

Editorial note

This second issue of GeoProgress Journal is the first one focusing on the thematic subset “Location, Development Geography and Planning”. This should indeed be core theme of the Journal, because the disciplines called into play by topics related to “Location, Development Geography and Planning”, explicitly aim at understanding the territorial communities’ problems and suggesting policies and strategies to solve them with a systemic approach.

Let us remind the reader that the other subsets of the Journal (Humanities, Environmental studies, Political geography and Law), even if they deal with specific topics related to other fields of geography and to analytical sciences, certainly share with “Location, Development Geography and Planning” the common goal of understanding and solving the problems that social relations and the natural environment impose to human communities. However, the research on these topics normally remains sectorial and makes necessary studies that - by conceiving the territory as a system, according the best tradition of the geographic Studies - seize the interactions among various phenomena and parts of geographical space, so recomposing and interpreting the global reality of the territory, sectioned by analytical sciences for knowing in depth the nature of single phenomena or class of phenomena.

The articles accepted for publication in this subset do not aspire to provide a synthetic representation of all development problems that a territorial system could face: such a goal would require monographic volumes. Nevertheless, they can bring useful contributions to promote and implement policies, giving information on the territorial change processes and , particularly, on the space-environmental behaviours of the “development subjects” and on the consequent changes of structures and superstructures of all territorial subsystems (socio-economic, ideological-cultural, political-institutional and physical-biological) that compose the territorial systems. Other important contributions relate new approaches and techniques for analysing, representing and governing the territorial systems.

Among all social sciences, Economics has given and still can give a fundamental contribution to the understanding of the human communities’ development both by providing some interesting theories and mainly by stimulating the diffusion in other disciplines, as in Geography, of a regulatory approach. However, a more interdisciplinary approach that would stress the interactions among the real world’s sub-systems, would benefit the research in the field.

In this issue, we propose four papers, received since September 2014 and gone under a double-blind peer review (I was the only one knowing the authors’ names before publications). The procedure, although painful and time consuming, is a guarantee for the quality of papers published in the Geoprogress Editions and a useful support for the authors, who can count on the expertise and advice of the academic scholars acting as referees.

The first two articles focus on two countries of the so-called “developing world”, Senegal and Iran.

“Developing world” is a euphemism progressively used at international level in the last 50 years, for defining countries actually underdeveloped, in a relationship of

subordination to the “developed” world and where profoundly heterogeneous economic systems coexist.

The other two papers concern Italy. The first one presents a case study about Modena and the second one deal with different towns in the south of Italy. Both the papers offer helpful insights on the impact of technical innovations and on the territorial entities’ behaviour. Indeed, the issue of local innovation, not only technical but also socio-economic, cultural and political, is also common to the first two articles. All contributions highlight the importance of territorial identity and the primary role of initiative and creativity generated at individual and community’s level for the economic development in the current globalized world.

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