

RETE | **General Council**

June 22, 2026

Port-City Relationship and Urban Waterfront Redevelopment
PORTUS*plus*

portusplus.org | ISSN: 2039-6422

PORTUS *plus*
the journal

An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely Cape Town, South Africa, showing a dense urban area, a large harbor with a marina, and a prominent mountain range in the background. The image is slightly faded to serve as a background for the text.

Call for Papers *Research Themes*

PORTUS*plus* Journal

Port-City Relationship and Urban Waterfront Redevelopment

PORTUS_{plus} | *Call for Papers 2026*

Research Themes



Journal Sections

History of port cities
Economy and business
Contemporary port cities and new port-city relations models
Future scenarios: planning and prospects
Restructuring urban-port waterfronts
Architecture and port city landscape

Urban-port development and environmental sustainability
Culture and identity
Port city didactics
Infrastructures, transport, intermodality, logistics
Port City Territory
The contemporary port city and the new models of port-city relationships

TIMELINE *Editorial activities*

FIRST STEP

**Call for Papers Promotion
and Submission Process**

from **February** to **September 2026**

SECOND STEP

Peer-review Process

LAST STEP

Copyediting and Production

from **September** to **December 2026**

An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely Cape Town, South Africa, showing a dense urban area, a large harbor with several piers and ships, and a prominent mountain range in the background. The image is semi-transparent, serving as a background for the text.

Proposals for *Special Issue*

PORTUS*plus* Journal

Port-City Relationship and Urban Waterfront Redevelopment

Call for Proposals: **GUIDELINES**

PORTUSplus invites university departments, research centers and academic group to **submit a Special Issue Proposal** for the Journal.

The purpose is to provide a collection of articles **on a specific PORTUSplus topic** that the journal has **not covered in a substantial way, or with an innovative approach to the issue**, in general that has the potential to be of great interest to readers.

The Special Issues typically are **coordinated by one or more Guest Editors** and **consist of 10-15 paper** some selected from the papers submitted to the Journal via Call for Papers and some elaborated by authors "invited" by the same Guest Editors.

The proposals, **to be submitted to the Editors within the deadline established in the "Call for Special Issue Proposal"**, will be shared with the Editorial Board members to be evaluated and discussed.

Call for Proposals: **APPLICATION**

The proposal should contain **a short biography of the Guest Editor(s)**, highlighting qualifications, experiences and skills, achievements and activities in the field of competence, etc., as well as knowledge in publishing.

The proposal should include **a title and a description of approximately 500-800 words explaining which topics/approaches are involved**, and why a Special Issue should be dedicated to them.

The proposal should also include **the names of several experts and/or well-known personalities in the field willing to contribute to the proposed Special Issue** and, if possible, some **bibliographical references** and the **topics of possible contributions**, which must be support the diversity of authorship and perspectives.

After the selection of the proposals, **an Agreement will be entered with the Guest Editors** in order **to establish times and methods of collaboration** (no cost can be charged to the Journal or the RETE Publisher).

An aerial photograph of a coastal city, likely Cape Town, South Africa, showing a dense urban area, a harbor with several ships, and a prominent mountain range in the background. The image is slightly faded to serve as a background for the text.

Call for Special Issue
Landscapes of Port Clusters

Rethinking Port-City Territories
in a Networked Era

PORTUSplus Journal

Port-City Relationship and Urban Waterfront Redevelopment

TIMELINE *Editorial activities*

FIRST STEP

**Call for Papers Promotion
and Submission Process**
from **May 2026** to

July 2026 (for abstract)
September 2026 (for paper)

SECOND STEP

Peer-review Process

LAST STEP

Copyediting and Production
from **September 2026** to

December 2026

Call for Papers 2026 | Special Issue
"Landscapes of Port Clusters"

2026-05-20
CALL FOR PAPERS 2026

Special Issue "*Landscapes of Port Clusters: Rethinking Port-City Territories in a Networked Era*"

Guest Editors: *Beatrice MORETTI*

Download .pdf here:

EN_PORTUSplus Special Issue 2026_Landscapes of Port Clusters

ES_PORTUSplus Special Issue 2026_Landscapes of Port Clusters

IT_PORTUSplus Special Issue 2026_Landscapes of Port Clusters

FR_PORTUSplus Special Issue 2026_Landscapes of Port Clusters

 [Submit an article](#)

New
announcements

**Call for Papers 2026 |
Special Issue**
**"Landscapes of Port
Clusters"**

Promoting the communication and development of scientific research, that plays an increasingly relevant role in our society, PORTUSplus invites scholars and researchers, experts and professionals to submit original works and research results in the several disciplines for the Call for papers 2026 for Special Issue "*Landscapes of Port Clusters: Rethinking Port-City Territories in a Networked Era*" (Ed. Beatrice Moretti). In recent decades, the global port system has undergone profound transformations.



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Call for Papers 2026

Special Issue *"Landscapes of Port Clusters:
Rethinking Port-City Territories in a Networked Era"*

Guest Editor: *Beatrice MORETTI*

PORTUSplus Journal || Special Issue 2026 || *Landscapes of Port Clusters*
RETE Publisher, Venice || ISSN: 2039-6422
Website: portusplus.org || Principal Contact: journal@portusplus.org

Landscapes of Port Clusters: Rethinking Port-City Territories in a Networked Era

In recent decades, the **global port system** has undergone profound transformations. Among these shifts, the emergence of **port clusters**—defined as **geographically concentrated** and **functionally interconnected systems** of ports, infrastructures, and related activities—has become a key paradigm for understanding contemporary port development.

Port clusterisation is now reshaping the **spatial, environmental, and socio-political dimensions** of port-city territories, intertwining **logistics platforms, urban settlements, ecological systems, and infrastructural corridors**.

Recent developments highlight the need to closely monitor the evolution of this complex and still unfolding phenomenon.

As emerging "landscapes of the cluster" (Moretti, 2025), these systems produce **new spatial patterns** and **hybrid interfaces** that challenge conventional **planning tools** and disciplinary boundaries within a new and broader dimension.

This Special Issue of PORTUSplus invites contributions that critically explore port clusters as **complex, adaptive, and spatially embedded systems**, fostering **interdisciplinary dialogue** across architecture, urban planning, geography, and maritime studies.

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Call for Papers 2026

Special Issue *"Landscapes of Port Clusters:
Rethinking Port-City Territories in a Networked Era"*

Guest Editor: *Beatrice MORETTI*

POTENTIAL TOPICS

Spatial and Territorial Configurations of Port Clusters

Governance and Institutional Transformations from Systems to Clusters

Port-City-Territory Interfaces

Infrastructure Networks and Logistics Integration across Scales

Environmental Transitions and Sustainable Port Clusters

Methods and Tools for Spatial Analysis of Port Clusters

Comparative Perspectives and Future Scenarios for Clustered Port-City Regions

PORTUSplus | *Call for Papers 2026* Special Issue *Landscapes of Port Clusters*



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Call for Papers 2026

Special Issue *"Landscapes of Port Clusters:
Rethinking Port-City Territories in a Networked Era"*

Guest Editor: *Beatrice MORETTI*

Promoting the communication and development of scientific research—which plays an increasingly relevant role in contemporary society—PORTUSplus invites scholars and researchers, practitioners and policymakers, experts and other stakeholders to respond to the Call for Papers for the **Special Issue *"Landscapes of Port Clusters: Rethinking Port-City Territories in a Networked Era"***. We welcome the submission of original papers, empirical analyses, case studies, and best practices across the multiple disciplines related to the themes described below.

Submissions should promote the understanding and development of port clusters as new spatial formations and models of governance models for coastal operational areas, offering new perspectives, empirical data or theoretical advancements capable of guiding future policies and practices.

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RETE



Call for *Special Issue*
Waterways Port Cities
Navigating Challenges and
Harnessing Potentials

PORTUS*plus* Journal

Port-City Relationship and Urban Waterfront Redevelopment



TIMELINE *Editorial activities*

FIRST STEP

Call for Papers Promotion
and Submission Process
from **December 2025** to

September 2026

SECOND STEP

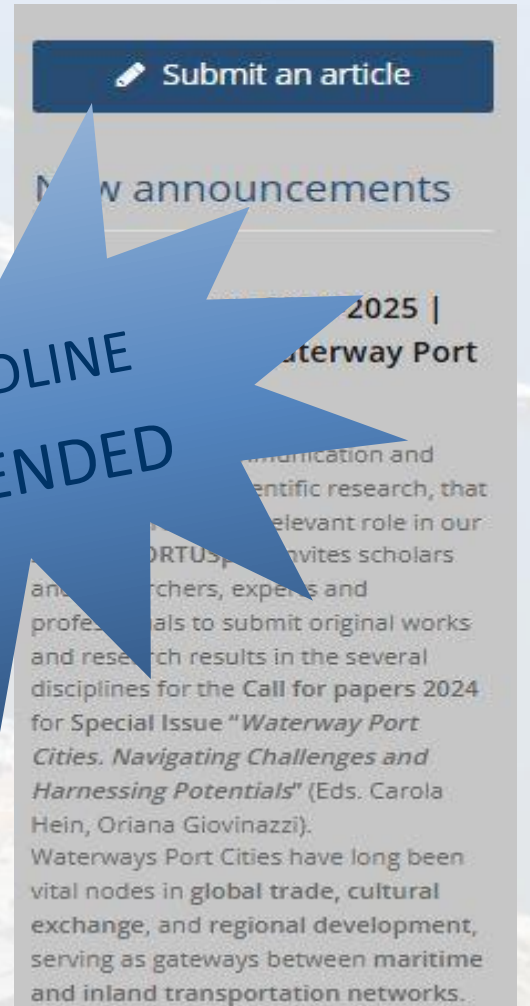
Peer-review Process

LAST STEP

Copyediting and Production
from **September 2026** to

December 2026

DEADLINE
EXTENDED



Call for Papers 2025

Special Issue *"Waterway Port Cities. Navigating Challenges and Harnessing Potentials"*

Guest Editors: *Carola HEIN, Oriana GIOVINAZZI*

PORTUSplus Journal || Special Issue 2025 || *Waterway Port Cities*
RETE Publisher, Venice || ISSN: 2039-6422
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Waterway Port Cities.
Navigating Challenges and Harnessing Potentials

Waterway Port Cities have long been vital nodes in **global trade, cultural exchange,** and **regional development,** serving as gateways between **maritime and inland transportation networks.** These cities are uniquely positioned at the intersection of land and water, which gives them distinct **opportunities and challenges** in the face of 21st-century **transformations.** As the world shifts towards sustainability, synchro-modality in transport, energy transition, and digital innovation, waterway port cities are at the forefront of recent changes. However, they also face significant challenges, including those posed by climate-related extreme events, urban and environmental pressures, **complex governance dynamics.**

This special issue aims to explore the unique characteristics, **potentialities,** and challenges that define waterway port cities. We invite contributions that investigate the **innovative strategies** these cities are adopting to maintain their role as hubs as regard **resilience** and **sustainability,** while addressing the multifaceted challenges they face.

Call for Papers 2025

Special Issue “Waterway Port Cities. Navigating Challenges and Harnessing Potentials”

Guest Editors: *Carola HEIN, Oriana GIOVINAZZI*

POTENTIAL TOPICS

Waterways Port Cities as Economic and Cultural Hubs

The historical and contemporary roles of waterways port cities in regional and global trade. Cultural heritage and identity in port cities: balancing development with preservation along the waterways. The economic impact of waterways port cities on their surrounding regions.

Sustainability in Waterways Port Cities

Strategies for enhancing the environmental sustainability of waterways as regard port operations and urban development. The role of green infrastructure and renewable energy in the system of waterways and inland ports. Sustainable practices in dredging, waste management, and ecosystems preservation along the waterways.

Role of Port Cities in Synchro-Modality and Transport Integration along the Waterways

The role of waterways and ports in multi-modal transport networks: challenges and opportunities. Digital technologies for optimizing transport and logistics in waterway port cities. Successful case studies for the synchro-modal transport implementations in port cities bordering waterways.

Energy Transition and Innovation in Waterways Port Cities

Waterway port cities as pioneers in the global energy transition. Development and integration of alternative energy sources in port infrastructures serving the waterways. Challenges and opportunities in retrofitting port cities for energy efficiency and resilience of the waterway systems.

Call for Papers 2025

Special Issue *"Waterway Port Cities. Navigating Challenges and Harnessing Potentials"*

Guest Editors: *Carola HEIN, Oriana GIOVINAZZI*

POTENTIAL TOPICS

Climate Change and Resilience in Waterways Port Cities

The impact of climate change on port cities and waterway systems: vulnerabilities and adaptive strategies. Urban planning and infrastructure development for climate resilience in port cities along the waterways. The role of nature-based solutions in enhancing the resilience of waterway systems and urban port areas.

Governance and Policies in Waterway Port Cities

Evolving governance structures in port cities as they navigate increasing complexity of waterway regions. Interactions between port authorities, municipalities, and other stakeholders involved in waterway management. The impact of local, national, and international policies on the development of port cities bordering waterways.

Waterway Management and Urban Development Processes

Challenges and opportunities in the redevelopment of waterways and ports. Governance constellations in port city regions: formal and informal actor dynamics in the waterway context. The role of local actor constellations in determining urban and functional spaces in the historic port areas and along the waterways.

Socio-economic Dimensions and Impacts on Local Communities

Relationship between port cities, waterways and hinterlands: economic and social interdependencies. Socio-economic impacts on communities living along waterways produced by port operations and related activities. Waterways and managing social inequalities: inclusive growth and local community engagement.

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Call for Papers 2025

Special Issue *"Waterway Port Cities. Navigating Challenges and Harnessing Potentials"*

Guest Editors: *Carola HEIN, Oriana GIOVINAZZI*

Promoting the communication and development of scientific research that plays an increasingly relevant role in our society, PORTUSplus invites scholars and researchers, practitioners and policymakers, experts and other stakeholders to respond to the Call for Papers for the **Special Issue** *"Waterway Port Cities. Navigating Challenges and Harnessing Potentials"*, submitting original works, research results, case studies and good practices, in the several disciplines inherent to the themes described below.

Submissions should contribute to the understanding and advancement of waterways port cities, providing novel insights, empirical data, or theoretical advancements that can inform future policy and practice.

Thank you!

Scientific Director of PORTUSplus | *Carola HEIN*

Editor in Chief of PORTUSplus | *Oriana GIOVINAZZI*

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