

VIRUS

26

THE DECOLONIAL DEBATE TERRITORIES

PORTUGUÊS-ESPAÑOL | ENGLISH

REVISTA . JOURNAL

ISSN 2175-974X

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UNIVERSITY OF SAO PAULO

INSTITUT OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBANISM

NOMADS.USP

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DECEMBER 2023

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THE DECOLONIAL DEBATE: TERRITORIES O DEBATE DECOLONIAL: TERRITÓRIOS

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THE DECOLONIAL DEBATE: TERRITORIES

O DEBATE DECOLONIAL: TERRITÓRIOS

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Certainly, it is not by chance that a decolonial worldview has been gaining strength at a time when an increasing number of countries in the global South are standing up against centuries-old mechanisms of domination imposed by North Atlantic nations. We have chosen the theme of decoloniality for issues 26 and 27 of the VIRUS journal, recognizing that the current controversies expressed in the academic sphere, questioning the validity of this thinking in its theoretical-conceptual or methodological aspects, present an opportunity for research and debate within Architecture, Urbanism, and related fields. However, our motivation is equally driven by agreement with some of its assumptions. As an example, the entire argumentation of authors such as Aníbal Quijano, Catherine Walsh, Enrique Dussel, María Lugones, Ramón Grosfoguel, and Walter Mignolo regarding the foundational and tragic role of the colonization of the Americas in shaping the European idea of Modernity and its planetary imposition as a hegemonic perspective cannot be overlooked. It seems essential to examine the historical and socio-political origins of such a domination process, the impacts of its perpetuation on how societies are organized, and its implications for the modes of knowledge production and dissemination across various domains.

The numerous submissions we have received, along with the feedback and observations from dozens of external reviewers on the ideas and experiences shared in these writings, highlight several important issues. One of them is the recognition, within this body of work, of a genuine interest from various fields in the theme. This is particularly notable because many researchers had already been addressing related topics — such as identity struggles, socio-spatial inequalities in the cities of the continent, the limitations of educational programs directed at populations with non-Eurocentric cultural backgrounds, among others — even if not always directly linking them to the decolonial discourse. Furthermore, the submissions come from institutions across Brazil and various countries in Latin America, presenting diverse readings and applications of the ideas initially formulated by the Modernity/Coloniality group (M/C): Some focus and deepen reflections on very local and specific situations, while others seek to establish dialogues with classical authors in the fields of Art, Architecture, Urban Studies, Design, Education, Literature, among others. In doing so, they consistently enrich, nuance, and problematize issues initially addressed by M/C thinkers.

The works published in these two editions, carefully selected through a rigorous process of close collaboration among authors, reviewers, and the editorial committee of the journal, constitute two sets of sub-themes: reflections related to Territory, its conceptualization, analysis, production, and modes of intervention — gathered in V!26 — and works on Expressions, encompassing artistic, literary, gender, and intersectionality themes — compiled in V!27.

At the invitation of the Editorial Committee, the Architect and researcher Fernando Lara, from the University of Pennsylvania, United States, generously granted us an interview titled [A Decolonial Perspective to Overcome Insufficiencies](#). In this interview, he reflects on decolonial issues in the built environment of the Americas, in the teaching and practice of Architecture, and on his own trajectory.

Ten texts approaching the concept of territory from different perspectives have been selected to compose the Agora section of this edition. *Leo Name* and *Tereza Spyer* problematize the **contemporaneity of decolonial formulations** in the work [Sometimes it's ugly, but fashionable! Decolonial powers, additions, and limits](#). *Yasser Farrés* explores the **spatial dimension of coloniality and decolonial critique in Architecture** in [The spatial dimension of coloniality: an interpretative proposal and other ignored voices](#).

The concept of "buen vivir" (good living) in conjunction with **ways of inhabiting and building the city of the peoples in the global South** is examined by *Pilar Marin*, *Aldo Alor*, and *Israel Orrego-Echeverría* in the article [Toward a Political Ontology of Urban Buen Vivir](#), where they point out conflicts between the right to a dignified life in the city. *Lucas Bueno* and *Fábio Gonçalves* focus on São Paulo in the work [The landscape in the construction of Good Living: The Nhandereko in Sao Paulo state capital](#).

Still addressing the urban dimension, *Carlos Henrique Magalhães de Lima* observes colonial urban planning ideas and practices, considering **identity, alterity, and segregation** in the article [The poetics of Relation and cities: perspective for a decolonial urbanism](#).

Leonardo Novo and *Leonardo Souza*, in [Experience on the Altiplano: Flávio de Carvalho and the South American naked civilization](#), observe how the discussion about **alternatives to hegemonic spatial organization in cities** was already taking place before the contemporary constitution of decolonial thought.

On the scale of **urban and regional planning**, a perspective on **colonial domination processes** is offered by the article [FOSS, Cartography, Colonialism and Sovereignty in Paraguay and the Global South](#), where *Juan Cristaldo, Guillermo Britez, Silvia Arévalos*, and *Lissandry Rodriguez* highlight the implications of coloniality in the cartographic representation of territories. In the realm of research in urban planning, the decolonial perspective is explored by *Fabiana Silva, Cintia Alves*, and *Isabela Santos* in the text [Decolonial approaches to research in Urban Planning](#).

Paula Albuquerque proposes, in the article [1984: Colonialism and dystopia](#), a reading on the **violence of territorial domination and the coloniality** of bodies and minds through George Orwell's novel.

Design, and particularly the **possibilities of anticolonial education** in the field, is the focus of *Marco Mazzarotto, Frederick Van Amstel, Bibiana Serpa*, and *Sâmia Silva* in the article [Prospecting anti-colonial qualities in Design Education](#), reaffirming the need to rethink curricula.

Contributing to the debate on digital design processes, we present in the Project section the work [Towards a Latin-Based Urban Design: The role of CAAD in decolonial design practices in Brazil](#), in which *Carlos Costa* and *Carlos Nome* discuss the relevance of employing *computational algorithms for urban planning* developed in the Global North to the realities of Southern countries.

We hope that these two editions of V!RUS contribute to the decolonial debate, adding references that emerge from the thinking of Southern researchers and encouraging the strengthening of South-South dialogues.