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Introduction

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Introduction

We are pleased to publish the sixth 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. The Journal has achieved remarkable success since launching in May 2017 and is now read in 182 countries and counting.

This edition contains comparative research articles written by participants of the twelfth Study Space Program held in Lisbon, Portugal, June 23-28, 2019. The theme of the program was Living in a Tourist Destination: Regulating Planning, Housing and the Sharing Economy. We thank our partner and friend, Claudio Monteiro, for his immense help in planning the Study Space Lisbon Program and creating a productive forum for scholarly discussions on this important topic.

Study Space is a weeklong workshop organized by the Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth at Georgia State University College of Law. The workshop brings together scholars and practitioners from around the world to study critical issues facing metropolitan regions. It is held in a different city each time, providing an opportunity for participants to engage in comparative research and networking around the globe. Due to Covid-19, the Study Space program was suspended for a few years but is planned to resume in Summer 2024 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The pandemic also caused a delay in publication of this journal; however, the challenges discussed in the Lisbon workshop still persist, both in Lisbon and around the world.

Articles published in this edition cover a range of issues from tackling food waste to a peer-to-peer housing impact mitigation strategy to reduce plastic waste, a negative externality of tourism. Special thanks are extended to Natalie Salvatore and Matt Pleasant, graduate research assistants at Georgia State University College of Law for their assistance in editing the articles and in publication of this journal.

In the first article, Professor Becky Jacobs addresses food waste, one of the many consequences associated with over-tourism in Lisbon. After shedding light on this problem, Jacobs writes about Portugal's proactivity in the face of a crisis and how other cities have addressed the issue through legislation and other initiatives. She also explains how the COVID-19 pandemic has not helped the situation in Lisbon. Jacobs is hopeful for both Lisbon and the rest of the world to channel less food waste and thinks such challenges should be carefully considered and valued.

Next, Dr. Arthur C. Nelson advocates for peer-to-peer housing impact mitigation. He discusses how this rise of “P2P” housing, including rentals and Airbnbs, is prevalent in cities around the world, including in Lisbon, which has experienced economic development and property abandonment. He also focuses on social and cultural externalities, both positive and negative. Through photographs, charts, and theories he promotes a rational nexus strategy for the ever-growing housing demand.

Lastly, taking another angle on tourism, Romulo S. R. Sampaio, Patrícia Sampaio, and Marina Monné de Oliveira write about the relationship between plastic waste and the tourism industry, bringing comparative Portuguese perspectives. Problems caused by the waste issue may have a negative effect on encouraging housing in Portugal. Following in the footsteps of the European Union that made this one of the main environmental sustainability goals, Portugal has started to fight plastic waste through a variety of recycling initiatives. The authors stress the importance of well-planned tourism policies in an effort to regulate both the use and waste of plastic in urban areas, such as in Lisbon.

We hope you enjoy this volume of comparative urban law and policy articles.

Sincerely,

Karen Marie Johnston, Deputy Director, Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth and Managing Editor, *Journal of Comparative Urban Law & Policy*