
Editorial Statement

Aims of the journal

The *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society* publishes multidisciplinary international research on the spatial dimensions of contemporary socio-economic-political change. The Journal adopts a focused thematic format. Each issue is devoted to a particular theme selected by the international editorial team. The aim of the Journal is to understand the formative changes and developments associated with the new spatial foundations of today's globalising world. It also examines how changes in the global economy are playing out across different spatial scales. Each issue is prefaced by an introduction from the Editors on the topic covered. Authors are encouraged to engage with the public policy implications of the issues they address. The Journal is keen to encourage articles from a diverse range of theoretical perspectives. Within this remit the Journal will publish papers that include one or more of the following:

- Cutting-edge multidisciplinary research
- Incisive critical reviews of the 'state of the art' of the topic in question
- Engagement with and interrogation of contemporary policy issues and debates

Riskscape and the socio-spatial challenges of climate change

The next issue focuses on the concept of *Riskscape* as applied to global challenges, such as climate change, and is edited by Anna Davies, Gregory Hooks, Janelle Knox-Hayes and Raoul S. Liévanos. It examines the spatial, temporal, economic and sociological dimensions of climate change and environmental 'riskscape', a concept developed by Müller-Mahn and others

to explore the temporal and spatial texture of risk. Riskscape also call attention to interactions *among* risks, from risky neighbourhoods to entire nations. By studying climate change and environmental riskscape, for example, it becomes possible to understand their interdependencies and spillovers and to allow for a discourse centred on identifying, mapping and managing risks. Beyond the realms of environment and climate risks, issues of crime, terrorism, economic (in)security and health equity are increasingly framed in terms of risk and efforts to mitigate risk. Efforts to identify, avoid, mitigate and manage risks are transforming political and social institutions; while the identification and response to risk occurs in an institutional context, in order to be more effective, policy makers must consider the way different communities and societies make value judgements, assess risks and devise strategies to respond. Accurate risk analysis is often hindered by the indeterminable and uninsurable nature of technological risks, and current political, economic and social institutions may be inadequate to cope with these. Risk exposure and class, especially as manifested spatially, can be related, as with spatial concentration of other intersecting axes of social division like place of birth, linguistic ability or gender.

The scene is set by the Editorial (Anna Davies, Gregory Hooks, Janelle Knox-Hayes and Raoul S. Liévanos), which explores the broader concepts behind the term Riskscape and introduces the research studies. The first group of papers takes an international perspective, covering disaster risk and public policy in India (K. Ravi Raman), continuity and change in New Zealand (Iain White and Judy Lawrence) and particular gender concerns in Indonesia (Ann R. Tickamyer and Siti Kusujarti). North America is featured in

studies of displacement in Washington (Jesse DiValli and Tracy Perkins) and the treatment of indigenous groups in Vancouver (Lily Yumagulova). The environment is the main focus in the case studies of Germany (Jonathan Everts and Katja Müller) and Africa (Detlef Müller-Mahn, Mar Moure and Million Gebreyes). The issue concludes with three articles exploring flood risk in California (Raoul S. Lievanos), risk and vulnerability in Southern Africa (Yvonne Braun) and the changing role of insurance in coastal Florida (Zac Taylor and Jessica Weinkle).

Forthcoming issues

The next issue of *CJRES*, to be published in November 2020, is on ‘Urban and Regional Theory: Negotiating Generalisation and Particularity’. It focuses on a theme that has become hugely pertinent recently for work in urban and regional studies: that is, how does one deal with the relationship between the twin poles of generality and particularity? In the past few years, there have been various calls for provincialising urban theory. This is in the context of what are regarded as over-extended claims from an urban and regional studies that has deep roots in the advanced, once-imperial, still neo-colonial, societies of the West. There have also been attempts to counter these arguments through new conceptions of what a general theory—sometimes going under the heading of ‘universalizing’—might look like.

This has served to raise sensibilities more generally regarding not just de-contextualisation but also reductive tendencies: reading off particular cases from more general theorisations. The confusions attending these debates are numerous and require careful attention, not least the fundamental terms being referred to: exactly what is the ‘general’ and what is its relation to the ‘universal’, and how do they then relate to the ‘particular’? The possibilities of re-thinking the relationship are also there and waiting to be exploited in as many ways as one might imagine. To take two instances: how might one conceive the role of countries, or the different, more concrete conceptions of a capitalist world that is inevitably global in its reach, in developing new understandings of the urban and, say, of uneven development? For many, and despite recent debate, it remains the case that the general/particular duality is rarely scrutinised in critical fashion. This issue aims to underline its importance.

Readers are invited to consult the Journal website <http://cjres.oxfordjournals.org/> for more information on forthcoming subjects. The themes of the next issues are:

- The Political Economy of Place: Challenges of Productivity, Inclusion and Policy
- Regional Foundations of Energy Transitions
- Geographies of Discontent: Sources, Manifestations and Consequences
- Spatial Policy after the Crisis