



## **Shaping Metropolitan Space in the Periphery: Innovation or more of the Same in Public-Private Investments in Belo Horizonte, Brazil?**

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The paper discusses urban transformation at the metropolitan level in Brazil by looking particularly at historical processes of production of urban space in which state intervention associated to private investments played and continues to play a major role. On the one hand it does so by producing abstract space, to use Lefebvre's formulation, that is by providing or attempting to provide the general conditions of production in order to attract and fix capital investments in the territory: economic infrastructure, credit mechanisms, fiscal incentives, developed land, urban and environmental regulations, trained labour, and more recently technological infrastructure and training, and other requirements the knowledge economy. On the other hand the articulation between state intervention in housing, particularly popular housing (and lack of intervention, which can be understood as a policy option) and private capital invested in land and property provides another key element to understand urban transformation at the level of metropolitan expansion characterized by disperse urbanization.

**KEY WORDS:** Planning, public investments, disperse urbanization, conflicting values, participation.