

PLANNING FOR DIGNITY

Call for Papers

In many academic discourses, human dignity has been found an increasingly significant topic of critical examination (Düwell et al. 2014; McCrudden 2014). Surprisingly, books and journal articles on planning and human dignity are scarce (see, e.g., Davy 2017). The practice and theory of spatial planning certainly must have a lot to say about human dignity – and perhaps this knowledge is concealed by phrases like ‘sustainability’, ‘social justice’, ‘climate action’, or ‘participation’. **Transactions**, AESOP’s new open-access journal invites contributions to a special issue on spatial planning for human dignity. What does human dignity mean for urban and rural planners? Is planning for dignity about avoiding humiliation in order to establish a more decent society (Margalit 1996)? Is planning for dignity about the prohibition of concentration camps? Or is planning for dignity an act of emancipation when ‘every common person might conceive his human dignity, take the measure of his intellectual capacity, and decide how to use it’ (Rancière 1991: 17)? As many experts think that human dignity only relates to the most supreme core of humanity, everyday trifles must not be considered in the light of dignity. But is walking in the street, using a public toilet, or finding shelter in one’s home truly beyond the scope of human dignity? Planning for dignity has many implications, in terms of policies, spatial transformations, collective decisions, norms and rules, according to multiple interpretations that are affected by the predominant culture of every specific place and context. Consequently, the possible ‘extensive’ or ‘restrictive’ interpretations of the concept of citizenship on one side, and the plural dimension of dignity on the other, are intertwined, because they show, theoretically and practically speaking, how the plural notion of citizenship (and the consequent planning implications) may defend or violate human dignity. So far, discourses on planning have reserved judgment on the meaning and demands of planning for dignity. Join the authors of the special issue of **Transactions** and help planners find out if and how spatial planning relates to human dignity! Both theoretical and practical contributions are welcome, yet every contribution will be submitted to double-blind peer review.

Literature

- Davy, Benjamin (2017) Human dignity and property in land – A human rights approach. In: Sony Pellissery, Benjamin Davy, & Harvey Jacobs (editors) *Land policies in India. Promises, practices and challenges*. Springer Nature: Singapore: 1–33.
- Düwell, Marcus, Jens Braarvig, Roger Brownsword, & Dietmar Mieth (editors) (2014) *The Cambridge handbook of human dignity. Interdisciplinary perspectives*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Margalit, Avishai (1996) *The decent society*. Translated by N. Goldblum. Cambridge, MA & London: Harvard University Press.
- McCrudden, Christopher (editor) (2014) *Understanding human dignity*. Oxford: The British Academy / Oxford University Press.
- Rancière, Jacques (1991) *The ignorant schoolmaster. Five lessons in intellectual emancipation*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press.

Submissions

Those authors who would like to submit a paper for the special issue may do so by 31st of October 2018. Author guidelines are available at the journal webpage (<http://transactions-journal.aesop-planning.eu/>) and submission are to be made via e-mail, by sending papers to transactionsaesop@gmail.com