

***“Spatial Planning and Social Justice: the paradox of regional decentralization and its impact on the region of Aysén (Chilean Patagonia)”***

**ABSTRACT**

The following research focuses on the problem of the spatial planning model implemented in Chile –through top-down strategies– during the last forty years, where decentralization has become an almost unreachable task. The concentration of decision-making processes in the central government, and the increasing social and economic inequalities between the fourteen regions and the metropolis of Santiago, have led to a wave of social movements from north to south of the country. The specific case of the social movement of Aysén represented a wake-up call for society, where citizens achieved to organize themselves and demand the integration of their own opinions in decision-making processes in what concerns the territory they inhabit. This movement claimed for the vindication of Aysén as a historically forgotten region by the central government. In other words, the latter calls for spatial justice and recognition of its particularities as a peripheral region.

**Key words: spatial planning, regionalisation, decentralisation, spatial justice, social movement, Chilean Patagonia.**