizia@urbit.it](mailto:bisognodigiustizia@urbit.it).

### **Key Dates**

May 15	deadline abstract submission
June 5	notification of acceptance
September 15	deadline reduced fee (250 euros, 200 for the INU members)
October 31	deadline paper submission, including fee receipt (CRO) of the payment (300 euros, 250 for the INU members)

### **Scientific committee**

Michele Talia (chair), Angela Barbanente, Carlo Alberto Barbieri, Giuseppe De Luca, Patrizia Gabellini, Carlo Gasparrini, Paolo La Greca, Roberto Masciarucci, Francesco Domenico Moccia, Federico Oliva, Pierluigi Properzi, Francesco Rossi, Iginio Rossi, Stefano Stanghellini, Silvia Viviani.

### **Scientific coordination**

Carolina Giaimo, Rosalba D'Onofrio, Giulia Fini, Laura Pogliani, Marichela Sepe.