

Scienze del Territorio / Territorial sciences

Vol. 10, no. 2: “Eco-territorialism. The bioregional perspective”

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Call for papers – deadline: **May 31st, 2022**

Characters and relevance of the context of climatic and ecological, but also social and economic crisis we are experiencing imply the need to seriously interrogate the paradigm of living and producing.

It is necessary to start a ‘new exploration’ to exploit, in a contextual and integrated form, the cognitive tools of the various ‘place sciences’, to reveal biographical trajectories and limits as real potential, to redefine conditions and forms of development and of re-inhabiting places and regions in relation to current challenges. In this context, the territorialist paradigm finds in the bioregional model, neither anthropocentric nor ecocentric, and even less localist, the chance for interpreting and envisioning a ‘new alliance’ between nature and culture and a new fertile dialogue between disciplines in the post-fossil and post-globalist transition. Also by researching, not so much in the theoretical domain as in the practical one, the conditions for re-learning how to ‘re-inhabit’ and re-build places ‘from below’, reconnecting productions with contextual knowledge and the historical ecologies of places. A cognitive and practical exercise enabling to re-generate life-places.

A demanding programme that calls for contributions and plural reflections, addressed by this issue of the journal intends in order to enrich, stimulate and possibly consolidate the field of reflections and, at the same time, broaden that of experiences building new “territories of inhabitants”, in the perspective we define as eco-territorialist. In this sense, we suggest to authors to test, and deal with, the various ‘chapters’ of the *territorial principle* (Magnaghi 2020) and the most recent territorialist reflections also to seek coordinates, conditions and criteria for orienting themselves among solutions and projects for recovery and resilience that, unfortunately, are often ‘à la carte’. Programmes and projects – as the ones too often hastily implemented even with the Italian PNRR – only vaguely ‘green’, sector-based, improvised, where ‘the environment’ becomes the new *atout* and ‘resilience’ the buzz-word to propose always the same anthropocentric, ethnocentric and technology-driven development logics. Often in contrast with the needs to rebuild territorial ecosystems in balance with settlements, to regenerate production systems and activate environmental resources, to protect and enhance the complexity of territorial, landscape, historical-environmental heritage, and to empower active citizenship and local communities.

In this view, the Call urges for a supplementary reflection aimed at testing soundness and possible criticalities of the theoretical-conceptual framework, and of the fundamental categories, of the “eco-territorialist programme”. This by deepening the dialectical relationships territorialism maintains with the various strands of ecological thought but also, and above all, by exploring the different dimensions of complexity this approach can bring into play, in the integration among territorial sciences, in order to define adequate strategies required by climatic emergency and a real and equitable ecological transition.

Furthermore, we propose to re-read in this key the strategies that are being envisaged by institutional decision-makers, including the already arranged planning actions, in order to verify how the above mentioned conditions are taken into account and used. With respect to this, it is also interesting to look at the attempts of “ecological innovation”, in progress in some research fields related to territorial design and planning, to verify their potential and consistency with respect to the ‘turning points’ they claim to set up. To this purpose, the Call identifies in particular some crucial categories and fields of the territorialist programme that can be useful tools for facing conceptual and operational challenges for an ecological and bioregional transition, and to which it is asked to contribute. Namely, such thematic areas are:

- *New settlement forms, bio-generative spatial patterns and their material bases:* from the central-peripheral and hierarchical metropolitan system, with its neo-configurations in territorial platforms, to the multipolar regional network of self-sustainable and cooperating urban bioregions; the new regional geography arising from the new centrality of ‘inland’ and marginal areas, fringes, villages, networks of small and medium cities, mountains, and from the decomposition / recomposition of metropolitan systems;
- *The dynamic heritage interpretation of territories:* reconnecting the paths between environment and history by recognizing the historical processes that go through the production of places and the ecology of environmental resources; the founding and re-generative role of cultural, landscape, territorial and environmental heritage (hydraulic, hydro-geological, agro-forestry-pastoral knowledge and systems, ecological networks, historical ecologies, rural and environmental archaeologies).
- *The new potential of common action for local development:* integrated supply chains among agriculture, crafts, tourism, culture; ethical forms of entrepreneurship and trade connected to the enhancement of common goods heritage, production and consumption energy communities; paths of dialogue between planning, sociology, anthropology, historical and environmental economic geography, economics, environmental and energy engineering, philosophy, political science, etc..

Submission deadline and procedure

Articles – written and to be published, in case of acceptance, in Italian, English, French or Spanish – should be submitted through the digital platform accessible, after registration, at <https://oajournals.fupress.net/index.php/sdt/about/submissions>.

Deadline: May 31st, 2022.

To avoid risks of exclusion, articles should strictly comply with the submission guidelines accessible at <https://bit.ly/35a1lzm>, with a special attention to the part concerning darkening of authors' personal data, and contain any additional elements required therein. Since the first submission, an English version of the abstract is required.

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