

## **CALL FOR PAPERS - Socially sustainable suburbia**

Deadline for abstracts: March 15, 2015. This issue is coordinated by Marco Adelfio, Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain

<http://articulo.revues.org/2594>

The term 'suburbia' has traditionally been associated with a sense of 'nowhere', a lack of urbanity and a lack of social cohesion. This idea of unsustainable suburban development has been linked with the emergence of single-family housing. Such types of settlements have enhanced social segregation and land use fragmentation, in some cases coinciding with the concept of urban sprawl. A variety of remedies have been proposed under the broad concept of sustainability. These solutions spring from a mostly environmental perspective thus leaving aside economic and, above all, social aspects of suburbanization.

This issue aims to attract further attention to the challenging task of social sustainability in suburban areas. Rethinking suburbia entails both an analysis of possible improvement measures oriented towards the existing stock of buildings and the creation of new models of settlements in suburban locations. Such initiatives usually assume that, by means of a high quality urban design and planning, it is possible to assure the existence of both place-making and liveability in a specific context. However, it is the social response of residents that is the most significant proof of the success of a renewal initiative. This thematic issue calls for a critical reflection on both brand-new and pre-existing developments. Is it possible to promote liveability in a suburban environment?

We invite innovative conceptual and empirical contributions, which take positions on theoretical and conceptual reflections as well as on strategies, policies and grounded empirical examples of projects that directly or indirectly link the idea of social sustainability with suburban areas. Paper contributions might, for instance, aim at:

- Case study submissions which evaluate measures that are designed/implemented to improve existing suburban housing developments examining their real outcomes in terms of social sustainability: Building densification and suburban infill; Suburban retrofit; Improvement of facilities/amenities and public transport options; Initiatives to foster social life and participation; Introduction of ecological criteria into housing;
- Alternative approaches to the conventional suburban pattern as discussed in the literature of transit-oriented developments, eco-neighbourhoods and towns, New Urbanism, Urban Villages and other mixed-use/mixed-tenure/mixed-housing projects highlighting their capacity to create a thriving community and a sense of place.

### **Submission process**

We welcome abstracts of 250 words along with the title of your proposed paper and the names and affiliation of author/s no later than 15 March 2015. Please send inquiries and abstracts to the guest editor: Marco Adelfio, [marco.adelfio@uam.es](mailto:marco.adelfio@uam.es)

Notification of successful abstracts for full paper submissions: 1 April. Proposed deadline for the full papers: 30 August 2015. Double blind review process: 30 November 2015. Deadline for paper revisions: 15 January 2016. Suggested date for online publication: February 2016.

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