

Scienze del Territorio / Territorial Sciences
Ninth issue: "The new centrality of mountains"

Call for papers – deadline: June 15th, 2020

The ninth issue of the journal *Scienze del Territorio / Territorial Sciences* intends to deepen the topics already analysed and discussed in the Conference “The new centrality of mountains”, promoted by the Territorialist Society in collaboration with several bodies and associations. The conference produced the “Camaldoli Manifesto for a new centrality of mountains”, which has already gathered numerous subscriptions from public bodies and societies as well as from individual scholars, local authorities and professionals dealing in diverse forms with mountains (<http://bit.ly/31OfSes>).

As shown by the Manifesto and the interest it has aroused, over the recent years mountains have been the subject of a renewed interest at the European and the global level, for existential, ecological, cultural, socio-economic and – even though still too little – political reasons. In Italy mountains, which cover an abundant third of the national territory, have played a key role in the history of the country, which recently they begin to regain after a long period of decay. Over the last 20-30 years, what Aldo Bonomi has called the “new centrality of mountains” has been regaining a primary position in the feelings and thoughts of an increasing number of people and organisations. It is a cultural view which attributes to possible new mountain lifestyles – be they temporary or permanent – a higher and partly alternative quality with respect to that offered by large urban agglomerations with their challenging outskirts. It is a radically different perspective with respect to the one which dominated the last century and considered the mountain values as complementary and subordinate to the urban ones, affirmed through the exploitation of natural resources of mountains and the tourist use of their landscape, health and leisure assets.

Today we can imagine a new geography, with the sirens of the urban-metropolitan poles, home to the most profitable and influential tertiary activities, counterpointed by mountain ‘poles’ maximising certain environmental, cultural and landscape values that are decisive for the quality of life, values that must be activated and continuously built. This is not a static opposition, but the essential condition for a possible rebalancing of roles which, starting from an implementation of the “centrality” of mountains, allows a redefinition of virtuous relationships between (redeveloped) urban-metropolitan and (reappraised) mountain polarities.

In its “Science in action” section, the issue will host – subjecting them to the usual double blind peer review process beforehand – articles focusing on the aspects denoting the potential of mountain areas and the transformations taking place, illustrating positive experiences of forms of development respectful of heritage, reflecting on the necessary conditions to return mountains their centrality and on critical aspects and strategic prospects of the process. The journal will accept articles which, in coherence with its scientific-cultural settings (<https://oajournals.fupress.net/index.php/sdt>), will cover and integrate all or some of the research tracks opened during the Conference and contained in the Manifesto, with particular reference to experiences, paths and attempts attributable to the following thematic areas.

- *The Italian mountains as a peculiar heritage of values, resources and knowledge.* What exactly does the new centrality of mountains, their potential as a strategic node not only in territorial but also in cultural, economic and environmental term for the whole of Italy? Which values and resources deserve to be the new focus of practices and policies? Which environmental, landscape, historical-cultural, architectural, infrastructural, settlement, socio-productive peculiarities differentiate mountains from the rest of the country, and how should they be addressed? How is it possible to combine protection of heritage values and production / innovation? Which strategies to enhance the immense wealth of mountains can be adopted to deal with the looming environmental threats, already beginning to show their effects?

- *Mountains from the edge to a new centre, place of life and production.* How can we tackle the problem of depopulation of mountains and abandonment of land? How to overcome a development model that has depleted the inland areas of the country pushing towards plain and coastal urbanisation? How should we support and enhance the experiences of ‘staying’, ‘returning’ and ‘new dwellers’, who try to restore the centrality of mountains as places of life and production? Which public policies would support and strengthen a trend reversal apt to bring back mountains from the edge to the centre? Which regenerative effects may these processes, combining innovative rurality and urbanity, have on the life of metropolises? How to overcome the dissymmetry between dominance and dependency currently marking the relationship between metropolitan and mountain areas towards a dimension of complementarity and mutual benefit?

- *A new integrated model of self-sustainable, agro-ecological, bioregional, inclusive, community development for mountains.* How can we enhance the great potential of the mountain heritage and the centrality of mountains deriving from the production of vital eco-services for the whole country? How can we rediscover and enhance the virtuous and interactive relationship between mankind and nature based on steady adaptation and transformation rules

and on the culture of limits? How can we promote a productive, multifunctional and integrated recovery of mountains? What future of possible evolution and conversion can be imagined for districts with a strong tourist specialisation where, for example, the use of artificial snow is increasingly frequent, dependence on water withdrawal is strong and second homes proliferate? What experiences of new models of life and sociality, of alliance between old and new dwellers can be proposed to combine contextual knowledge and innovation? Which tools, actions, agreements, forms of community can be proposed to promote and actualise the prospect of an alternative development for mountains?

- *New rights, advantages, opportunities for those who live in the mountains (staying, returning or new dwellers).* What policies and projects should be promoted in support of those who live and work in the mountains to strengthen the trend towards a counter-exodus and a recovery of abandoned territories? What actions enhancing the mountain territories and their resources can be promoted to ensure that those who live and work in the mountains have all the constitutional rights guaranteed to citizens and have access to basic services for a high quality of life? Are there positive experiences to spread and replicate? How can the National Strategy for Inland Areas and the Digital Agenda be implemented to promote new economies based on a durable use of local assets? What proposals, specific policies and territorial projects should accompany the necessary investments at the local, regional, national and European level?

- *New forms of community self-government for mountains.* How can we rediscover and give new life to the traditional, fundamental values of mountains such as the civic sense of communities, the prevalence of the common interest on individual profit, the safeguard and reproduction of assets, the community management and use of common and collective goods? How can we revive and promote forms of participatory democracy, autonomy, solidarity, cooperation, community government of common goods? What experiences can inspire and promote a new 'rise' of dwellers and producers? How can we revitalise past practices of interaction between local societies and mountain environment in order to produce innovations fitting the mountains peculiarities?

Submission deadline and procedure

Articles – written and to be published, in case of acceptance, in Italian, English, French or Spanish – should be sent, via e-mail only, to the following address: rivista@societadeiterritorialisti.it.

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Deadline: June 15th, 2020.

To avoid risks of exclusion, articles should strictly comply with the submission guidelines accessible at the web address <https://bit.ly/2RyHRlp>, with a special attention to the part concerning the darkening of authors' personal data. Since the first submission, an English version of the abstract is required. For any further information: rivista@societadeiterritorialisti.it.