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## Introduction

Julian Conrad Juergensmeyer

*Georgia State University College of Law*, [jjurgensmeyer@gsu.edu](mailto:jjurgensmeyer@gsu.edu)

Karen Johnston

[kjohnston3@gsu.edu](mailto:kjohnston3@gsu.edu)

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## INTRODUCTION

We are proud to release the second volume of the *Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy*, a publication of the Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth at Georgia State University College of Law. This Journal was first launched in May 2017 with research articles resulting from our Study Space Program held in Cape Town, South Africa in June 2016. It was a deliberate choice to launch our journal online as an open access journal; we knew there was demand for accessible comparative urban research. In just one year, the Journal has achieved remarkable success - the articles in the first edition have been read in 120 countries!

This second volume contains comparative research articles written by the participants of the tenth Study Space Program held in Marseille, France June 19-23, 2017. The theme of the program was *Transforming Marseille: Balancing Urban Redevelopment, Economic Growth, Social Equity and Environmental Protection in the Building of a Metropolitan Area*. It also contains an article written by Georgia State Law student Ian Michael Rogers, *Historic Preservation and Progress in Atlanta: Opportunity Knocks*; Rogers' paper was the top student paper in the Urban Fellows course in 2017.

Study Space is an annual weeklong workshop that brings together scholars and practitioners from around the world to study critical issues facing metropolitan regions. It is held in a different city every year, providing an opportunity for its participants to engage in comparative research and networking around the globe. As evidenced by the range of topics addressed in these articles – governance, regional public/private partnerships, housing, water, and conservation – Study Space tackles a wide range of themes over the week, but all are interconnected complex challenges facing metropolitan regions.

In Marseille, participants enjoyed lectures and site visits connected to each of the daily themes: (1) Aix-Marseille as a Metropolitan Area; (2) Euroméditerranée, Europe's Largest Urban Renewal and Economic Development Project; (3) Affordable Housing and Social Mix, featuring a lecture by Dr. Jean-Bernard Auby, Professor Emeritus at SciencesPo and a site visit to Ancrages Quartiers Nord; (4) Culture and Heritage as an Economic Driver, featuring a visit to Villa Méditerranée and lectures about the role of arts in redeveloping the city, and; (5) Environmental Law and Greenspace Preservation, featuring a lecture by

Dr. Julien Bétaille, L'Université Toulouse 1 Capitole and a site visit to Parc National des Calanques.

We thank our partner and friend, Camille Mialot, attorney at Mialot Avocats and lecturer in Urban Planning Law at L'Ecole de Droit de SciencesPo, for all of his help planning the Study Space Marseille Program. We also thank our sponsoring partners L'Ecole de Droit de SciencesPo, Aix Marseille Université, Métropole Aix-Marseille Provence, and Euroméditerranée.

We hope you enjoy this issue of comparative urban law and policy articles. A second issue containing more Study Space Marseille research articles will be forthcoming later this summer.

Sincerely,

Julian Conrad Juergensmeyer  
Ben F. Johnson Jr. Chair in Law  
Director, Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth  
Editor in Chief

Karen Marie Johnston  
Assistant Director, Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth  
Managing Editor