

REGION

The Journal of ERSA

CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Issue: TERRITORIAL MARGINALITY - DESCRIPTIONS, DEFINITIONS, INDICATORS, AND POLICIES

Marginal areas at national scales have been traditionally defined as those areas far from the main centres, on the basis of a core-periphery model. However, the geographic distance from the main centres is only one among the many conditions that can help to describe marginality, which could be better defined as a process deeply influenced by socioeconomic changes, not a state neither an intrinsically spatial characteristic. As matter of fact, marginal regions can be peripheral in terms of geographical location but advanced with reference to their socioeconomic situation. On the other hand, not every marginal region is necessarily peripheral.

In many countries, the concept of marginality has been associated with rural or mountainous areas, although marginal territories may be also metropolitan suburbs or in between territories, which are geographically central but economically and socially excluded from mainstream processes. In addition, the scale at which a region can be defined as marginal, and the administrative borders may also have a significant influence on defining marginality itself.

In recent years, the development of territorial cohesion strategies in some European countries spotlights marginal territories and several definitions emerged in the academic debate. Nonetheless, due to the lack of a standard definition, the identification of marginal territories may be misleading, and consequently, territorial policies addressed to rebalance marginality may not effectively solve the main problems.

Thanks to the different contributions of this special issue we try to tighten the hypothesis that marginality is not dependent only on accessibility to services and goods and distance from central places but is the consequence of a combination of physical, social, economic, institutional and cultural aspects.

This special issue addresses the complex set of questions that contribute to the definition of marginal territories in different contexts, exploring conceptual issues, possible conflicts and finally challenges for the development of marginal territories. We explore what are the conditions that cause or define marginality, discussing more in particular the possible dimensions that characterize marginal territories, the suitable quantitative and qualitative indicators to classify them, and the features of territorial policies and strategies to address them. We do so relying on a set of works that deploy different research methods and refer to diverse settings, where marginality receives different definitions.

To provide a more complex perspective on marginality in relation to different dimensions and diverse settings, this special issue presents experiences from different countries. The different features of marginality and the diverse policy measures implemented to address them will provide a novel perspective on marginal territories, aiming not at an exhaustive representation but rather at an enriched analysis of marginality and its various dimensions.

The papers will address topics including (but not limited to):

- Reframing the theoretical debate focusing on the definitions and causes of marginality;
- Examining the main topics related to marginality with particular regard to the possible conflicts and the main challenges;
- Proposing description of marginal territories

- Reporting case studies that allow reflecting about the causes of marginality and the policies addressed to solve the main problems linked to marginal territories.
- Elaborating critical reflections on the main conditions of marginality.

We are interested in papers from a variety of national contexts, not limited to European countries.

Submission instructions:

- All papers submitted will be subject to the normal double blind refereeing process undertaken by the journal
- Papers must be analytic and rigorous – Submitted papers must not be under review by any other journal
- Submit your paper via the journals website: <http://region.ersa.org>, where you can find detailed instructions and guidelines for preparing your submission
- Deadline for submissions to this special issue is **September 10th, 2021**.
- Submitted articles will have to strictly respect REGION's "[Authors Guidelines](#)".

Guest editors:

Bruna Vendemmia is an architect and urban designer, PhD in urbanism. She is post-doctoral fellow at DASTU Department of Excellence (Politecnico di Milano), where she is also adjoint professor in urban planning. Her main research interest focuses on spatial transformations engendered by contemporary changes in mobility practices. In her research she combined qualitative methods with interpretative mapping and spatial analysis to explore the consequences of mobile lives on the configurations of spaces and territorial relations.

Agim Kërçuku is an architect and urbanist, has a PhD in Urbanism at the Università IUAV di Venezia. Since December 2018 he is a research fellow at the DASTU Excellence Department of the Politecnico di Milano. Research activity focuses on the dimension of fragility in the territory marked by dynamics of demographic contraction and lack of care and maintenance of social fixed capital and on the spatial implications of the phenomenon of population aging in coastal territories. He edited the publication of *Territory in crisis. Architecture and Urbanism Facing Changes in Europe* (Jovis, 2015, with other authors), *Tensioni Urbane, Ricerche sulla città che cambia* (LetteraVentidue, 2017, with other authors) and contributed to national and international publications.

Giovanni Vecchio is an Assistant Professor in the Institute of Urban and Territorial Studies, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, and researcher in the Centre for Sustainable Urban Development (Cedeus). He holds a Ph.D. in Urban Planning, Design and Policy from Politecnico di Milano. His research focuses on the social implications of urban and transport planning, focusing on vulnerable groups and territories, socio-spatial inequalities and urban policy.