Editors' Note

The Philosophy of the City Research Group celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2023. It was founded as a forum to bring together scholars from different philosophical traditions—as well as those working on inter- or trans-disciplinary topics—who take the city as a topic of inquiry.

Over the last 10 years, this group has organised an annual series of conferences and summer colloquia, in addition to a variety of special issues and edited volumes, all of which have furnished new conceptual foundations, methodological approaches, and practical case studies. And yet, despite the volume and vigour of our scholarly cut and thrust, the Research Group and its community have thus far been without a common venue to have these conversations. A dedicated journal was long overdue. The *Philosophy of the City Journal* is thus born of the need to build on and consolidate this new philosophical tradition, offering a venue for original research into the philosophy of the city.

We conceive of the philosophy of the city as a set of problems without a canon: problems about (but by no means restricted to) the ontology of cities, urban aesthetics, urban technologies, inclusivity, public space, justice, and political expression. In seeking to help answer these problems, philosophers of the city contribute analyses of urbanism, city life, urban planning, urban design, infrastructures, and lots of other things besides. These analyses themselves contribute to our proper understanding and evaluation of cities in their myriad of forms.

These analyses are vital for all kinds of good reasons. Cities are not only places where philosophy happens. They are also, increasingly, the place where most human life happens. As the world continues to urbanise, cities now function as the loci for the social, political, and ecological challenges of the 21st century. There is a need to apply the tools and approaches of philosophical inquiry to the city as both a real and imagined phenomenon, to processes of urbanisation, and to the specific dynamics and challenges of different cities in particular.

As philosophy of the city has become a vibrant and relevant area of study, we envision the *Philosophy of the City Journal* as a space to address these questions. As the editorial team, we hope that contributions will help improve the basic ideas and methods in this field, promote useful conversations among different disciplines and sub-disciplines—not just philosophy!—and see how philosophical ideas can be useful in planning and designing cities.

This issue opens with five contributions that deal, in different ways, with foundational questions about how we should approach the cities and their relationship with philosophy. In the first paper, "Knowing the City", Anna Bloom-Christen argues that walking is the best way to get to know the city; it is an activity that produces both participatory and procedural knowledge of urban places. In his article, "Philosophy of the City and Transdisciplinary Possibilities", Shane Epting explores the possibility of using philosophy of the city in transdisciplinary research, policy, and educational contexts. Johannes Mueller-Salo, in his "Three Ways of Doing Philosophy of the City", offers a account of some of the ways in which philosophers can analyse cities: via urban epistemology, urban normative theory, or applied philosophy of the city. In their "How to Know a City: The Epistemic Value of City Tours" Pilar Lopez-Cantero and Catherine M. Robb give an account of how city tours constitute a valuable epistemological tool for grasping a city. Finally, Alfred Nordmann's "Lost in the City: Lessons in Coordination" argues that learning a city is much like learning a language: they both begin with a distinct form of illiteracy.

The next five contributions take a more applied approach to the philosophical problems posed by cities. Robert Rosenberger's "A Classification Scheme for Hostile Design" sharpens the notion of hostile design as a critical tool and outlines a typology to classify hostile design objects in public space. Gentrification as a political problem is a central topic in Karen Adkins' article "Carving Up Community". According to her, gentrification endangers democratic processes through how it affects the use and formation of public space. Samantha Noll and Tuhina Bhar's "The Five Pillars of Urban Environmental Justice: A Framework for Building Equitable Cities" investigates the central topic of urban justice through the potential social impacts of community changes. Noll and Bhar draw from environmental ethics to carve a framework for more equitable land-use change. With their contribution "Green Areas: How to Avoid the Tragedy of the Commons" Valeria Martino and Gian Vito Zani address various dichotomies around city thinking through the example of green spaces in cities. As Martino and Zani show, these dichotomies have significant implications for the quality of life and sustainability of cities. Finally, David Flood's paper bridges urban aesthetics and postphenomenological philosophy of technology in his article "#kalasatama: Discursive Views of the Helsinki Landscape Through the Virtual Window". In this paper, the new Kalasatama neighbourhood in Helsinki is taken as a case of how urban places are presented in, and mediated through, social media.

The issue concludes with two non-peer-reviewed 'irregulars'. In the first, "The Ethics of Mapping Slums—And How AI Complicates the Picture", Tea Lobo, Isaac Oluoch, and Michael Nagenborg discuss how the use of AI will change the processes of mapping low-income areas in cities. This interview is then followed by an artist's statement by the cover artist for this issue: the Canadian photographer Jesse Colin Jackson. In this account Jackson describes his interest in the apartment building Mackenzie Place and its role in the urban landscape.