

PORTUS



PORTUSplus Journal
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Call for Papers 2025

"Research Themes" PORTUSplus

PORTUSplus – published by RETE, International Association for the Collaboration between Ports and Cities – is an open-access and peer reviewed journal, dedicated to the study of themes regarding the **urban waterfronts** and **relationship between port and cities** with a multidisciplinary approach.

The Journal (portusplus.org) publishes and promotes scientific products and investigations – original works, studies experimental or theoretical, research results, etc. – concerning different fields of interest and from around the world.

The objective is to encourage the dissemination of knowledge and stimulate the international debate, promoting an systemic and holistic approach in the investigation and application, also exploring the interaction between policies and practices in the process.

More information <[Aims and Scope](#)>

Promoting the communication and development of scientific research, which plays an increasingly relevant role in our society, PORTUSplus invites scholars and researchers, professionals and policymakers, experts and other stakeholders to respond to the **Call for papers "Research Themes"**, submitting original works, research results, case studies and good practices, in the different disciplines inherent to the topics described below.

THEMES OF INTEREST

The Journal focus is the relationship between port and city and regeneration process of urban waterfronts. A specific attention is to the topic of urban-port development and to the problems arising out of the presence of a port in a city in respect of environmental sustainability, climate change, urban sprawl, vulnerability to and risks of extreme events on the coast. It is necessary to reflect with particular attention on the history, culture and identity of the port city, which evolves with new phenomena, to preserve and enhance the tangible and intangible heritage at the same time. The restructuring of urban-port waterfronts and regeneration of abandoned industrial areas aims to define a contemporary port city and new relationship models between port and city, but also new forms of economy and business. In this context, increases the importance given to dynamic processes which rely on planning to design future scenarios, new prospects and architectures that will transform the city-port landscape, rethinking the relationship between port and surrounding region.

The topics addressed in the papers may concern the plurality of dynamics involved in the evolution of urban waterfronts and contemporary port cities, from the point of view of different scientific-disciplinary approaches (economic, social, urban planning, cultural, environmental, etc.). In particular, to attract a diversified and multidisciplinary set of contributions, the proposals must concern a topics related to the thematic areas specified below:

A. HISTORY OF PORT CITIES

The aim of this section is to publish articles and research works that focus on studying, giving consideration to and analysing the historical development of ports and port cities from the time they first became urban port settlements in historic times, until midway through the 20th Century.

The articles may offer either an insight into port cities in specific eras or periods of the past, or partial aspects of the relationships between ports and their cities; these could be from an urban planning, socio-economic, environmental or cultural standpoint, etc.

B. ECONOMY AND BUSINESS

This section is focused on studying the port economy from the point of view of the companies and entrepreneurial and commercial business that they generate. For this purpose, this section includes articles that are devoted to examining such matters as the economic functions of ports, the agents and production factors involved and, especially the:

- Different port activities: fishing; the industries associated with port activities (e.g. ship and boat construction, shipyards, construction of infrastructures, port machinery and equipment, industries established in ports); leisure and tourism associated with these facilities (e.g. cruises, nautical sports and recreation activities, cultural and leisure facilities); trade and maritime transport (e.g. traffic, logistics, intermodality); work and jobs in ports.
- Economic impact of ports: the role of ports and the regional and domestic urban economy; assessment of the economic impact of ports; methodologies used for conducting research and specific case-studies.

C. CONTEMPORARY PORT CITIES AND NEW PORT-CITY RELATION MODELS

This section focuses on the dynamics and recent transformations that have affected ports, as well as the processes of change to which these types of medium-large urban realities are subject. It also explains the changes, effects and impacts that ports and hosting large cities are undergoing as a result of those processes.

It is a section that also features articles whose purpose is to present the complexity and diversity of port-city relations. The way they interact, existing (or potential) conflicts and synergies, the way to deal with such aspects as the administration and governance of port cities and ports themselves, conflicts of interest, and the tools and practices for reaching agreements.

D. FUTURE SCENARIOS: PLANNING AND PERSPECTIVE

Different categories of articles are featured in this section. For example:

- Drawings, projects and experiences of port planning and urban-port planning carried out on different levels, and in a variety of areas.
- Works that are of a methodological and epistemological nature concerning urban and port planning, on the techniques and tools that are used for planning, whether they are of an integrated nature (strategic plans) or whether they concern urban planning, infrastructures or are economy-related.
- Papers whose purpose is to analyze and reflect upon the port city of the future and the future of port cities, the challenges and opportunities that ports and cities will be facing in the short- and medium-term, or studies that prepare concepts, new visions and proposals.

E. RESTRUCTURING URBAN-PORT WATERFRONTS

This section features texts that focus on subject matter such as the following:

- Revitalizing and transforming former port zones for urban use: devising and designing restructuring projects for waterfronts; types, criteria, models and their sustainability; the new urban-port landscapes that emerge from

the regeneration of disused areas; the architecture and urban planning of waterfronts; the physical and functional liaising and organizing of urban-port waterfronts in cities; the urban impact of regenerating obsolete port waterfronts.

- Management and administration of urban-port waterfronts: regulatory framework; models for promoting, enhancing and operating waterfronts; financial profitability and feasibility; public and private initiatives and investments; economic effects that regeneration has upon waterfronts.

F. ARCHITECTURE AND PORT CITY LANDSCAPE

A section that is devoted to publishing studies about:

- Urban projects and actions that are carried out in the zones where ports and cities come into contact, mainly concerning buildings and properties that are important because of their outstanding architectural interest or functional singularity.
- Urban and industrial buildings or those of other types inspired by elements that are essential to the port landscape (vessels, containers, etc.).
- Rehabilitation of port facilities and properties (docks, quays, jetties, warehouses, sheds, harbor stations, lighthouses and nautical signals).

At the same time this section includes contributions related to the landscape of ports and port cities, the analysis of their morphology, the design and development of specific interventions.

G. URBAN-PORT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental sustainability is one of the areas in which existing problems concerning the relationships between ports and neighboring urban fabric have become most evident apparent in recent years. The aim of this section is to publish articles that:

- Examine the problems created by port activities and their effects upon both the natural and the urban environments, contextualizing general and specific problems alike.
- Present concepts, technological tools, regulations, procedures and control systems for the environmental management of ports.
- Provide first-hand accounts, experiences and examples of port-city sustainability, environmental preservation and improvement of the quality of urban life.
- Provide a description of innovations and new ideas for achieving environmental sustainability or to cope with climate change.

H. CULTURE AND IDENTITY

A thematic area that is devoted to publishing articles and work on questions such as:

- Port city cultural heritage: nautical and port heritage (material and immaterial); conservation; reappraisal and enrichment.
- Collective cultural memory of port cities through such facilities as libraries, maritime and port museums, archives.
- Ports as a cultural reference: ports and written culture (language and communication, literature, press); ports and audiovisual culture (music, cinema, photography); ports and arts (illustration, painting, print, sculpture); ports and necessities of life (diet, culinary activities, food and drink), clothing (attire, fashion, uniforms), etc.
- Ports and urban identity: the distinctive features of ports (port-city symbols and symbolism, metaphors and ports, imaginary of port cities); the port city idea (perception and meaning, port city emotions, etc.).

I. PORT CITY DIDACTICS

The purpose of this section is to:

- Disseminate works whose aim is to facilitate knowledge of the port city for young people.
- Give publicity to articles, studies and research works aimed at examining, reflecting upon and going more in depth into the educational potential that ports have; defining the contents and adapting them to the school syllabus; preparing explanatory work, strategies, methods and devising tools for putting across knowledge and assimilating it.

- Present educational examples and experiences of all kinds, and for all educational levels, the aim of which is to explain the port city concept in each and every one of its aspects.

J. COMMUNICATION RESOURCES AND TOOLS

In recent years, the relationships between ports and social environments have become quite complex. Because the manifold activities that take place in ports on a day-to-day basis have a major impact on the economic and social life of the communities that live in the vicinity, these infrastructures have been transformed into powerful emitters of messages of all types, which organized public opinion receives, interprets and responds to through an extensive network of agents. Day by day, the citizens' knowledge of, appraisal for and response to these messages, together with the social opinion and perception that such messages are able to generate, has an ever-increasing effect on the port activities and port decision-making.

This section is focused on:

- Bringing together articles aimed at studying the varied aspects that come under the heading of port-city communication, and which include such questions as the treatment that ports receive in the media, the media profile of ports, activities arranged by ports for the benefit of the local social environment and the management of way they are publicized.
- Publishing articles about the creation of tools and experiences associated with communication, such as corporate identity manuals, visual matters, signage, protocol and crisis of communications, etc.
- Spreading the content of articles focused on designing and developing the different tools used in port-city communication: institutional publications, bulletins and newsletters, websites, advertising; social communication (sponsorship activities and cultural patronage, sports activities, etc.); corporate social responsibility; organizing "open days" and visits from groups.

K. INFRASTRUCTURES, TRANSPORT, INTERMODALITY, LOGISTICS

This section features works and articles that focus on describing and analyzing ports and their effects on the city's structure and activities. The most important subjects in this section are:

- Investments, planning, port development and development of the city: new port maritime technologies and their expected impact on the city.
- Role of ports and cities in the logistics chains: transport, intermodality, terminal, advanced services, and port-cities hierarchy.
- Progress, breakthroughs and new models for use in studying subjects that include ports on their syllabuses: engineering, architecture, geography, economics, law, sociology, etc.

L. PORT, CITY AND TERRITORY

The context and situation of ports and port cities in relation to the territory, their physical location, the insertion of port activities into the urban system, the port cities relationship with the surrounding region, the configuration and networks operation of ports and port cities, the cooperation strategies and the port capacity to attract maritime transport flows, are some of the thematic lines that give content to this section.

More information <[Section Policies](#)>

Process of Paper Submission

PORTUSplus publishes exclusively papers that have not been published previously and are not under consideration for publication elsewhere, rigorous, well-written, high-quality, high-impact papers, with findings of basic/experimental research and development, as well as applications and innovative practices to generate discussions and new prospects.

Participation in the selection for publication in PORTUSplus Journal (portusplus.org) requires to answer the "Call for papers" before the established deadline and following the instructions for the online "**Submission Step by Step**", or using the Editorial Team contacts (see below).

More information <[Online Submission](#)>, <[Submission Preparation Checklist](#)>

Acceptance of papers is based on originality and importance of observations and investigations, works quality and evidence validity, presentation clarity, and relevance both for readership and for fields of interest of the Journal.

Empirical investigations, comparisons and exemplary real-world achievements, as well as papers exploring the connections between disciplines are considered of relevant interest; theoretical concepts and application-oriented developments, studies based on qualitative or quantitative data are regarded equally; different approaches and new proposals are particularly welcome.

More information <[Editorial Guidelines](#)> and <[Information for Authors](#)>

Language

Articles must be submitted **exclusively in English** (American English, translated or revised by a native speaker or professional in translation). If deemed appropriate by the Author(s), the same work may also be presented **eventually in a second language** among those admitted by the Journal (French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish).

Deadline for Paper Submission

As regards the Paper Submission phase, the **deadline is indicated on the Home Page of the Journal's website**, as well as in the specific section "**New announcements**": portusplus.org/index.php/pp/announcement. The works deemed suitable and in line with the standards of the Journal are subjected to a double-blind peer review process (neither the Authors nor the Reviewers know the identity of each other) to avoid bias in the evaluation.

Any submissions received after the deadline are subsequently reviewed for possible inclusion in the following 2025 issue of PORTUSplus.

More information <[Publication Schedule](#)>

Peer Review Process

The papers are submitted to evaluation through anonymous procedure by part at least two members of **Panel of Reviewers**, composed by prestigious academics and experts in different disciplines (planners, architects, engineers, geographers, historians, sociologists, etc.), also with the collaboration of the members of the **Scientific Advisory Board** and the **Editorial Team**.

The contributions are evaluated on the basis of specific criteria (originality of approach and methodology; scientific-academic level; quality and clarity of contents; completeness and order of presentation; importance in the disciplinary sector; scope of application of the results; contribution to the international debate, illustrations, references; etc.), making use of the expertise and experience of the Reviewers in thematic fields of interest to the Journal.

The papers are published according to experts' suggestions after a high-quality and independent revision, supporting the Author(s) in the finalizing of the text, in order to increase the scientific relevance of the published articles.

More information <[Peer Review Process](#)> and <[Information for Reviewers](#)>

Publication of Selected Papers

In accordance with the recommendations of the Reviewers, the papers will be selected by the Editors and published on **PORTUSplus** with the **ISSN code (2039-6422)**, the International Standard Serial Number which uniquely identifies a serial publication.

After the review and copy-editing process is completed, the articles will be progressively available on the digital platform and published in the Journal as part of a single issue, with the relevant table of contents. All editorial processes aimed at publication are granted by the Journal Editor free of charge, with the valuable collaboration of the Editorial Team.

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More information <[Open Access Policy](#)> and <[Charges Policy](#)>

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During the entire editorial process, the Journal follows the recommendations and policies suggested by the **Committee on Publication Ethics - COPE** (publicationethics.org) regarding transparency, ethical policies and dealing with misconduct. In particular PORTUSplus observes the Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors and Code of Conduct for Journal Publishers, also encouraging the Authors to pursue the international standards for publications of scholarly research.

More information <[Publications Ethics and Malpractices](#)> and <[Conflicts of Interest](#)>

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More information <[Privacy Statement](#)>

Journal Policies

The Journal makes available on the website all its policies, which include detailed information about submission, editorial processes, guidelines for different users, copyright, etc. All parties involved in the production activities and process are being introduced and informed around their rights and responsibilities, in order to ensure smooth and ethical publishing process.

More information <[Policies](#)> and <[Roles and Responsibilities in Publishing](#)>

More Information

For further details you can consult the Journal’s website at the following link:

portusplus.org/index.php/pp/announcement

Principal Contact

For the papers submission and any further information, please direct requests and questions to the Principal Contact of PORTUSplus.

E-mail address: journal@portusplus.org

More information <[Journal Contact](#)> and <[Editorial Team](#)>