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Foreword

The IV World Planning Schools Congress (WPSC) held in Rio back in 2016 was a turning point for many of us academics doing planning research and teaching planning theory in Europe and beyond. With its theme 'Global Crisis, Planning and the Challenges to Spatial Justice in the North and in the South,' the IV WPSC gathered over a thousand delegates representing 11 associations of planning schools from around the globe. Setting the tone for the conference, the stimulating opening keynote talk 'Insurgency, Planning and the Prospect of a Humane Urbanism,' by Faranak Miraftab, permeated deeply through roundtables, plenaries and special sessions showcasing the decolonisation of the planning canon. As a wealth of thought-provoking ideas, concepts and cases mobilised by *inter alia* Vanessa Watson, Ananya Roy, Oren Yiftachel and Raquel Rolnik triggered fervent debates in overfilled auditoriums, not only did we gain exposure to new epistemologies of learning and first-hand lines of argumentation upsetting 'official' planning theory and history, but we bore witness to an exceptional and highly memorable episode of the Southern turn in planning. In all likelihood, never, to date, has the wider project of building planning theory from the South been as brilliantly legitimised.

It is in this spirit that I have the honour of introducing the *plaNext* special issue 'Planning Theories from the Global South,' edited by Chandrima Mukhopadhyay and Feras Hammami with Vanessa Watson. Apart from making a meaningful contribution to the expanding body of conceptual thinking rooted in markedly heterogeneous Southern contexts, this *plaNext* special issue, most importantly, gives voice to a young generation of scholars which is vastly conscious of the need to theorise planning whilst universalising the global South. Altogether, this timely effort signifies a bold attempt to forge new theory pathways capable of inspiring the advancement of novel planning practices that match the aspirations of emerging and future generations of planners.

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