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## INTRODUCTION

This issue follows on from the *Philosophy of the City Conference 2017* (5<sup>th</sup> edition), organized by the Research Group Philosophy and Public Space of the Institute of Philosophy (R&DU 502), in partnership with the Philosophy of the City Research Group, held at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Porto, from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October. The event brought together a relevant international scientific community, with specialists from different branches of the Humanities and Social Sciences from 40 Portuguese and foreign universities.

The director of the Journal of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities - Philosophy Series, Professor José Meirinhos, invited the coordinators of this volume to organize a thematic issue intended to reflect the success of the *Philosophy of the City Conference 2017* and its contribution to the debate and dissemination of the range of questions covered in this field of research. The papers published here were submitted to a call for papers addressed to Conference participants and selected by a Scientific Committee in an anonymous peer review process.

The Philosophy of the City Research Group is an international community of scholars who are dedicated to understanding the *city* and urban issues in their political, social, epistemological, metaphysical, ethical and environmental dimensions, and is open to all philosophical traditions and to interdisciplinary approaches. The Research Group Philosophy and Public Space, in its turn, is focused on the city as a concept and on the spatial repositioning of Philosophy, through the critical analysis of the notion of public space framed by contemporary political and social representations and dynamics. Research is primarily dedicated to the conceptual trajectory of the notion of public space in its correlation with the city, from the *polis* to its contemporary (global) version of the deterritorialization of political processes.

The city is not a new theme in Philosophy, but the widespread urbanization of our time has given rise to renewed readings regarding relations between citizens, politics, the city and space. Taking into account the historical-philosophical legacy of the notions of city to the new public space of post-industrial society, this Conference aimed to explore the metamorphoses that have revived reflection on the city, and thus, to understand the impact of political, economic and social heterogeneities on the urban condition. This is the latent or manifest object of the selected texts. In a confluence of differentiated approaches to the city, the relevance of several studies that deal with some of the most relevant challenges facing the city is highlighted, which range from questioning the nature, value and ideal of integration in the framework of urban policies (M. Bessone), the discussion on the need for a concept of a *radical* civil society that can serve to think about civil society in the context of globalization (D. García-Marzá), reflection on the right to the city and phenomena of social exclusion (P. Guerra; M. Rodrigues; S. Sousa and R. Saraiva), to the analysis provoked by changes in the meanings of perception and acceptance in public space (G. Spenillo), and the complexity of the struggle for recognition within the city and the construction of the common good (J. L. Gonçalves).

Recognizing also that contemporary reflection is not confined to a presentism void of history, the articles that highlight the writings of renowned and classical authors should be noted, exploring their relevance to current inquiries about the city, public space and urbanity. For example, Aristotle's political works can contribute to another view of the classical city (L. G. Soto) and to explore the analogies between the characteristics of a tyrannical government and the processes of destruction of public space, marked – in the words of Foucault and Jane Jacobs – by segregation and hyper surveillance (Y.

Martinez Rivera). Another essential question within philosophy of the city is the idea of good (and common good), which implies understanding the Aristotelian conception of the (common) good and the contributions of the contemporary Aristotelian naturalists (S. Miguens). John Dewey and George Herbert Mead's thoughts continue to be pertinent to deepen the debate on the transforming vectors in democratic cities in order to develop more liveable communities (D. W. Woods). The reflection on the operationalization of the concepts of *praxis* and *hexis* in Jean-Paul Sartre's later philosophy (M. Müller) serve, in turn, to equate the possibilities and limits of the city as a practical field.

The articles in this volume also provide effective problematizing nexuses about the configuration of urbanity in contemporary times, identifying and analyzing the crisis of space as a measure in the post-metropolis era (J. L. Casero and J. Urabayen), the collective subject as the proper subject of our cities (J. M. Green), and the need for post-disciplinary training to inhabit the city (A. Gramigna and G. Poletti). Finally, another questioning and fundamental dimension concerns the digital configuration of public space, which we build but at the same time builds us, seeking to evince the algorithm as an ontic and ontological feature of experience (B. Ross).

We are convinced that the multiplicity of approaches presented here poses a challenge and, simultaneously, an opportunity for the development and consolidation of research in this field of study.