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## **Editorial**

It is with great pleasure that we introduce this special issue on **Urban Food Planning**. Conceived as a contribution to the literature on urban food systems and as a platform for disseminating the outcomes of the **FUSILLI project**, this issue has successfully brought together scholars, researchers, and practitioners from diverse regions across the globe, spanning Europe and the Global South. The editorial process, initiated in September 2024, has now reached its conclusion. We extend our sincere appreciation to all the authors, referees, and colleagues at the *Journal of Planning*, as well as to the editorial team, for their indispensable contributions.

Before providing insights from the issue, we would like to commemorate **Prof. Dr. Yves Cabannes**, who enriched this issue with his valuable reflections on the call and by generously serving as a referee. His passing on 12 January 2025, at the age of 72, represents a profound loss to the international planning community. **We dedicate this special issue to his memory, his priceless ideas, and his lifelong contributions and guidance** in the fields of urban planning, urban local food systems, urban food planning, participatory budgeting, habitat-related human rights, and more. He was both an engaged activist who stood alongside many resistances and a dedicated researcher who worked in more than 60 countries across Europe, Sub-Saharan, North Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. At the end of this editorial introduction, we included obituaries written by his colleagues Prof. Dr. Julio D. Dávila and by Prof. Dr. Robert Biel, both from University College London (UCL).

Food, long considered a stranger to the field of planning, has become one of the most critical and complex challenges that cities face today. Urbanization in most parts of the world has left cities largely dependent on external sources—surrounding regions or less developed countries—for their food supply. Yet, our food systems are proving unsustainable in the face of crises related to climate change, food justice, land grabbing, biodiversity loss, food sovereignty, public health, animal welfare, and resource depletion. The urgency of a new paradigm in city and regional planning, as well as among policymakers, cannot be overstated.

International frameworks, including the UN's New Urban Agenda, the SDGs, the EU Green Deal, and the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, highlight the role of cities in transitions of the urban food systems. Although food was long neglected in urban planning, since the 2000s there has been growing academic and policy attention to "sustainable food planning," supported by academia, local authorities, and grassroots initiatives.

Building on this general framework, this special issue addresses discussions at the interface of food, cities, and planning through thirteen contributions: six research articles, two reviews, and five opinion papers.

The first research article examines the relations between multi-scalar actors—from international organizations to vulnerable groups—together with local and rural development policies, emerging local food systems, and governance mechanisms across southeastern and southern Anatolia. The second article investigates urban policies with reference to the water-energy-food (WEF) nexus, applying both qualitative and quantitative techniques in three major metropolitan cities in Turkey.

Focusing on a more local scale, the third article explores spatial multicriteria decision making for urban agriculture in Beylikdüzü (Istanbul). In turn, the fourth article reconsiders the potential of SWOT analysis in designing a local government-centred urban food system in Mamak (Ankara).

Moving beyond the Turkish context, the fifth article addresses the Global North-centric perspective of the urban food strategies literature by examining the case of Gualeguaychú, Argentina, which is developing an urban food policy independent of international agreements. Finally, the sixth article investigates governance mechanisms of urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA), questioning their contribution to sustainability, innovative capacity and problem-solving potential, based on evidence from 15 European cases.







## **Editorial**

Together with these research articles, the issue also features review contributions. The first review article conducts a systematic literature review on spatial planning in the transition of food systems. Following this, the second review examines environmentally sustainable agriculture in Hungary, with a focus on permaculture as an innovative practice.

Complementing both research and reviews, the issue further includes opinion papers. The first opinion paper emphasizes the connections between agri-food and cities from a sustainable perspective through UPA, SDGs and the role of urban planning and governance in sustainability transitions. The second presents insights from the EU Horizon-funded FUSILLI project, which involves 12 European cities, positioning cities as key agents in sustainable urban food system transitions through comprehensive methodologies and city actors to help cities design and implement effective food policies.

The third paper assesses the role of multilevel governance in food system resilience and the need for integrative policies, drawing on the Thematic Partnership on Food, developed under the Urban Agenda for 40 the EU. The fourth contribution reflects the need for a paradigm shift on urban planning in Turkey moving from closed to open planning approaches. Finally, the fifth piece reimagines urban gardens as disaster parks, as the spaces that could guarantee food resilience in times of emergency and crises.

We hope that the studies in this special issue will contribute to the growing literature of urban food planning, inspire new intellectual horizons, and stimulate further research in this field. Once again, we sincerely thank all contributing authors and referees, whose careful evaluations greatly enhanced this issue. We wish you an insightful and enjoyable read.

**Emel KARAKAYA AYALP** 

On Behalf of Special Issue Editorial Team





## **Obituary**

#### YVES CABANNES, UCL EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (1952-2025)

## Professor Julio D. Dávila UCL. London

Countless colleagues and friends were deeply saddened by the news that Professor Yves Cabannes passed away unexpectedly on Sunday 12 January 2025 at the age of 72. He was a distinguished scholar, lecturer and activist in the urban field, having worked in over 60 countries in Latin America, the Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Europe. Yves had been University College London's (UCL) Professor of Development Planning between September 2006 and March 2015 when he retired from UCL. At the core of his work was a profound engagement with social justice and the respect of human rights. His research work centred around urban agriculture and food sovereignty, collective and communal forms of land tenure, and local governance, including the development of urban management tools such as participatory budgeting, a Brazilian innovation to involve local communities in making decisions about the investment budgets of municipalities.

Yves was a passionate defender of marginalised urban communities and used his vast network of contacts among scholars, practitioners and international aid agency staff to raise awareness of the plight of thousands of people, while steering efforts to build staff capacity in municipal governments, non-governmental organisations and universities. Between 2004 and 2010 through his work as Chairperson of the Advisory Group on Forced Evictions to the Executive Director of UN-Habitat (AGFE), he supported urban people's movements and their struggles against arbitrary evictions across many countries, travelling to work with them, connect them to others, and to document their resistance.

Prior to UCL, he worked for three years as a lecturer in Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. Between 1997 and 2003 he was the Regional Coordinator of the UN-Habitat/UNDP Urban Management Program for Latin America and the Caribbean based in Quito, Ecuador. There, he oversaw the production of numerous studies and training programmes to improve the effectiveness of municipal governments, a role that saw him visiting tens of cities in the region while widening his already considerable network of contacts.

Yves was a supportive mentor, teacher, coordinator and friend, and after his retirement returned every year to UCL to teach MSc students and collaborate with colleagues on research and activism. He was a systematic thinker with unbounded levels of energy, travelling frequently to meetings, conferences, training events, and street demonstrations in distant cities, at a pace that was only slightly reduced by illness in recent years. His considerable height and mastery of empirical facts added to the feeling of authority wherever he went, but his personal warmth quickly put people at ease. He was a consummate polyglot, who could quickly switch from his native French to Spanish, Portuguese and English. Born in Southwest France, he also spoke Languedoc and was at ease speaking Catalan. He used these qualities to great effect, from bringing people together to putting pressure on governments and international aid agencies.

His premature loss is deeply mourned by a large range of people, from leaders of poor urban communities and social movements to municipal officials, United Nations staff, former students, and friends. Our thoughts and solidarity are with Cecilia Delgado, his widow, and his children.



Photo Credit: Julio D. Dávila, 2009



Photo Credit: Julio D. Dávila, 2024

## Obituary

#### IN MEMORY OF YVES CABANNES

#### Prof. Dr. Robert Biel, UCL

Yves and I met as colleagues when he first joined University College London (UCL), and we worked together for many years, becoming very close. We were contrasting personalities and had our differences, which made the friendship even more interesting and meaningful, and I must say he was the most loyal friend I ever had. I saw so many instances of how committed and generous he was with people, including students whose future careers he always felt a responsibility to support. With Yves, one really had a friend for life, and this is why his disappearance has left such a sense of loss, for me, and I'm sure a huge number of others.

Yves' work had many facets: the right to the city, participatory planning and design, urban agriculture, resisting evictions, community land trusts/housing trusts, alternative currencies. In each of these areas, he was a – or in many cases the – leading expert at a world level. Although the main focus of my practical collaboration with Yves was urban food-system planning, our discussions were usually about the cross-cutting themes which link all these movements. The key theme was to develop an enduring commons-based institutional focus for the struggles of the most oppressed and marginalised populations, in a way both relevant to immediate day-to-day livelihoods, and also prefigurative of a wider, emancipatory social order.

We were both rooted in the radical political tradition, and this of course traverses' phases of optimistic upsurge, and other phases where the situation appears more challenging. At such moments, when one might easily be discouraged, Yves was invariably a source of positivity. He kept his finger on the pulse of the real struggle, and never wavered in his qualities of humanity, empathy and commitment to the cause ... as well as his great sense of humour.

In terms of practical application, there is something which made him an extremely effective operator in getting results in the real world. He possessed an astonishing intuition, so that if you parachuted him into any situation, or place, he could instantaneously sense the relation of forces and know exactly where to intervene to unblock the situation. He consciously trained himself in this faculty and kept me entertained with his explanations of how he employed strategy and tactics, notably aphorisms from the French translation of the Chinese military classic, *The Art of War* by Sun Zi, which was his constant companion. The key is always the relation between the concrete local gains and the bigger strategic picture.

We can, and must, continue to reflect on all these lessons, and re-affirm the commitment which Yves always embodied.