

EDITORIAL

It is with great pleasure and excitement that we introduce this inaugural issue of *Transactions of the Association of European Schools of Planning*. The journal is a new venture of AESOP and aims to provide a platform for the planning community to share research, innovative practices, and provocative thoughts among peers. It expands the already rich opportunities for networking and scholarly dialogue that AESOP offers via annual congresses, Thematic Group activities, specialist meetings such as the Heads of Schools workshops, and summer schools.

Transactions seeks to incorporate the spirit that guided AESOP from its beginning – to be inclusive, open-minded, and to embrace the diversity of national cultures and milieus of planning and planners represented in Europe and beyond.

The journal follows a genuine open access publishing model: it is free of charge to submit a paper for a double-blind peer review, and accepted papers are accessible online, to everyone, for free. AESOP covers the relevant editorial and publishing costs.

This inaugural issue contains an essay from Rachelle Alterman, as well as five contributions on a wide range of topics. All the papers published in this issue had initially been nominated for the Best Congress Paper award by the AESOP Congress track chairs in 2014 and 2015. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to Professor Alterman for her introductory essay, to Professor Anna Geppert, the President of AESOP, for her Introduction, and the authors who contributed a paper to this issue for their willingness to participate in this endeavour and for their patience as the initiative has taken shape.

Our plan is that future issues will contain a mixture of contributions comprising Best AESOP Congress Paper nominees, AESOP Thematic Group workshop and seminar papers, submissions by anyone who wishes to publish their research, and other invited contributions from eminent planning scholars or urban thinkers in the broader sense.

AESOP has always been open to experiments and new ideas. Therefore, the character of this journal will develop over the coming months and years in dialogue and collaboration with you – the readers and producers of its content. We are confident it will become as recognisable and distinctive a feature of AESOP as its congresses and other activities.

Finally, just before this issue went to press in June 2017, we learned the sad news that John Friedmann had passed away. We would like to pay tribute here to the fundamental and transformative contributions he made to planning scholarship during his long and active career. We hope that *Transactions*, in seeking to foster inclusivity, open-mindedness and the cultural diversity of planning and planners in Europe and beyond, may serve as a forum for continued discussions around the vision of planning and the planning profession, which he always upheld.

We are looking forward to your contributions and feedback, and we hope you enjoy reading this inaugural issue.

Kind regards

Ela Babalik-Sutcliffe, Andrea Frank, Nikos Karadimitriou, and Olivier Sykes