

Special Issue

Planning for Sustainability in Contested Landscapes: Exploring the Potential of Peri-Urban Spaces

Message from the Guest Editor

The spaces where rural and urban meet are ‘messy’ and complicated, providing a problematic arena within which future land use change is planned, contested, mediated and delivered as part of wider place-making agendas. However, these spaces are ill-defined, hidden and often incidental in place-making processes and decisions and, despite their growing significance spatially and functionally, they have received scant attention as places in their own right. Indeed, their identity is further obfuscated within a panoply of terms encountered in the academic and policy literature; peri-urban; rural-urban fringe; urban-rural fringe; exurbia. This dualism and prioritisation of urban and rural space are unhelpful and over simplistic, hindering more holistic considerations of the peri-urban as an opportunity space. This set of papers explores and illuminates the potential of the peri-urban as an asset to placemaking and wider environmental, economic and social agendas signposting more positive, bold and experimental agendas for the improved management and planning of these neglected spaces.

Guest Editor

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