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Editorial Note

The articles published in this regular issue address various topics, under different aspects and scales. But all have one common denominator: contributing through knowledge and research to the promotion of human progress, highlighting the diverse interests of this Journal and its publishing Association.

Simona Epasto examines a delicate and difficult topic in a world disintegrated by the still recent capitalist globalization and disordered by the end of the bipolar world order founded on the balance of terror, but unfortunately still based, and perhaps with much greater danger, on the force of arms: she examines "the relationship between ethnicity, identity and the State in a globalized context, focusing on the territorial and geopolitical implications of ethno-political dynamics." In particular, the article discusses the concept of minority and the interplay between ethnicity and nationalism, and the role of territorial and diasporic communities. Highlighting the importance of understanding dynamic ethno-cultural identities for global political and geopolitical stability, it concludes with the need for diverse perspectives to address challenges of ethnic diversity.

Giuseppe Borruso analyses the structural evolution of ports, arguing that the traditional specialization of maritime nodes has transitioned into a complex era of hybridization. This results from the intersection, mainly, of structural evolutions in port–city relations and spatial planning; industrial and logistic transformations, intense geopolitical volatility that is altering maritime routing, chokepoint security, and supply-chain geographies. The methodology involves a multi-scalar analysis of the "Anyport" model's evolution towards regionalization and hybridization, with a focus on defined local case studies (the Port of Trieste, Italy).

The following are two articles that concern urban tourism and in particular illustrate and evaluate the organization of sporting events in two medium-small sized Italian cities: Udine in Friuli-Venezia Giulia, and Novara in Piedmont.

Salvatore Amaduzzi assesses the 13 August 2025 UEFA Super Cup in Udine, to support the Region's administration in future decision making on high-cost hostings. For this purpose his analysis combines TELCO mobile phone data, aggregated card transactions and digital reputation indicators.

The analysis shows that the event was largely a success, although it also reveals strong cross-regional dispersal, especially towards Veneto. On the other hand, in my opinion, this dispersion is not only difficult to reduce, but it – or rather the relative proximity of Venice – is actually a factor in the success.

Raffella Afferni and Carla Ferrario examine the key role of event tourism in the regeneration of medium-sized European cities, creating economic, social, and cultural opportunities. Through events, especially sporting events, cities transform public spaces, attract visitors, and strengthen local identity. Major events, such as the 2024 World Roller Hockey Championships held in Novara, which they examined, highlight how strategic planning connects physical urban transformation, socio-spatial dynamics, and city branding, supporting sustainable development and global visibility.

A serious process that erodes democracy and thus limits human progress is the growing electoral abstentionism. It requires a rethinking and reorganization of political life on various scales.

Paolo Pane offers a political–geographical interpretation of voter abstention in the 2025 regional elections in Campania (Southern Italy), a context characterised by one of the lowest turnout levels in

Italy (44.06%) and by a pronounced internal articulation among metropolitan areas, peri-urban belts and inner areas.

From his multilevel territorial analysis, voter abstention emerges as a meaningful indicator of the territorial inequalities that structure the regional space of Campania.

Francesco Adamo

ARTICLES