

A tribute to the 'Father of Urban Planning' – John Friedmann

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This edition includes several tributes in memory of John Friedmann – a pioneer in urban theory and planning and a central figure in the founding of what is today the Department of Urban Planning at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs.

As noted by the editorial team, Friedmann's work spoke to "the serious purpose of scholarship in planning" and for him, the advancement of the planning field mattered "not for itself, but because of the potential to inform interventions which could improve the lives of the least advantaged".

Other key contributions in this issue include a reflection on participatory planning and on the impact of changing structural conditions on Regional Sustainable Mobility in Norway. This is of particular interest to planners dealing with the challenges involved in sustainable transport planning.

This piece of research is to help planners understand how

land use and transport planning can be more effectively organised to deliver more sustainable mobility patterns.

The interface offers a collective critique of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), adopted at the Habitat III conference in Quito in 2016, and raises important issues such as whether the NUA is just a political document, how useful it is proving in practice, and what role planning might play in its implementation.

With the 9th World Urban Forum held only a few weeks ago in Kuala Lumpur – and with the participation of the RTPI in a side event on the Urban Dimension of Climate Change – one cannot overemphasise the importance and the timeliness of these questions.

The latest edition of *Planning Theory and Practice* (19:1), the RTPI's academic journal, is out now