

Éditorial

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In his article, Nicolas Kühl explores how discourses formalize social categorizations and their corresponding spatial segregations. With an approach he calls “spatial sociolinguistics”, the author demonstrates the importance of language in the formation of urban spatial injustices. Taking the example of the naming of spaces of relegation such as “cities” or “sensitive” neighbourhoods, Nicolas Kühl demonstrates the performative importance of language in the perpetuation of exclusion processes. He thus invites the reader, and all those interested in spatial justice, to take a closer look at the discursive processes that contribute to spatial injustice and social exclusion.

Régis Keerle and Laurent Viala analyse the creation of territorial centralities (cultural, political, economic...) in three small French towns. Going beyond the metropolitan paradigm, which, in their view, tends to reduce spatial planning issues to a simple centre-periphery dichotomy, they analyse the way in which “metropolitan hinterlands” reduce territorial inequity by implementing specific development strategies (local partnerships, development of territories, etc.). By mobilizing the field of spatial justice applied to land use planning, the authors thus defend a “meta-territorial” conception of small town development policies and strategies.



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