V!RUS

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THE DIGITAL AND THE SOUTH: QUESTIONINGS VOL. 1

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O DIGITAL E O SUL: TENSIONAMENTOS VOL. 1
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THE DIGITAL AND THE SOUTH: QUESTIONINGS VOL. 1
O DIGITAL E O SUL: TENSIONAMENTOS VOL. 1
LO DIGITAL Y EL SUR: CUESTIONAMIENTOS VOL. 1.

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The theme of issues 28 and 29 of V!RUS journal, "The Digital and the South: Questionings," aims to critically explore the connections between digital media and the peoples of the Global South in various dimensions in this second decade of the 21st century. While recognizing digital culture's benefits to many aspects of human life, we also seek to highlight the inherent tensions in these connections.

This theme arises from an ongoing reflection process at Nomads.usp - Center for Interactive Living Studies, which publishes V!RUS. The Center was established in 2000 amidst the remarkable optimism that followed the Internet's opening to public access in 1994. Distributed network communication – a network of networks – brought promising perspectives for horizontal communication and free access to information. This environment stimulated the development of numerous computer programs, devices, and systems that permeated all areas of knowledge and aspects of life. Over the past twenty-four years, we have focused on exploring the limits and potential of digital, particularly in how it relates to the conception, approach, and documentation of built spaces. We have broadened this concept to include the spatialities arising from the hybridization of physical and digital environments and their dynamics.

The theme proposed for these two issues of V!RUS arises from a growing concern—one that we share—about the direction in which the digitalization of life has taken society. This trend has scrambled values and beliefs, distorted public debate, and reinforced asymmetric power relations on a global scale.

The papers published in these two issues have been selected rigorously through close collaboration among the authors, reviewers, and the journal's editorial committee. They encompass two sets of sub-themes. The first set, presented in V!28, includes papers that analyze the applications of digital technologies and their implications for urban dynamics and architectural design and production, focusing on perspectives from the Global South. The second set, featured in V!29, includes papers that discuss the conceptual, social, political, and technopolitical aspects of the spread of digital technology worldwide, particularly among the peoples of the Global South.

Issue 28 features eight articles authored by researchers from various countries and states within Brazil. It also includes an interview with Professor *Gabriela Celani* from the School of Civil Engineering, Architecture, and Urbanism at the State University of Campinas, Brazil. At our invitation, Celani gave us the interview titled The Digital as a Collective Practice, in which she explores **collective ways of doing things** in light of her career as a researcher and educator in the field of Architecture and Urbanism.

The emerging possibilities for using **Artificial Intelligence** are addressed in two contexts: in the production of images and their political implications in the field of Art, as discussed in *Giselle Beiguelman*'s article Machinic Eugenics of the Gaze: Computer Vision, Ageism, and Gender, and in processes of form generation, examined in *Alberto Fernández González*'s article From Cellular Automata to AI and Fabrication.

Two papers address **digital at the urban scale** in cities in the South. *Vinícius Lopacinsk* discusses the impacts arising from the use of advanced surveillance and control technologies in urban spaces in the article What Happens when the Smart City Crashes?. Meanwhile, in their article Urban-digital Layers: From Global Internet Infrastructure to Dark Kitchens, *Aline Cristina Fortunato Cruvinel* and *Luisa da Cunha Teixeira* examine how platform companies influence new dynamics and urban spatial typologies.

Two contributions address **the use of digital images to study built spaces**. The first is the article Collaborative Platforms in the Global South: The Case of Arquigrafia, written by *Sayed Abdul Basir Samimi*, *Ana Ribeiro Ferreira da Costa*, *Henrique Santa Catharina Junges,* and *Artur Simões Rozestraten.* It discusses the collaborative construction of a collection of architectural representations. The second work, From a Bird's Flight to an Overlooking Gaze: Virtuality as a Method, by *Pedro Henrique Vale Carvalho*, focuses on urban analysis guided by street view images.

Additionally, two articles concentrate specifically on **architectural design processes**. In From Computation to Fabrication: Themes and (Mis)Paths in South America, *Rodrigo Scheeren* examines various aspects of digital fabrication within South American research centers. Meanwhile, in their article titled Bridging the Gap: Empirical vs. Simulation in Green Facade Modeling, *Camila da Rocha Hendzel* and *Claudio Vásquez Zaldívar* investigate digital methods for analyzing green facades in Chilean buildings.

We are also pleased to inform you that, as of this issue, the V!RUS journal has become part of the Journal Portal of the University of Sao Paulo at www.revistas.usp.br/virus. Still, it maintains its previous website –www.nomads.usp.br/virus– as a mirror website.

We hope these two issues of V!RUS provide a qualified debate on current digital culture, especially in relation to countries in the Global South.

We wish everyone an excellent reading experience.