

Special section: Spaces of Partition

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Introduction: Spatial Partitions and Spaces of Partition – Planning Perspectives in Historical and Current Views

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The Introduction surveys in brief the phenomenon of spatial partitioning and its physical and functional aspects in a variety of planning cultures, in the light of historical and present developments. Not only is spatial partitioning inseparable from human-settlement morphology since early times, it also reflects much deeper forces that operate on the landscape, embodying social, political and economic hierarchies. Often, lines of partition produce areas and sub-areas at different scales on the physical-territorial level – hence the title of this special section: “spaces of partition”. These areas open the door to understanding the formal and informal forces that interact in space and their dynamics of conflict, while raising some ethical questions. Against this historical background, the introduction also presents the contributions to this special section, with their relevance to planning practice in global discourse and in the Israeli context.

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