

# INTRODUCTORY WORDS

The scientific monograph entitled “Conflicts over Use of Urban and Regional Spaces in the Time of Climate Changes. Good Management and Planning Practices” intends to add new issues, taken mainly from the Polish and Colombian spaces, to the scientific discussion on urban-regional changes and the role of the government in these processes.

The authors invited to this work representatives of several scientific disciplines and several research topics. The common idea is to show the territorial processes through the prism of environmental, social and political conflicts.

The monograph is divided into three essential topics, important for this discourse:

- The city as an arena of conflicts and negotiations;
- The region as an arena of conflicts and negotiations;
- Society, education and possibilities in contestation spaces.

Cities have always formed a fascinating and intriguing space. Their unforeseen development, with surprising forms, unexpected directions and unpredictable effects have always brought crowds of people to cities, hungry to live in a different environment than rural – full of movement and interactions, lively, noisy, colorful and diverse in all senses.

The space of the city, due to the number of interests, aspirations and visions, must be conflictive. Thousands of texts have already been written about the apparent conflicts within the urban space and many more will probably follow. Here we mention just four topics within this problem that we find important and interesting for readers on both continents.

The first issue, which has not left the pages of newspapers for several years, is the question of the situation of cities and their place in space in the face of climate change. It is a very broad topic and causes several controversies about the forms of urbanization processes and the adaptation of urban space to these changes. Governance also plays an important role here. Jaime Mejía Gutiérrez talks about this aspect in his article and, being very critical of environmental policy in the southern department of Caldas in Colombia, blames local authorities for inadequate urbanization processes.

The article by Sylvia Dudek-Mańkowska and Mirosław Grochowski is also related to the theme of governance. This time they evaluate the efficiency of governance in the case of the city of Warsaw, Poland.

Green spaces and their social, integrating and recreational role within urban and semi-urban spaces are discussed in two texts on Warsaw. One by Dorota Mantey is dedicated to the usefulness and convenience issues of creating small recreational spaces in peri-urban areas. In the other article Miroslawa Czerny and Patricia Starzec talk about the real batch conflict in the central areas of the city. These are small gardens allocated in the communist era to the workers who used them for recreational purposes and to cultivate agricultural products that were missing in the formal market at that time. Today, these gardens located near the city center are a tasty snack for investors who are trying to change the use of these areas.

And finally, the article by Dominik Rózewicz who talks about the creation of the new space after the damage caused by the Second World War. But it turns out that the city built in a modernist style does not appeal to the inhabitants in the current era. A new urban space is being formed. But does this new urban form manage to integrate society around new signs and symbols?

The second part of the monograph is devoted to regional issues. The first text by Luis Alfredo Muñoz Velasco and Sylwia Kulczyk takes the theme of social construction of innovative and competitive territories in Colombia in a perspective of innovation and competitiveness. On the other hand, Tulia Elena Hernández, Burbano Javier Gonzaga and Valencia Hernandez write about the occupation of the territory by different cultures throughout the history of humanity, show the first steps towards planning as a fundamental axis in the determination of urbanism where there is risk and threat for the permanence of human settlements. This theme is partially developed by Hernando Gil Tovar and Sylwia Kulczyk when they bring us closer to the theme of governance, which has become a transcendental aspect for achieving social capital that supports the objectives of sustainable development.

Two other texts are devoted to water issues – fundamental resources for the development of contemporary and future societies. The first text by Roberto Saavedra Ardila and Jorge W. Arboleda Valencia brings us closer to the theme of sustainable water use planning. The second article by Christian Alejandra Vidal Sierra, Ciro Alfonso Serna Mendoza and Coral Jazvel Pacheco Figueroa returns to the theme of the importance of wetlands for the sustainable development of the planet. Ciro Alfonso Cerna Mendoza and Eutimio Mejia Soto are the authors of the other article dedicated to questions of water governance. We see that the issue of water use and management is currently one of the most important approaches in the discussion on sustainable development and its regional perspectives.

And finally, in the second part of the book we can enlist the article dedicated to the questions of the relationship between sustainable development and the efficiency of energy production.

The third part of the book is devoted to social issues and their impact on development. Within this theme there are also educational issues for development, social disparities and their consequences and social movements.

Katarzyna Dembicz presents a very important text on education for development and the mistaken western visions applied to the local Latin American world. Claudia Jurado Alvarán talks about the emigration of young people from the countryside and the very difficult situation in the countryside. Ciro Alfonso Serna Mendoza, Diana Sofía Serna Giraldo and Diego Hernández García speak to us about social movements and development, the role of society in participation in development acts.

In short, the spectrum of the topics presented allows us to open new directions for scientific discussion or to integrate with existing ideas. It seems that the geographical distance that separates the two countries mentioned at the beginning of the introduction does not constitute a barrier to conclude on apparently global issues located in the regional and local context. Hopefully the reader will find here some constructive and novel ideas.

Mirosława Czerny, Ciro Alfonso Serna Mendoza

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