pNd 2/2021

Call for Abstracts / Digital Citymakers
Co-Creating the Digital City

Citizen initiatives or *citymakers* have always been working to (co)produce and shape urban space: reactivating underused spaces, setting impulses for community life and creative expression, raising awareness through public interventions. Digital transformation permeates every aspect of everyday life in the configuration of cities. Although it adds new threats and layers of complexity, it also provides citymakers with new tools. But is the role of citizens limited to the generation of data in a system of global surveillance and targeted marketing? Are digital assets at a similar risk of being sold off for profit as physical urban commons?

Drawing by Martin Bangratz

Facing these questions, activists join together in global networks and local spaces to advocate for equitable digital cities. Local communities are empowered to collect data and adopt digital tools to solve real-world problems. At the same time, their initiatives are linked in global networks of open-source platforms, allowing local solutions to be replicated and adapted to other contexts.

In November 2020, *digital citymakers* presented various approaches to make an impact on their environment at Pt.Seminar. Citizen initiatives, urban planners, and researchers discussed the forces that work towards and against the democratization of digital transformation in cities.

Contributions for pNd 2/2021 Edition

The online magazine pnd was initiated in 2006 by Klaus Selle. After a break, it relaunches as **pNd – rethinking planning** with a new edition in February 2021. The magazine now continues in a new layout and context under the editor-ship of the Chair of Planning Theory and Urban Development at RWTH Aachen University (Prof. Dr. Agnes Förster).

The second edition of the new series on *digital citymakers* will feature different perspectives on digital transformation in cities. The aim of this publication is to collect contributions that highlight the potentials and issues of digital technology and data in urban development across various disciplines. It is meant to both document current practice in different cities, and reflect critically on new developments in the field.

This issue of pNd is structured along four dimensions of digital citymaking, as first presented at Pt.Seminar 2020: **community empowerment** (the development of knowledge, networks, and agency), **data activism** (open data as a resource and an attitude), **virtual and physical space** (the meaning of space for digital engagement), and **the urban gap** (what digital citymaking contributes to urban development). Articles in this issue will look at practical examples and discourse in different national and international contexts.

Contributions to this publication may include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following themes:

- best practice examples of bottom-up and top-down **civic technology** for urban development;
- the complexity of **actors, networks and governance processes** involved in urban development in a digital age;
- the relationship between **local, physical spaces and global, virtual networks**, or the interplay of various spatial scales;
- the active **role of citizens** in data collection, data governance, and knowledge creation;
- the **empowering** potential of local and global communities collaborating on solving urban issues, for instance through practical skill and knowledge transmission;
- making **hidden data visible**, especially by and for communities and issues that are otherwise overlooked;
- the links or gaps between **formal planning frameworks** and civic technology;
- critical observations of **technology corporations** encroaching on public space, infrastructure and assets;
- technical or institutional framework conditions for successful urban **technology ecosystems**.

Authors and Submissions

The thematic breadth is reflected in a diversity of authors from academia and practice of different disciplines and backgrounds. The publication is not meant to be purely scientific, but explicitly gives a voice to practitioners and their experiences with empirical observations and analyses, as well as process and project reports from the field. We also welcome international perspectives to look beyond the German or European context.

We would welcome your contribution to our online magazine on the basis of your own work in this field. If you have previously written or published a suitable article, you may also submit this to us for a secondary publication.

> **If you have an idea for an article, please submit your abstract of 1000 characters by March 15th, 2021 to neu-denken@pt.rwth-aachen.de**

We would like to share some notes on requirements for the manuscript in advance. Contributions to **pNd 2/2021** should:

- not exceed 35,000 characters nor go below a minimum of 12,000 characters (including spaces);
- be written in English or German;
- include references such as scientific sources, or supplementary information in the case of field reports;
- include visual material such as images or graphs;
- be supplemented by an abstract of approximately 1000 characters and details on the author(s) 300 characters (including spaces).

Finished articles are to be submitted by July 15th, 2021. The editorial revisions, layout, and proofreading will take place over the summer. Publication is planned for October 2021.

Publisher and Editor

The Chair of Planning Theory and Urban Development RWTH Aachen University publishes the specialist publication **pNd – rethinking planning**.

The issue 2/2021 is published and edited by Agnes Förster and Martin Bangratz.

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