

## Preface

The book series, *Dialogues in Urban and Regional Planning*, offers a selection of the best urban planning scholarship from every region of the world, intended to help bridge language and regional gaps among planning researchers. The award-winning papers presented illustrate the concerns and the discourse of planning scholarship communities and provide a glimpse into planning theory and practice by planning academics around the world. Conceptualized at the first World Planning Schools Congress in Shanghai in 2001, the series is produced by the nine member planning school associations of the Global Planning Education Association Network (GPEAN). International distribution through the nine associations and through other means helps to make this wide-ranging material available in parts of the world where it would not normally be accessible, and will, it is hoped, help to make intellectual connections which will integrate and enrich the body of planning scholarship. The first volume in the series was released in English by Routledge in 2004 to strong reviews, and is to be published in Portuguese this year by the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, and in Spanish by Equinoccio Editorial (Venezuela).

This second *Dialogues* volume includes papers originating in five languages on six continents. They draw on local concerns but also reflect international issues, including the relationship between the economy, urban space and planning; concerns over the environment and conservation of heritage; planning processes and the nature of decision-making; the development of planning ideas; planning and transport; and the role of gender. The papers were nominated as a result of competitive processes in each of nine planning school associations, and were then selected by an International Editorial Board including representation from all the associations. Taken together, they suggest the issues seen as important today by planning educators, but also the diversity of approaches to research and practice that distinguish the world's planning scholarship communities. We hope all those with an interest in urban and regional planning will find this collection valuable in expanding perspectives and approaches pertaining to their work.

The *Dialogues* series and this volume would not be possible without the efforts of a large group drawn from the nine planning school associations, numerous publishing houses, and universities. The members of the International Editorial

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