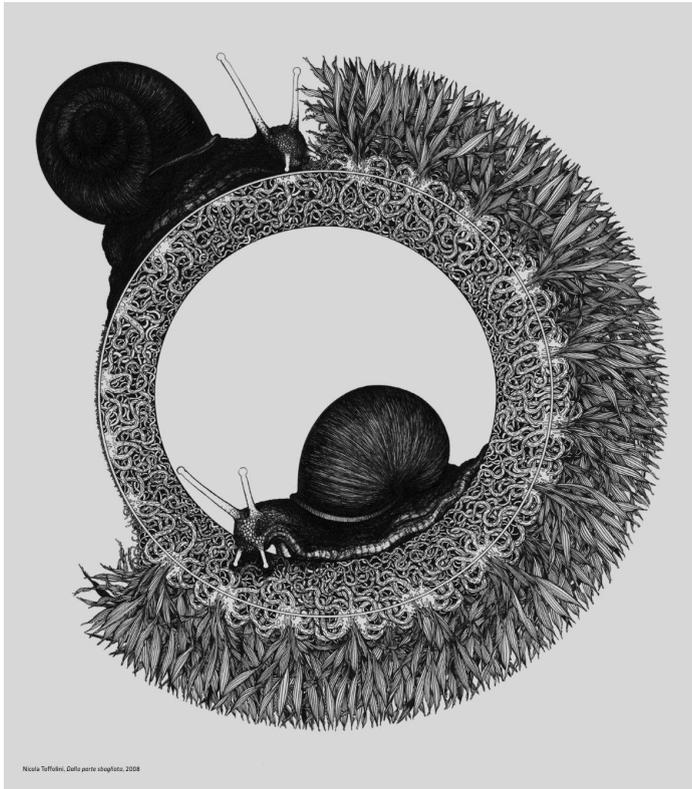


CONTESTI 2 | 2026

Call for paper



2 | 2026

Postgrowth and degrowth in planning practice

Deadline: June 7, 2026

<https://oajournals.fupress.net/index.php/contesti/about/submissions>

POSTGROWTH AND DEGROWTH IN PLANNING PRACTICE

edited by Barbara Pizzo and Jin Xue

Modern planning is deeply rooted in pro-growth development model. Spatial planning is addressed to city growth, whatever definition of growth might be implied (i.e., expansion, densification, valorisation, both in physical and economic terms). There is a centuries-old history of urban planning irrefutably demonstrating that. Nonetheless, postgrowth and degrowth as key concept and as perspectives to look at the future of cities and regions is evidently spreading. In recent years, research groups and networks, conferences and seminars, books and journal publications have multiplied. Although postgrowth and degrowth scholars have succeeded in bringing the dominant growth model into question and seriously discussing alternatives, they have started worrying about that what should be a crucial and compelling paradigmatic turn in planning approaches may instead become just another (ab)used buzzword. This risks concealing the intention to proceed as business as usual and reproducing the same old practices, just with new names. In fact, to discuss /problematise the vocabulary of postgrowth and degrowth is increasingly acknowledged as essential. However, it is even more essential to clarify how postgrowth and degrowth is actually implemented in practice. The aim of this call is to identify, clarify, and discuss if, how and by whom postgrowth and degrowth thinking is being translated into actual urban and regional practices, with particular attention to the fundamental objects and

fields of action within urban and regional planning. This inquiry will also challenge and critically examine some of the claimed more 'advanced' ideas in planning for long-term sustainability such as no net land take, circular economy and sharing, the green shift, digitalization, and related initiatives.

More specifically, we invite contributions addressing the following topics:

- **Land and soil.** How are land and soil conceived in postgrowth and degrowth perspectives, and how does postgrowth thinking change the way in which they are treated in planning?
- **Water.** Water is already the cause of many struggles and wars, and it is anticipated to become the most contested "resource" in the near future. How do postgrowth and degrowth perspectives address the management of essential resources?
- **Energy.** "Renewable" and "clean" energy is increasingly becoming a solution uncritically offered to solve each and every supply problem, variously framed as "green", without challenging the fundamental problem of overconsumption. How can postgrowth and degrowth thinking contribute to transforming this mindset? What concrete proposals exist to reduce consumption, and what are the implications of such a change?
- **Nature and biodiversity.** Nature and biodiversity have been increasingly addressed by planning through concepts and initiatives such as nature-based solutions, zero land take, ecosystem services, etc. In practice, how do these approaches contribute to genuine nature preservation when viewed through the lens of degrowth and postgrowth thinking?
- **Mobility.** Our age has often been defined as the age of global mobility and of hypermobility as a matter of lifestyle, mentality, urban regional structures and socio-economic rationality. How does mainstream sustainable mobility policy/planning that addressed coordination with land use, sharing and public transportation contribute to the materialization of postgrowth and degrowth?
- **Housing.** The conflict between housing as an asset and as a fundamental right and basic need for people emerged as a dominant question, particularly in the last decades (after the financial crisis of 2007-8). In many cities, struggles to prevent further land exploitation for construction collide with struggles to secure decent homes for all. How do postgrowth and degrowth conceive of this problem, and what solutions have been imagined so far?
- **Production and Labour.** At the roots of postgrowth and degrowth thinking lies the awareness of the necessity to reduce the consumption, thus the production of goods. Limiting waste is not sufficient, and the call to reduce consumption is growing. Although there is no causal relation between production levels and employment levels and capitalism functions through the maintenance of a certain unemployment rate, there is a mounting fear that postgrowth and degrowth would mean increasing unemployment and a general impoverishment, challenging i.e. the geographies of production at various scales, and the established territorial distribution of functions, with crucial impacts on cities and regions. What answers to this issue are foreseen by postgrowth and degrowth thinking?

We welcome contributions that:

- place one or more of these issues at the core of their inquiry while considering the interconnections with the others,
- draw on real cases and examples from urban and regional development and planning,
- reflect on and propose actionable suggestions for planning practices that can inform and inspire degrowth and postgrowth-oriented approaches.

INFO

The call is open until **June 7, 2026**.

To submit your full paper, please go to our submission platform:

<https://oajournals.fupress.net/index.php/contesti/about/submissions>

Registration and login as Author with the CONTESTI system is required to submit and follow the submission process online. Later, the account is necessary for following the status of your submission.

The proposals have to be unpublished and written in Italian, English, French or Spanish; the article length has to be between **4000 and 7.000 words**, including spaces, title, authors, abstract, keywords, captions and references.

Please pay attention to how to ensure a **Double Blind Review** when submitting your paper.

The proposals can include a maximum of **10 pictures** with good definition (at least 300 dpi/inch and 25 cm the smallest side) free from publishing obligations or accompanied with the specific permission.

The selected papers will be published in the **2 | 2026** issue of CONTESTI.