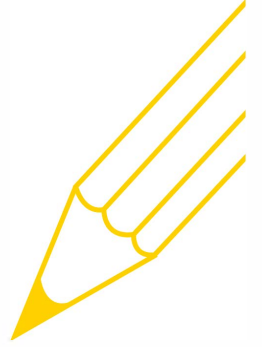


CALL FOR **PAPER**



IRANIAN CITIES

An emerging urban agenda
at a time of drastic alterations

edited by Alessandro Coppola e Arman Fadaei

IRANIAN CITIES

An emerging urban agenda at a time of drastic alterations

Increased attention has been directed towards Iran in its various political, economic and social aspects in recent years. This is partially because of the new, although contested and unstable, reconciliation of the country's relationship with EU and US that has brought about a new wave of flows of people, capitals, information and attention towards the country. However, this is only the last episode of a longer chain of crucial political changes in the past four decades that have had direct and significant impact on the material and un-material structures of Iranian cities and on the national urban agenda.

Urbanization in Iran has been tumultuous since the conception and launching of modern urban planning in 1967. Structural changes such as the 1979 revolution and its aftermaths disrupted the new born planning agenda and, after several years of halt, reframed and reorganized the entire state planning apparatus and system. The situation of extreme instability characterizing to revolution and War periods (1981-89) did not only hinder the process of evolution of planning but favored a central, technocratic agenda as the only feasible method of recovering from these subsequent shocks.

Since then, different phases of restructuring in the political-economy and social composition of Iranian society were reflected in relevant, at times significant, alterations of the planning agenda. Changes such as the push towards the fiscal self-subsistence of municipalities during early 1990s neo-liberal policies; the establishment of a multi-scalar framework of governance - from neighborhoods to cities - in late 1990's following the advent of the reformists to national power; the launching of state-led mega-scale projects as populist attempts towards modernization and beautification of the cities during the 2000s; the promotion of new towns within a renewed paradigm that attempted to accommodate burgeoning housing demand and tame informal urbanization, are only some of the adjustments that were produced in these years in the planning domain. On the backdrop of these changes, several ongoing and persistent trends continuously affected Iranian cities during this period. From the gradual and consistent erosion of urban environmental assets to the widening gaps in terms of inequality and access to public facilities and amenities, from growing problems of mobility congestion to an expanding housing crisis involving with particular virulence large metropolitan areas.

This issue of *iQuaderni* of U3 focuses on Iranian cities and metropolitan areas and on how they have been reshaped in relation to these structural shifts and changes in planning and policies.

Call for papers

We welcome contributions on one or more of the following issues from a broad range of disciplines and approaches within the realm of urban studies:

- How established urban and metropolitan geographies and hierarchies have been evolving in recent years and how such processes of spatial restructuring have been linked to larger structural and geopolitical changes?
- How the role of city administrations and of larger networks of urban actors has been changing in the face of radical social, economic and political transformations and what kind of strategies – if any – have been tailored to respond to them?
- Are new forms of participation emerging beyond established institutional frameworks and, more in particular, as public participation in city-making is bound to “councils” are there any alternative forms of participation emerging?
- How actors and systems of an oil-intensive economy and of the religious- state apparatus have impacted the urban economy and processes of city making and how these impacts have evolved recently?
- How informal urban actors, processes and practices have been developing within and interacting with the mentioned drastic transformations and how the relationship between top-down and bottom-up initiatives has been evolving accordingly?
- What have been the emerging morphological patterns in Iranian cities in past decades, what are the main shaping factors of these patterns and how are they currently changing in the present time?
- How new investment strategies and urban growth patterns have reproduced or reshaped inherited forms of spatial class and social segregation in cities and how cities have been adjusting to recent increasing fluxes of international financial, informational and touristic flows?
- How housing policies and practices have been evolving in recent years and how have these been related to changing patterns of class formation and social reproduction?

Schedule

February, 28th:	deadline for abstracts' submission
March, 15th:	communication to authors
June, 15th:	full paper submission
July, 15th:	communication to authors of the double blind review's outcomes
September, 1st	final paper submission

Please send an extended abstract of maximum 800 words with essential references by February 28th to urbanisticatre@gmail.com articulating the object of the contribution, a reference of how it relates to the call and to one or more of the topics listed, its disciplinary and methodological context and its main interpretative arguments.

Authors will be notified of the status of their proposal by Urbanistica Tre and then ask to submit a full paper of maximum 30.000 characters to be submitted to a standard peer-reviewing process.

Alessandro Coppola (1978) holds a M.A in literature and history at Università of Roma 3 and a Phd in urban studies at the same university. He has had research and teaching and appointments in the broad field of urban studies at Università di Roma 3, Politecnico di Milano, Università Cà Foscari di Venezia, Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Accademia di Architettura of Mendrisio, Kent State University in Florence. He is currently a research fellow and a member of the committee of the international Phd school in Urban Studies and Regional Science at the Gran Sasso Science Institute. His research has focused on urban policy and politics, neighborhood change, informality, shrinkage mostly based on qualitative and ethnographic approaches leading to the publication of monographs, book chapters and scientific articles on reviews such as Urban Studies, Urban geography, Rivista Geografica Italiana, Metropoles, Archivio di Studi Urbani e Regionali, Territorio, Urbanistica. He has extensively consulted for national and international institutions and organizations and for grass-roots groups on urban affairs and policy. He has coordinated the Roma Resiliente initiative and has been and still is part of several EU urban policy on issues resilience, temporary uses and neighborhood development. An extensive traveller, he has a passion for urban reportages.

Arman Fadaei (1985) is an Iranian urban planner residing in Milan. After achieving his bachelor degree in Iran and consecutive work experience on revision of Tehran and Isfahan's comprehensive plans, he moved to Italy to pursue his higher education at Politecnico di Milano. He completed his master studies and PhD at this university. Inequality in cities is his main research interest, which is reflected in his master thesis and PhD dissertation. The latter contains an empirical work on the nexus between urban planning and emergence of Informal settlements in the case of Tehran. He has been a visiting scholar at University of Pennsylvania and teaching assistant of urban planning theory and practice at Politecnico di Milano for several years.

UrbanisticaTre is an on-line, peer-reviewed scientific journal listed by the Italian national agency for the evaluation of research (Anvur) promoted by scholars working in the urban studies area of the Department of Architecture of Roma Tre University. The journal is edited by Giorgio Piccinato - former head of the Urban Studies Department at Roma 3 University - and has a Scientific Board of Italian and international scholars and experts in the field and an Editorial Board of lecturers, PhD students and department staff. UrbanisticaTre was established to provide a common space where current research on urban and territorial transformations could be shared. It gives researchers, PhD students and professionals an opportunity to present emerging research in a variety of media such as scientific articles, photoreportages, videos and other media.