

EDITORIAL: SIGNING ON WHILE SAYING GOODBYE TO PRINT

This issue, Volume 114, Issue 5, of *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie* (TESG) marks an important watershed moment. For 114 years, with the exception of the final months of World War 2, a paper copy of TESG journal regularly reached subscribing universities and a small but dedicated troupe of professional geographers (De Pater 2009). As scholarly communication now has entirely become a digital affair, and financial and environmental costs of a paper version of TESG kept mounting, the decision was made to cease publication of a paper version of the journal and dedicate the resources freed-up by that change towards the increase in quality and visibility of the journal. This decision follows wider trends in the academic publishing landscape and we sense that very few subscribers, particularly universities, were retaining their paper copies anyhow. If you are reading this in a paper copy of the journal, it will be the very last issue to be officially published in that manner. For online readers, very little will change. The volume and issue structure will be maintained in the foreseeable future. We insist on doing so in order to keep the coherence of Special Issues, Dossiers, TESG Fora, Book Reviews, and other special features that have increasingly characterized the journal over the last few years. By having clear identifiable issues, we intend that the whole of a TESG issue will to the reader be more than the sum of its parts.

This final article TESG issue is anchored by a special issue, edited by Samantha Cenere and Loris Servillo, on ‘Cities and universities. Discourses, spatialities, and material infrastructures of university-driven urban change’. The presence and policies of a university can greatly alter the human-geographical trajectory of regions. The variety of perspectives on university-driven regional transformations and places featured throughout the articles in the special issue offers a good example of the empirically rich, theoretically informed, geographical research we like to publish in TESG.

Together with the large symbolic change in publishing format, TESG gives an editorial goodbye to Manuel Aalbers, a cheerleader of many new initiatives such as the TESG best paper award (Aalbers 2023), the Fora that revisit classic TESG papers (see Van Meeteren & Aalbers 2023 for the most recent one on Torsten Hägerstrand’s *Diorama, Path and Project*) and the annual TESG lecture (See Van Liempt 2023 introducing the latest published one by Kath Browne). Manuel joined the TESG editorial board in 2013 and became editor-in-chief in 2020 where one of his first collective initiatives was to push for a quick turnaround special issue on the geographies of the COVID-19 pandemic (Aalbers *et al.* 2020). This special issue became one of the most successful TESG issues to date, gathering hundreds of citations in a very short time. As he announced two issues ago (Aalbers 2023), Manuel transferred the editor-in-chief role to a shared appointment of Ilse van Liempt and Michiel van Meeteren and you are currently reading the first product of our shared voice. We believe that a shared role of editor-in-chief fits contemporary academia better, makes the editorial board more resilient to inevitable academic workload peaks but most importantly, we believe that it brings our editorial practice closer to a collective stewardship for a journal published and edited by the Dutch geography community for our peers throughout the world. Here, we also need to acknowledge the important work of the new executive editor, Willem Boterman, and the rest of the editorial team. Despite the shared editor-in-chief role, we would like to acknowledge that the appointment of Ilse van Liempt ends an embarrassing 114-year consecutive streak of all (white) male editors-in-chief. Although female geographers increasingly played important roles in TESG in the last few decades, much still needs to be done to make geography more diverse.

In a future editorial, we hope to set out our ambitions for TESG, through which we want

to continue Manuel's initiatives to keep one of the oldest journals in geography relevant for the geographical challenges of tomorrow. For now, we thank Manuel for his decade of editorial service he contributed to that cause.

Ilse van Liempt Editor-in-chief  & *Michiel van Meeteren* Editor-in-chief 

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