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Managing Editor's Letter

Welcome to the first issue of *Opolis: An International Journal of Suburban and Metropolitan Studies*. For too long, suburbs have been as marginal in the academic world as they are in the geographical sprawl of metropolitan areas. They have been a subset of urban studies at a time when the dynamism of urban areas around the world has been at the edge and many of the problems we think of as urban are, in fact, the problems of older, inner-ring suburbs.

The political, economic, social, and environmental issues that confront suburbs today are the focus of this journal. They are also the focus of the Edward J. Blakely Center for Sustainable Suburban Development at the University of California, Riverside, the publisher of the journal and the first academic institute completely centered on suburban issues. Located in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, east of Los Angeles, the center's backyard is one of the fastest growing suburban areas in the world. Its struggles with transportation, air quality, density, resources, the environment, financing, social stability, and the myriad other issues that local jurisdictions confront provide an unrivalled laboratory for suburban issues.

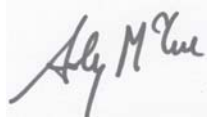
As an international journal, *Opolis* will seek to touch on these issues worldwide, and we hope to find contributors and subscribers internationally.

While the journal will be on the web at <http://repositories.cdlib.org/cssd/opolis/>, you also may wish to subscribe. Please contact the Center for Sustainable Suburban Development.

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Subscribers in Asia, please contact Rebecca Mann, University of Sydney, Faculty of Architecture, Wilkinson Building, G04, Sydney NSW 2006, Australia. Her phone number is 612 9351-3975, and her email is Rebecca@arch.usyd.edu.au.

Whether you subscribe or read on the web, I think you will find *Opolis* a provocative source of data and ideas. Please feel free to offer any comments you might have. We'll be looking to improve the journal with each issue.



Thanks,
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