



GLOCALISM
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CALL FOR PAPERS

Glocalism, a peer-reviewed, open-access and cross-disciplinary journal, is currently accepting manuscripts for publication. Studies in any field are welcome.

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URBAN PLANNING IN TIMES OF POLYCRISIS

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The present conjuncture has increasingly been characterised as a moment of polycrisis, in which environmental, social, economic, political, and institutional crises intersect and mutually reinforce one another. Within this context, cities and the question of how to plan their futures have become a central arena of contestation and reflection, placing urban planning at the heart of wider debates about government, governance, redistribution, and sustainability.

Within this framework, the legitimacy of statutory, regulatory urban planning has been increasingly challenged. Deregulatory rationales have gained prominence, often articulated through the claim that normative, rule-based plans are obsolete, excessively rigid, and incapable of responding to the speed, uncertainty, and complexity

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of contemporary urban dynamics. In their place, strategic and flexible planning approaches have increasingly been promoted, emphasising competitiveness, adaptability, flexibility, and project-based intervention.

While this shift toward strategic planning has opened new possibilities for coordination and innovation, it has also contributed to a broader process in which planning risks being reduced to a facilitative tool for market-led development, rather than a normative framework for collective action aimed at the common good. In many urban contexts, comprehensive planning has given way to exceptional measures, negotiated arrangements, and ad hoc instruments that align with neoliberal forms of urban governance and urban entrepreneurialism.

Against this backdrop, urban planning appears to be at a crossroads. On the one hand, its statutory instruments are questioned and bypassed; on the other, planning remains one of the few public policies capable of making the public sector visibly present as a strategic actor in urban transformation. This role is particularly critical in relation to the ecological and just transition, which cannot be achieved without strong public coordination, spatial regulation, and a long-term commitment to sustainability, equity, and redistribution.

This special issue invites contributions that critically examine the transformation of urban planning between statutory regulation and strategic orientation, and that reflect on the conditions under which planning can reclaim its role as a key public policy. In addition, the call is explicitly interested in propositional and forward-looking contributions that engage with processes aimed at evolving urban planning, preserving its core essence while adapting it to contemporary challenges and conditions. We welcome case studies and empirically grounded research from local or regional contexts that illuminate broader territorial or global dynamics, as well as theoretical and practice-based contributions that seek to explain or challenge this transition toward what may be understood as a “new moment in contemporary urbanism”.

Format: Articles can be in any language chosen by the author (abstract and keywords in English).

Submission: All papers should be uploaded to the journal's website:
<https://riviste.unimi.it/index.php/glocalism/about/submissions>

Deadline: December 31, 2026. This issue (2027, 1) is scheduled to appear at the end of June 2027.

