

Urban Space in Historical Geography: Collective Perception and Territoriality

Mariachiara Angelucci
(scientific editor)



Urban Space in Historical Geography:
Collective Perception and Territoriality

MONOGRAFÍAS DE GAHIA

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MARIACHIARA ANGELUCCI
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PREFACE

The volume *Urban Space in Historical Geography: Collective Perception and Territoriality* stems from the period of research that I carried out in Germany as a Research Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation at the Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, where I dealt in particular with the urban world in Strabo's *Geography*. The development of this investigation has given rise to the desire to bring together international scholars of the ancient world to broaden the discussion on the theme of the city and address it from different perspectives, opening the field of inquiry to other issues related to the concepts of territoriality and urban settlement and also involving experts from the modern world.

The following authors have participated in this miscellany: Mariachiara Angelucci (Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt / Università degli Studi di Pavia), Cinzia Bearzot (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano), Serena Bianchetti (Università degli Studi di Firenze), Anke Breitung (Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt), Encarnación Castro-Páez (Universidad de Málaga), Gonzalo Cruz Andreotti (Universidad de Málaga), Daniela Dueck (Bar Ilan University), Francisco Javier Gómez Espelosín (Universidad de Alcalá de Henares), Marc Domingo Gygax (Princeton University), Ekaterina Ilyushechkina (Russian State University for Humanities, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration), Fabio Minazzi (Università degli Studi dell'Insubria), Giuseppe Muti (Università degli Studi dell'Insubria), Silvia Panichi (Università degli Studi di Perugia), Monika Schuol (Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel), Alexandra Trachsel (Universität Hamburg), Mattia Vitelli Casella (Alma Mater Studiorum-Università di Bologna).

This volume consists of five parts, thematically organized on the basis of the authors' contributions. Given the starting point and the inspiration behind the research, as well as the centrality of Strabo's work for those who deal with historical geography, the first part, entitled "Urban Space and the *Geography* of Strabo", is that which includes the largest number of contributions and is dedicated in particular to Strabo's work. The first contribution takes up the theme

of the representation of Arcadia and its cities, bearing particularly in mind how the phenomenon of synoecism is treated in order to show how the description of space is strongly influenced by the political ideology of the geographer. The poverty of information in describing the foundation of the cities and their development does not do justice to their importance and this is not accidental but due to Strabo's negative view of the Arcadian Confederation and of the Theban hegemony. Alexandra Trachsel is specifically concerned with Thebes and its failed hegemony. The author makes a comparison between the ways in which Thebes and Troy are depicted and assessed by Strabo and how he links the two urban entities to Rome. The third, fourth and fifth contributions of this first session deal specifically with the parts of the *Geography* related respectively to Spain, Illyricum and Italy. Encarnación Castro-Páez analyses how cities are chosen and described in Book III, letting Strabo's criteria and perspective emerge, without neglecting to dwell on the characteristics of the chorographic depiction of the territory, essential to understand the author's approach to the Iberian Peninsula. Similarly, the urban settlements are the focus of the contribution of Mattia Vitelli Casella, who consistently takes into account the places mentioned by Strabo, focusing on the terminology used. The author emphasises how there is no systematic choice to indicate the sites with a specific term, although the urban reality is central to the *Geography* nor is there a desire to harmonise the data from different sources. It is precisely the centrality of the city as a territorial marker and the importance of the economic factor, necessarily linked to that of the road network, which leads Silvia Panichi to consider the theme of the *viae romanae*. They constitute the point of reference for the treatment of the cities of inland Italy, for which in particular the proximity to the road network is a crucial factor of importance. As Daniela Dueck points out in the following paper, there are no empty spaces in the *Geography*, which highlights in every part the signs of human action and presence on the territory. Her article considers how the geographer treats spatial gaps between inhabited regions and comes to the conclusion that uninhabited territories are not significant in his eyes. In fact, cities are the constitutive elements around which the description of the different regions of the populated world is structured.

The second part, as can be seen from the title "Urban Space in Cartography", is about urban centres in cartographic representations. Serena Bianchetti's article highlights the difference between the western and eastern parts of Eratosthenes' map. Because of the importance of the Mediterranean and of Egypt at the time of the Alexandrine, the meridians and parallels of the western part are identified by historically important cities, while the reference points for Asia, for which he had less information available, are mountains and rivers. Monika

Schuol deals with the *Tabula Peutingeriana*, considering how the urban centres are depicted and whether their importance plays a significant role in their representation. What emerges is that the map does not allow for the identification of less or more urbanised areas in many of its parts nor for the identification of a hierarchy within the categories “city” or “village”, especially for the regions east of the Euphrates, while the development of infrastructure in the Imperial period is evident.

The third part, “Urban Topography and the Expedition of Alexander the Great”, contains two papers dealing with topographical issues related to Alexander the Great’s expedition. Cinzia Bearzot’s article takes into account the information that ancient authors have handed down about the expedition in the lower course of Indus and discusses the possible identifications of the archaeological site of Banbhore with the places mentioned in the sources, concluding by touching on the problem of “Alexander’s port”, mentioned in Arrian’s *Indike*. Although the Macedonian king’s enterprise was essentially a military action, the places he encountered did not fail to impress the historians whom he took with him. Francisco Javier Gómez Espelosín seeks to bring out the impressions they left in their works. The towns appear as milestones that mark the advance of the troops but there is also no lack of curiosities and information about topographical characteristics of places.

The fourth part, entitled “Territoriality, Political Perception and Identity”, opens with the contribution of Marc Domingo Gygax, who, starting from the epigraphic evidence of some decrees of the cities of Xanthus, Telmessus and Limyra, considers the issue of the distinction between citizens and *perioikoi*. The author analyses whether this is a geographical classification and whether it also has political implications in terms of institutions and citizenship rights, coming to the conclusion that behind this classification lies a complex political organization of the territory of the polis, in which local identities are preserved. The theme of identity is also the focus of the contribution of Gonzalo Cruz Andreotti, who stresses how civic and ethnic features are perceived as being part of the same identity structure of a political nature, aimed at ensuring administrative, territorial and military cohesion. Ekaterina Ilyushechkina deals with the geography of Gaius Iulius Solinus and analyses in particular its initial part, which is an *excursus* on the mythical origins of Rome and its history until Augustus, highlighting that the cultural memory has a political purpose and is intended to emphasise the role of Rome, now at the head of the whole world.

The volume concludes with a section of three articles devoted to “Urban Space in Modern Times”. Fabio Minazzi presents the city as an ideal principle of history in Carlo Cattaneo’s nineteenth-century work, in which Asian cities

appear as clearly differentiated from European and Western ones. The author stresses how, according to Carlo Cattaneo, Italian municipalities in particular played an essential role in the formation of modern science. The following contribution by Giuseppe Muti deals with the historical-geographical evolution of the city of Como and the Lake region through the study of the tourist phenomenon and the social production of space, dwelling on the moments of crisis and on those of growth and development. The last article, finally, by Anke Breitung deals with the theme of the relationship between man and the environment from a neo-phenomenological perspective, highlighting the importance of atmospheres and feelings in the perception of urban space.

I would like to thank the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for giving me the opportunity to carry out research in Germany, and Prof. Michael Rathmann for hosting me at the Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt. My special thanks go to the International Association "Geography And Historiography in Antiquity" (GAHIA) and to the scientific committee of the series "Monografías de Gahia" for having welcomed and financed this volume, to Prof. Francisco J. González Ponce, Prof. José María Candau Morón and Prof. Antonio Luis Chávez Reino of the University of Seville, Prof. Francisco Javier Gómez Espelosín of the University of Alcalá de Henares and Prof. Gonzalo Cruz Andreotti of the University of Málaga. Finally, I owe a debt of gratitude to all the authors who accepted, both enthusiastically and professionally, the invitation to participate in this miscellany through their contributions.

The Editor

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ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviated references to Greek authors and to collections of fragments and to epigraphic and papyraceous sources follow the usage of the *Diccionario Griego-Español* of the CSIC. For Latin authors, the abbreviations of the *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae* have been used. Abbreviated references to general works follow the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* (4th edition). Journals and periodicals are cited according to the usage of *L'Année Philologique*.

- ANRW *Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischer Welt. Geschichte und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung*, I-XXXVII, edd. H. Temporini, W. Haase, Berlin 1974-1994
- BNJ *Brill's New Jacoby*, ed. I. Worthington, Brill Online
- CIL *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, 1863-
- FGrHist Felix Jacoby, *Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker*, I-III (15 vols.), Berlin-Leiden 1923-1958; voll. IV-, edd. G. Schepens, S. Schorn, H.-J. Gehrke, Leiden/Boston/Köln 1998-
- FHG C. & T. Müller, *Fragmenta historicorum Graecorum*, I-V, Parisiis 1841-1870
- GGM C. Müller, *Geographi Graeci Minores*, I-II, Parisiis 1855-1861
- IG *Inscriptiones Graecae*, I-XIV, Berlin 1873-, 1913-2, 1981-3
- RE *Paulys Realencyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft*, hg. von G. Wissowa, W. Kroll, K. Witte, K. Mittelhaus, K. Ziegler unter Mitwirkung zahlreicher Fachgenossen, voll. I-XXIV, I A – X A, Suppl. voll. I-XV, Stuttgart/München 1893-1980
- SEG *Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum*, Leiden 1923-
- Syll.³ *Sylloge Inscriptionum Graecarum*, I-IV, ed. W. Dittenberger, Berlin 1915-1924³
- TAM *Tituli Asiae Minoris*, I. *Tituli Lyciae lingua Lycia conscripti*, ed. E. Kalinka, Wien 1901; II. *Tituli Lyciae linguis Graeca et Latina conscripti*, ed. E. Kalinka, 3 fasc., Wien 1920-1944; III. *Tituli Pisidiae linguis Graeca et Latina conscripti*, ed. R. Heberdey, Wien 1941; IV. *Tituli Bithyniae linguis Graeca et Latina conscripti*, ed. F. K. Dörner, with the assistance of M.-B. von Stritzky, Wien 1978; V. *Tituli Lydiae linguis Graeca et Latina conscripti*, vols. 1-2, ed. P. Herrmann, Wien 1981-1989; vol. 3, ed. G. Petzl, Wien 2007

SUMMARY

Preface.....	VII
List of participants.....	XI
Abbreviations	XIII

PART I

URBAN SPACE IN THE GEOGRAPHY OF STRABO

Real space vs. Perceived Space: the Representation of Arcadia and the Synoecism of its Cities in Strabo's Book VIII	3
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Mariachiara ANGELUCCI

Abstract: The city plays a key role in understanding Strabo's *Geography*, as it controls and influences the territory where it is located. In this paper I intend to deal in particular with Strabo's view of Arcadia from the way he represents cities and their origins, focusing on those for which he remembers the foundation by synoecism, namely Megalopolis, Mantinea, Tegea and Heraia, in order to highlight what information he provides and for what reasons the treatment of certain cities, whose birth is due to the fusion of several settlements, is approached in a certain way. The fact that the description of the urban centers in Arcadia does not do justice to the complexity and relevance of their foundation and development does not seem a mere coincidence. On the contrary it is the result of his negative opinion of the Arcadian Confederacy and of the Theban hegemony, two political realities united by the desire to weaken Sparta, which Strabo held in high regard for the stability and duration of its hegemony, creating a parallelism with Rome.

Urban Spaces from Myths to Villages: Comparing Strabo's Account on Thebes and Troy	37
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Alexandra TRACHSEL

Abstract: This article compares two urban spaces through the description Strabo gives of them. On the one hand, there is Troy which is central to

Strabo's description of the Troad in book XIII. The significance of this place, for both Strabo's work and the Greco-Roman world of his time, has been stated repeatedly. Hence Strabo's account on Troy has been compared, for instance, with his treatment of Rome. Taking this approach as its starting point, the study will shift its focus onto another urban centre that shares important features with Troy, but that also has some substantial differences. The analysis expands therefore to Thebes and to Strabo's description of Boeotia. Among the differences, we may note, as first obvious distinction between the two urban spaces, that the political relevance for Strabo's time is less strong with Thebes than with Troy. Likewise, from a literary point of view, Troy is connected to Homer's poems and to the long and productive tradition of rewriting, commenting and reappropriating this heritage. Finally, with regard to Strabo's *Geography*, such a comparing also raises the question of the different sources that the geographer may have used. In our case, for instance, we are able to catch some insights into the works of Demetrius of Scepsis and Apollodorus of Athens.

Δυνάμεναι καὶ ὀνομαστόταται πόλεις. Choice and Description of the Cities in Strabo's Book III..... 59

Encarnación CASTRO-PÁEZ

Abstract: This paper aims to be a summary presentation of the criteria and perspectives involved in the choice and description of the cities mentioned by Strabo in Book III of his *Geography*. To this end, by way of introduction and before delving into the pages devoted to Iberia in a monographic way, some questions will be dwelt on which, although widely known, should not be overlooked when trying to understand the chorographical description constructed by Strabo. Having contextualised Strabonian literary production as a whole, we will focus our attention on book III and, more specifically and as has already been mentioned, on the elements that mark the way cities are presented in Hispanic territories.

Quali centri abitati nell'Illyrico di Strabone? Appunti per un'indagine 87

Mattia VITELLI CASELLA

Abstract: In this short contribution, the author pays attention to the settlements attested in the Illyrian section of Strabo's *Geography* (VII 5, 1-12). They are about 20 in total and present different labels and entities, from the fortresses to the coastal towns of Mediterranean style. As in most regions, it emerges that, despite the importance ascribed to the idea of polis within the work, what is missing is a final consistency in choosing and listing the settlements, given that is not interested either in updating or harmonizing the available sources. A striking aspect is the absence of the colonies.

Viae romanae and Urban Spaces in Strabo's Description of Italy 115

Silvia PANICHI

Abstract: In Strabo's Italy (V-VI) the Roman roads constitute the main reference point for the description of the inland towns. In the description of Latium, that represents a unicum, the geographer tries to theorise this particular use of the roads. Such roads can play a certain role in the construction of the geographical space, like rivers and mountains. The commercial and economic potential of some towns is highlighted. The geographer also notes the connectivity between road system and fluvial network. The question of the sources used by Strabo for this particular use of Roman roads in his description of Italy still remains open.

Empty Space and Verbal Landscaping in Strabo: Beyond Urban
Territoriality 151

Daniela DUECK

Abstract: Classical antiquity, geography dealt exclusively with land occupied by humans. Strabo's colossal *Geography* follows this anthropocentric tradition. Studies have explored Strabo's references to cities either as cultural and political phenomena or through cases of specific outstanding poleis. This article examines the spatial gaps between these inhabited regions. To do so, it identifies uninhabited sites in their hidden or less-noticed appearances in the *Geography* while asking two central questions: (1) What is the meaning of "empty" spaces in Strabo's work? and (2) How does Strabo treat these regions of the world?

PART 2

URBAN CENTERS IN CARTOGRAPHY

Il ruolo dei centri urbani nella carta alessandrina 169

Serena BIANCHETTI

Abstract: The map of the world of Eratosthenes shows differences in the selection and in the description of urban centres, located in the western and in the eastern part of the representation. While in the West meridians and parallels are defined by historically important centres, in the East the meridians and the parallels do not pass through cities and the basic role is played by mountains and rivers. We can explain this different approach by the central role played by the Mediterranean and by Egypt at the time of Eratosthenes; for Asia, on the other hand, the geographer had little information dating from the age of Alexander and from Megasthenes.

Von der Herrscherresidenz in die Provinz: Konstruktionen städtischer und ländlicher Räume auf der <i>Tabula Peutingeriana</i>	189
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Monika SCHUOL

Abstract: The aim of this paper is to try to understand the intentions, perhaps even a specific worldview, of the scribes and cartographers based on the cartographic drawing of the largest and most important settlements and on the account of ethnonyms and roads. Two sets of questions are central to this work:

- How are the cities represented on the *Tabula Peutingeriana*? Are they actually represented according to their meaning?
- Is it possible to distinguish cities from rural areas? Is it possible to identify different modes of representation in the drawings? What is the significance of scarcely populated regions compared to urban centres in the *Tabula Peutingeriana*?

These questions will be addressed by examining selected geographical areas (e.g. Egypt, Persia, Media, Germany and the North-Pontica-Caspian area).

PART 3 URBAN TOPOGRAPHY AND THE EXPEDITION OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Alessandro Magno nel Sindh. Città, roccaforti e installazioni portuali ...	213
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Cinzia BEARZOT

Abstract: The exploration of the mouth of the Indus led by Alexander the Great and his Admiral Nearchus in 325 B.C. has aroused great interest among scholars. Attempts have been made, with often contradictory results, to reconstruct the itineraries followed and to identify the sites remembered by the sources. Reconstruction has been made very difficult by changes in the landscape over time and, above all, by the absence of archaeological finds dating back to the time of Alexander. This paper reconsiders the information provided by the sources on the exploration of the lower course of the Indus by Alexander and Nearchus; then discusses possible identifications of the best preserved archaeological site in the area, that of Banbhore, with the places designated by ancient place names (Barbarikon, Barce, Daybul); finally, it poses the problem of the “port of Alexander” mentioned by Arrianus in the *Indike*.

Lost Urban Topographies in the Historians of Alexander the Great.....	229
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Francisco Javier GÓMEZ ESPELOSÍN

Abstract: The new urban realities encountered in the Macedonian conquest of Asia must have left their mark on their privileged observers, the

historians who accompanied Alexander on his expedition. The irretrievable loss of these accounts has, however, left its traces, more or less evident, in the preserved testimonies derived from those sources. The aim of this work is precisely to try to detect the traces, however slight, of a series of urban topographies that aroused the curiosity or admiration of those who had the opportunity to contemplate them.

PART 4
TERRITORIALITY, POLITICAL PERCEPTION
AND IDENTITY

Center, Periphery and Networks in the *Poleis* of Late Classical and Early Hellenistic Lycia..... 247

Marc Domingo GYGAX

Abstract: In the late classical and early Hellenistic periods, the Lycian *poleis* of Xanthus, Telmessus and Limyra issued decrees in the name of their citizens and their so-called *perioikoi*. This chapter explores the extent to which this classification of the population corresponded to a geographic distinction between inhabitants of the central place of the *polis* and individuals who lived in the *chora*, and whether it implied a division between two groups with separate political institutions or even unequal citizenship rights. In addition, it attempts to demonstrate that behind this simple binary categorization was a complex organization of the *polis*' territory and a dynamic network of small communities that brought the members of the *polis* together while preserving local identities and a high degree of local autonomy.

From Greece to Iberia: ethnic identity, civic identity, political identity 273

Gonzalo CRUZ ANDREOTTI

Abstract: From the case studies of Greece and Roman Iberia, it is argued that ethnic identities and civic identity are part of the same choral political identity.

Space of Archaic Rome in the Geography of Gaius Iulius Solinus..... 289

Ekaterina ILYUSHECHKINA

Abstract: In the case of *Collectanea rerum memorabilium*, the Latin compilation written by Gaius Iulius Solinus (III cent. A. D.), it would seem that we have another traditional ancient geographical work. However, Solinus prefaces his description of the inhabited world with an excursus on the history of Rome, from its mythological origin and up to the Principate of Augustus (SOLIN., I 1-52). Such arrangement of the material is not found in other ancient geographical works and thus violates traditional models. This passage

seems to demonstrate the specifics of the cultural memory and historical situation in the 3rd century A. D., considering that the geographical and political priority of Rome is so clearly emphasized here. My paper analyses the content of the passage (SOLIN., I 1-52) and presents a conclusion about the political and geographical image of the Eternal City as the world capital in Solinus' work and in his time: Rome first was the head of Latium, then of Italy, and finally of the whole world.

PART 5
URBAN SPACE IN MODERN TIMES

The City as Ideal Principle of History According to Carlo Cattaneo..... 299

Fabio MINAZZI

Abstract: For Cattaneo no European is a native of Europe because civilization springs from the contamination between different cultures. According to Cattaneo, agriculture is an act of civilization that has transformed the land into an "agricultural machine", within which the territory must be perceived as a collective work heritage, determined by the overlapping of the results achieved by the different generations. Within this context, cities can and must be considered as ideal principles that clearly differentiate Asian cities from European and Western ones. Speaking, in particular, of Italian cities, Cattaneo underlines the historical role of Italian municipalities for the genesis of modern science which created the historical-social premises for the construction of our own contemporary modernity.

Commercio, turismo e industria: la territorializzazione contesa della città di Como 323

Giuseppe MUTI

Abstract: The history and geography of the city of Como and the Lake Como region are intertwined in a long-term relationship whose dynamics and prerogatives, identities and functions, are imprinted on the territory both materially and symbolically. By studying the social production of space and following the common thread of tourism as a system that creates meaning and territoriality, the contribution studies the historical-geographical evolution of the region and its capital, paying critical attention to moments of growth, balance and sharing as well as moments of crisis, imbalance and conflict.

Urban Space as Individual Situation: a Geographical-Phenomenological Perspective	347
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Anke BREITUNG

Abstract: The article invites the reader to open his mind up to a contemplation of urban space that breaks up the dualistic relationship of human and urban space. For this purpose, the perspective of neo-phenomenology is used, which proclaims a subject-centered consideration of the intentional relationship between humans and the urban environment. Therefore, the concept of the body and its influence on the phenomenological conception of space are explained. Furthermore, the article goes into the importance of atmospheres and feelings for the perceptibility of space and finally focuses on the consideration of urban space framed as an individual situation. Examples from empirical research show how the relationship between humans and their environment can be better understood through the geographical-phenomenological approach.

INDEX

Index locorum	365
Index nominum.....	373
List of figures.....	391

This volume develops the theme of urban space and its interrelation with human activity. The representation of space, which human action has profoundly changed over the ages, its perception, and the organisation of the territory with its political and economic implications are at the core of the contributions by the authors, who deal with the subject of the city from multiple points of view. The publication is structured in five parts. The first brings together articles that focus specifically on Strabo and his *Geography*, in which the city plays a fundamental role and constitutes the key to its interpretation. The second section considers how urban centres are represented in cartography, particularly in Eratosthenes' map and in the *Tabula Peutingeriana*. The third part discusses questions of topography in relation to the journey of Alexander the Great, while the fourth concerns issues of territorial organisation, civic identity, and cultural memory. The final section deals with modern times, enriching the whole by broadening the perspective and creating a bridge between the ancient and modern worlds.



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