CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN URBAN GREEN SPACES

Re-thinking the Green Urban Commons

PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

eco-union

PROGRESS

Professional training program on urban green space management

European exchange program for professionals and actors of the environment on the management of urban green spaces

May 8-12, 2017

Barcelona, Spain

Invited organizations:

This project has been funded with the support of the European Commission

Erasmus+

Project Partners

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Course objectives and approach

The **Citizen Participation in Green Urban Spaces** course introduces urban green space professionals to experiences, practices and methodologies for citizen participation in urban green space creation and management. Addressing both top-down and bottom-up approaches as social innovation theory and practice, this week-long training uses a blended methodology, combining master classes, technical visits and hands-on problem resolution in interdisciplinary working groups.

Target audience
Civic environmental officers, landscape designers, architects, environmental engineers, green space design and management professionals, and students.

Class size: 35 participants

Course language: English

Local academic partners: Barcelona Laboratory for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability (BCNUEJ at ICTA-UAB), Public Governance Institute of Barcelona Autonomous University (IGOP), Pla Estel*

Training approach
Critical: exploring theory and approaches via interdisciplinary trainers

Practice-oriented: using diagnosis techniques and design solutions

Strong global-local vision: exposure to relevant and diverse case studies & deeper insight into a particular urban reality (Barcelona)

Place-making focus: delving into a field case study accompanied by academics and local experts

Solutions focus: engaging in working group sessions for multidisciplinary solution building

Course Organizer: Eco-Union – Barcelona, Spain
Eco-Union is an independent, not-for-profit association works to catalyse the transition to sustainability by creating and connecting individual and organizational change agents across various sectors of society through capacity building and advocacy. Eco-Union aims to be a reference institution in the transformation of society towards environmental sustainability. Its ultimate goal is to ensure the well-being of present and future generations through sustainable development.

Full Week Schedule

The venue opens at 9:00 each morning. Please arrive early enough to be ready at the session start times.

Monday - Day 1 - The Commons and Participative Democracy		
09:30-10:00	**Welcome Coffee and Registration**	Torre Jussana
10:00-11:00	**Course Introduction by Eco-Union and PROGRESS Partners**	Torre Jussana
11:00-13:30	**Participative Governance & Social Innovation**	Torre Jussana
13:30-14:30	**Lunch**	On-site option (€)
14:30-16:00	**The Commons: Participative approaches in green urban spaces**	Torre Jussana
16:00-18:00	**Technical visit: Espais Buits – Espai Germanetes**	Carrer del Consell de Cent & Carrer de Viladomat

Tuesday - Day 2 - Green Urban Policies and Socio-Environmental Issues		
9:30-13:00	**Green Urban Space Inequalities: Approaches, issues and examples**	Torre Jussana
13:00-14:00	**Lunch**	On-site option (€)
14:00-16:00	**Technical Visit: Jardins de la Rambla de Sants**	Across the street from Plaça de Sants

Wednesday - Day 3 - Socio-Spatial Diagnosis – Working Groups		
09:30-11:00	**Case Study Introduction: The Superblocks Model**	Torre Jussana
11:30-13:00	**Socio-Spatial Skill-Building Workshop**	Torre Jussana
13:00-14:00	**Lunch**	On-site option (€)
14:00-17:30	**Technical Visit: *Superilla Poblenou***	Plaza Dolors Piera in Sant Marti

Thursday - Day 4 - Place-Making – Working Groups		
10:00-13:00	**Studio: Inclusive design of green public spaces**	Centre Cívic Convent de Sant Agustí (Carrer del Comerç, 36)
13:00-14:00	**Lunch**	In the area (€)
14:00-17:00	**Studio: Inclusive design of green public spaces**	C. C. Convent de Sant Agustí

Friday - Day 5 - Presentations and Closing		
10:00-11:00	**Presentation preparation time**	Torre Jussana
11:00-12:00	**Group presentations**	Torre Jussana
12:00-13:00	**Workshop debrief and diploma presentation**	Torre Jussana
13:00-14:00	**Closing Lunch**	Torre Jussana
14:00-18:00	**Optional: Tour of Can Masdeu (at Collserola Natural Park)**	Collserola Park

Day 1 - The Commons and Participative Democracy

The first day of training will focus on citizen participation approaches, social innovation and participative governance. This session is designed and delivered by the Public Governance Institute of Barcelona Autonomous University (IGOP).

11:00-13:30 | Participative Governance & Social Innovation

Morning session by Dr. Marc Parés (IGOP)

Participative democracy

Governance, understood as the creation of a structure of governing resulting from the interaction of a multiplicity of influencing actors (Kooiman, 2003), concerns itself with specific forms of social life regulation in which boundaries between and within public and private sectors have become blurred (Stoker, 1998). Consequently, governance is by definition a hybrid mode of social life regulation where multiple actors and different spheres (state, economy and society) are engaged. However, after more than two decades of governance research, we have learned that there is no one single, but different modes of governance, departing from different values, responding to different ideological persuasions and resulting in different outputs and outcomes (Bevir, 2010; Kooiman, 2003; Parés, 2009; Pierre, 1999). Participative governance, thus, is a specific mode of governance aiming to engage citizens in social life regulation.

Given the proliferation of variegated forms of collaboration between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in cities during the last decades, research and theory on governance networks has been especially relevant in Urban Studies. Empirical studies of urban governance have proliferated, particularly those exploring public and third sector collaboration (Parés, Marti-Costa and Blanco 2014; Davies and Pill 2012; Durose and Lowndes 2010). In this vein, Ansell and Gash (2008) argued that by the turn of the century 'collaborative governance' had emerged as a new form replacing adversarial and managerial forms of policy making.

Although different perspectives have been used to analyze local governance under neoliberalism (Guarneros-Meza & Geddes, 2010; Lowndes & Sullivan, 2008), Geddes' (2008) review demonstrated that despite diversity in form, purpose and discourse; 'collaborative governance' was becoming hegemonic across European cities before the Great Recession (see also Davies 2011). However, several commentators have argued that the onset of austerity policies since the financial crash has dampened the former enthusiasm for network governance, as local governments across Europe have sought to rationalize their interactions with citizens (Davies & Pill, 2012; Durose & Rees, 2012). On the other hand, the former collaborative mechanisms characterized by 'participation-by-invitation' started to be challenged and/or replaced by innovative forms of 'participation-by-mobilization' (Bonet-Martí, 2014). Undoubtedly, new discourses, strategies and approaches to urban governance are emerging from below, especially since 2011, when insurrectional urban interventions became a recurrent motif of many political protests worldwide, as well as in Spain (Subirats & Martí-Costa, 2015). Hence, collaborative urban governance seems to be challenged not only by austerity politics but also by alternative, innovative and/or insurgent forms of political participation.

Social innovation

Evidence in many places around the world suggests that citizens are, increasingly, self-organizing to produce innovative solutions as they face the collective problems that governments are failing to solve in a context of scarcity and austerity policies. Some of these responses are socially innovative initiatives. They are social in their roots – growing from societal actors like social movements, the third sector, the non-profit world, and grassroots

organizations – and also social in their goals, which aim to address unmet social needs. They are innovative because they constitute alternatives to the hegemonic solutions provided by governments and markets. Hence, social innovation is not found within the workings of government or markets, although it may be significantly related to both. While innovative, such initiatives are not necessarily entirely new, and they should be understood in the context of historical and geographical processes of collective action.

We define social innovation as a complex process of the introduction of novel solutions to face social problems – ideas, products, services or models – that profoundly change the basic routines, beliefs or resource and authority flows of the social system in which they occur (Westley & Antadze, 2010). These solutions are introduced by citizens and civil society actors that find no adequate solutions in the private market or in macro-level welfare policies (Oosterlynck, Kazepov, Wukovitsch, Sarius, & Leubolt, 2013). The aim of such initiatives is to satisfy alienated social needs, to empower citizens and to transform social and power relationships (Moulaert, MacCallum, Mehmood, & Hamdouch, 2013).

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14:30-16:00 | The Commons: Participative approaches in green urban spaces

Afternoon session by Mara Ferreri (IGOP)

The commons and urban public spaces

In contemporary cities, collaborative greening projects have become a favoured format for the temporary use of vacant spaces. The open public encounters generated through such projects have been described as instances of guerrilla urbanism, capable of producing short- and long-term urban transformations, as well as different ´texture of experience´ in cities. This session will introduce ways of understanding urban commons in relation to green spaces and their "publicness" to reflect on established understandings of urban public spaces and "publicness" as imagined and produced. Drawing on critical debates in urban geography and architecture, the session will examine how everyday dimensions of engagement with vacant spaces through forms of collective gardening can be potentially challenging and can expand on existing spatial dynamics, having a much wider impact in terms of local participative approaches to the urban.

Citizen participation approaches and the question of temporariness

Practitioners and researchers have highlighted how green spaces can be understood as examples of 'actually existing commons' in contemporary cities. Such spaces require critical attention to both frameworks of use and to the existence of a community or collective responsible for such use and for managing wider participation. The session will argue that practices of green commoning need to be critically understood both in terms of the social, economic and policy conditions under which such practices are established and developed, and in terms of participation and access, particularly in contexts of 'austerity urbanism' (Tonkiss, 2013). Examples from the United Kingdom and France will be offered as illustrations of a range of critical issues that need to be addressed when looking at participation in urban commoning practice through temporary green projects.

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16:00-18:00 | Technical visit: Espais Buits – Espai Germanetes

Location: intersection of Carrer del Consell de Cent & Carrer de Viladomat – see map link

Espai Germanetes is a community-operated project on the former site of a convent in the Esquerra de l'Eixample neighbourhood. Still undeveloped years after its 2006 acquisition by the City, the site attained its new purpose through the emergence of a citizen initiative, *Recreant Cruïlles*, in 2011. The initiative, born as a working group within the established local neighbourhood association, supports resident demands for much needed public and green space in the area. Hosting celebrations, workshops, public art activities, protests and pedestrianization events, the space is a non-commercial, public space, open to all.

Initiated in 2012, the municipally-run Pla BUITS contest seeks out proposals by public or non-profit community groups for the provisional activation and revitalization of unused land in the city. Now in its second edition, the contest has selected projects based on their incorporation of the public interest and civil society in activities that are highly impactful, have a temporary physical setup, and are self-sustaining. Espai Germanetes is one of the spaces recognized by the Pla BUITS program.

Reading references:

Espai Germanetes/Recreant Cruïlles:
https://recreantcruilles.wordpress.com/espai-germanetes/

http://bcncomuns.net/es/cpt/germanetesrecreant-cruilles-2/

Pla BUITS:
http://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/ecologiaurbana/ca/pla-buits

Day 1 Presenters

Dr. Marc Parés – Coordinator, Research Group on Urban Governance, Commons, Internet and Social Innovation (IGOP)

Marc Parés is a geographer and political scientist leading the Research Group on Urban Governance, Commons, Internet and Social Innovation at the Institute for Government and Public Policies (IGOP) – Autonomous University of Barcelona (Spain). He also teaches as Lecturer at the Geography Department.

From 2014 to 2016 he had a Marie Curie Fellowship, being Visiting Scholar at the NYU Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service (USA) and the KU Leuven Planning and Development Unit (Belgium). He has also been a postdoctoral researcher in the School of Environment and Development at the University of Manchester (UK). He has a Ph.D., a MSc and a BSc in Environmental Sciences from the Autonomous University of Barcelona and a BA in Political Sciences from the same university.

His research has been focused on the fields of Urban Governance, Citizen Participation, Urban Political Ecology, Environmental Management and Social Innovation. He has published in journals like Urban Studies, Urban Affairs Review, European Planning Studies, Journal of Urban Affairs or the International Journal of Urban and Regional Research. In 2009 he edited the book 'Participation and Democratic Quality: assessing new forms of participatory democracy', published by Ariel. He is co-author of the book "Social Innovation and Democratic Leadership: Communities and Social Change from Below", recently published by Edward Elgar Publishing.

Dr. Mara Ferreri – Postdoctoral Researcher, Public Governance Institute of Barcelona Autonomous University (IGOP)

Mara is a postdoctoral researcher working at the intersection of urban, cultural and political geography. In 2013, she received her PhD in Geography from Queen Mary University of London with a thesis on the politics of temporary use of vacant spaces. Her research interests include temporary urbanism, precariousness, gentrification, self-organisation and movements for housing justice. Her work has been published in several international journals (such as Transactions of the IBG, Cities, Ephemera) and edited volumes, including Space, Power and the Commons

(Routledge, 2016) and Cities Interrupted: Visual Cultures and Urban Space (Bloomsbury, 2016). She is the author of the book Notes from the Temporary City (public works, 2016), with Andreas Lang. Before coming to IGOP, she held teaching and research positions in Geography and Social Research Methods at Queen Mary University of London, the London School of Economics and Durham University.
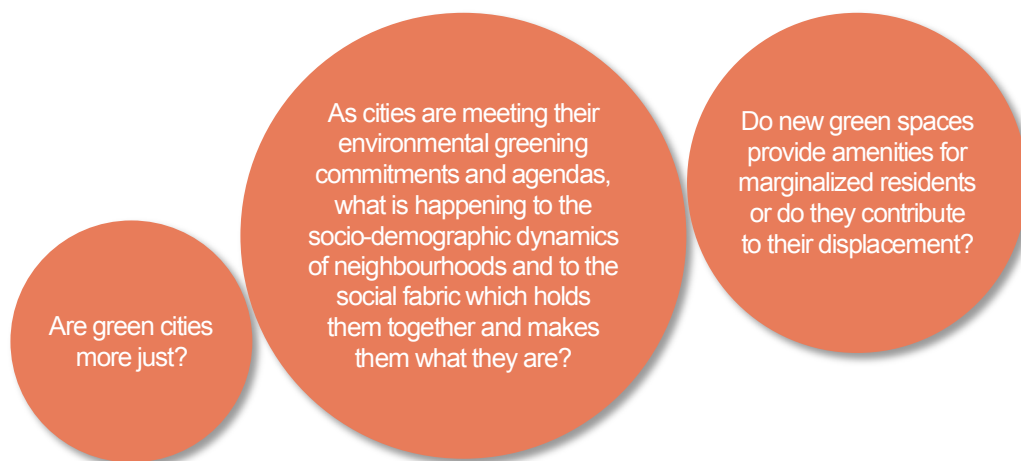
Day 2 – Green Urban Policies and Socio-Environmental Issues

This day will introduce the relationship between green urban space creation and urban social issues and dynamics. The concepts of green gentrification, (in)equitable access to green and healthy amenities, and community place-making will be introduced through Barcelona and international case studies. Session designed and delivered by the Barcelona Laboratory for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability (BCNUEJ) at the Environmental Science & Technology Institute (ICTA), Barcelona Autonomous University (UAB).

09:30-13:00 | Green Urban Space Inequalities: Approaches, issues and examples

Morning session by Dr. Isabelle Anguelovski and Dr. Helen Cole (BCNUEJ-ICTA)

This session will pose challenging questions to urban sustainability professionals and designers of the green city:

Are green cities more just?

As cities are meeting their environmental greening commitments and agendas, what is happening to the socio-demographic dynamics of neighbourhoods and to the social fabric which holds them together and makes them what they are?

Do new green spaces provide amenities for marginalized residents or do they contribute to their displacement?

The benefits and attractiveness of urban green space

Urban green spaces provide substantial ecological, health, and economic benefits that improve the quality of life for city residents. Within Barcelona, for example, researchers found that urban forests, urban gardens, rivers, and wetlands provide essential ecosystem services benefiting residents and future generations in a multitude of forms (Moreno-Garcia, 1994; Martin-Vide, 1999; Baro et al., 2014; Camps-Calvet et al., 2016). Recent studies focused on Barcelona and Catalonia also found that higher green space exposure in the local context is associated with lower likelihood of poor health, including several indicators of mental health (Davdand et al., 2015; Triguero-Mas et al., 2015; Gascon et al., 2016; Mueller, 2016). Abundant and high quality green spaces in Barcelona also strengthen the identity of an area as an attractive and desirable place to work, live, and visit with upward effects on local economies and real estate values (Anguelovski, 2015; Anguelovski et al., 2017).

While the multiple values of urban green spaces are indisputable, experiences in cities throughout the world show that the targeted benefits of green space creation are often unevenly distributed (Pearsall, 2008). In some cases, wealthier and whiter neighbourhoods are those with the largest, best maintained, and/or most easily accessible green spaces (Wolch et al., 2005; Boone et al., 2009;). As a result, the creation or restoration of green amenities in cities may not be accompanied by an improvement in quality of life for all citizens (Gould et al., 2012; Goodling, Green & McClintock, 2015; Wolch et al., 2014; Curran & Hamilton, 2012; Checker, 2011). Furthermore, greening programs may sometimes become part of processes that make historically disadvantaged residents vulnerable to displacement through what has come to be known known as "green gentrification" (Dooling 2009). Given that municipal greening program managers generally do not intend to expand social inequities or vulnerabilities, it is essential for all cities to examine the social effects of their greening agendas as they build these programs.

Defining and identifying green gentrification

All gentrification trends embody essentially the same challenge. When a place that had been perceived as undesirable by those in the middle or higher end of the housing market becomes attractive for any number of reasons (e.g. global real estate pressures, reduction in crime, physical upgrades, proximity to cultural centres or jobs), affluent or middle-class buyers and investors may begin to see opportunity in that place. Once a critical mass of such buyers purchase property as an investment or a means of improving their own quality of life, the perception of a "rent gap" in the area expands and more buyers are attracted. The result is that existing lower-income residents are displaced due to a rapid rise from historic rental and sale prices and a swift socio-cultural transition in the neighbourhood (Smith, 1996). Ironically, the neighbourhood "trendiness" that often accompanies this process goes against the preferences of most existing residents and gentrifiers alike.

Most recently, a new body of research examines how urban sustainability planning and processes of city re-naturing are incorporated into public-private redevelopment strategies that intensify gentrification processes. This research demonstrates how green infrastructure serves as a catalyst for gentrification, and how the sustainability framework both facilitates and conceals this process. The literature, which is currently mostly situated in the United States and Canada, conceptualizes this phenomenon as green gentrification (Gould et al., 2009), ecological gentrification (Dooling, 2009), and environmental gentrification (Pearsall, 2010; Checker, 2011; Curran et al., 2012; for one of the few cases to date outside of North America see Sandberg, 2014). Gould and Lewis (2012, p.121) define green gentrification as the "urban gentrification processes that are facilitated in large part by the creation or restoration of an environmental amenity." Scholars

in this area seek to understand how lower income and non-white populations are systematically denied access to the benefits of urban greening such as improved health and higher quality of life.

Despite the commitment from cities to address past inequities, the creation of urban green amenities in low-income areas generates a green space paradox. Neighbourhood-scale case studies thus far indicate that the greater the number, size, and quality of urban green spaces in an area in transition, the more attractive and desirable it tends to become, thus favouring the displacement of minority groups toward unwanted (and likely less green) areas (Pearsall, 2009; Checker, 2011; Curran & Hamilton, 2012; Gould et al., 2012; Dooling, 2009; Goodling et al., 2015). In these cases, the green amenities were touted by real estate developers, public agencies, and local politicians as competitive advantages, placing the environmental and economic benefits of greening in tension with its social and health benefits.

Green gentrification trends in Barcelona

In order to understand whether the distribution of new environmental amenities became more or less equitable as Barcelona implemented its greening agenda, we examined how housing and population trends changed over time near 18 new parks built in the northeastern half of the city since 1992. We identified whether areas near parks experienced above normal changes by comparing the trends across five Barcelona-specific gentrification indicators within 500 meters of the new parks to trends experienced in the overall districts in which the parks are located. As indicators, we examined: population with a bachelor's degree or higher; elderly population living alone; percent of immigrants from the Global North; home values; and income.
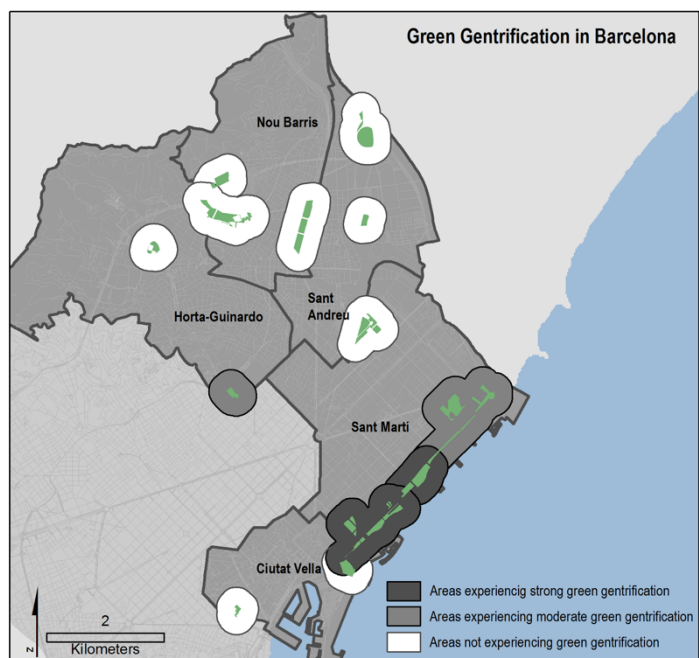

Figure 1: Summary results for Barcelona

Using these indicators, we find that several parks in the Sant Martí district as well as the Cascades Park (Ciutat Vella district) experienced strong environmental gentrification. These parks were built in a time of significant urban revitalization associated with the 1992 Olympic Games. In addition, other parks in the Sant Martí district built at different times including the Diagonal Mar, Auditoris, and Garcia Fària Lineal experienced moderate environmental gentrification along with the Princep de Girona Garden in the southern area of the Horta-Guinardó district. All other parks located in the northwestern zone of Barcelona and in parts of the Ciutat Vella district did not produce green greentrification trends according to our results. This indicates that the impacts of park creation in socially vulnerable neighbourhoods depend on their context of creation, setting, and overall built environment. In Barcelona, it seems that green gentrification has occurred in parks located in more desirable neighbourhoods such as the old industrial (and waterfront) areas within the Sant Martí and Ciutat Vella districts or in the southern area of Horta-Guinardó. For parks located in extremely dense distressed neighbourhoods such as the Raval in Ciutat Vella (which also

tend to be much smaller parks), or in neighbourhoods with a semi-old building stock associated with late dictatorship or early transition projects, green gentrification appears to not have taken place.

The next steps are to examine how green amenities can be introduced to redeveloping districts like Sant Martí and Ciutat Vella without making them instruments for gentrification. This will require finding the right mix of political, institutional, activist, and technological solutions for urban greening.

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Wolch, Jennifer R., Byrne, Jason, & Newell, Joshua P. (2014). Urban green space, public health, and environmental justice: The challenge of making cities 'just green enough'. Landscape and Urban Planning, 125, 234–244.

14:00-16:00 | Technical Visit: Jardins de la Rambla de Sants

Location: across the Carrer de Sants from Plaça de Sants, Montjuïc District – see map link

After more than a decade of preparation, contention and construction, the Jardins de la Rambla de Sants opened in the summer of 2016 as a nearly 800-meter raised 'rambla' hovering over a corridor of railway lines that cuts through the neighbourhood. The linear arrangement of playgrounds, paths, and gardens with 160 trees and 85.000 native plants covers 20.000 square meters and is largely situated at the second- or third- floor level of the surrounding buildings.

Figure 2: Image of the elevated Rambla de Sants by Adria Goula.

Already an attraction among out-of-towners and locals, the elevated 'rambla' offers views of the surrounding neighbourhood, but while its vegetation is still in the developing stages, pedestrians on the linear parkway have an uncomfortably close view of adjacent residential apartments, which lie, at times only three or four meters from the promenade.

Predictions of its effects on the neighbourhood and its further development include everything from an eventual 5-km extension of the concept to serious doubts about its capacity to generate traffic for the businesses along the streets below. The completion of the Jardins de la Rambla de Sants as it is currently planned will involve the further negotiated displacement of families and businesses; some buildings which lie in the way of completion, most notably the squatted social center, *Can Vies* have so far successfully protested their displacement and erasure.

Reading references:

Newspaper article on the opening of the elevated 'rambla':
http://www.elperiodico.com/es/noticias/barcelona/asi-nuevo-jardin-elevado-barcelona-sants-5331240

Design blog entry on the Rambla de Sants:
http://www.designboom.com/architecture/jardins-de-la-rambla-de-sants-elevated-park-above-railway-lines-barcelona-11-23-2016/

Initial critiques on the effects on neighbor privacy and well-being:
http://www.lavanguardia.com/local/barcelona/20160822/404127352981/rambla-sants-vecinos-intimidad-distancia-balcones.html

http://lameva.barcelona.cat/bcnmetropolis/en/entrevista/isabelle-anguelovski-inversors-poderosos-shan-apropiat-de-lagenda-ecologica/

Day 2 Presenters

Dr. Isabelle Anguelovski – Director, Barcelona Laboratory for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability (BCNUEJ)

Isabelle obtained a PhD in Urban Studies and Planning from MIT before returning to Europe in 2011 with a Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowship. Situated at the intersection of urban planning and policy, social inequality and development studies, her research examines the extent to which urban plans and policy decisions contribute to more just, resilient, healthy, and sustainable cities, and how community groups in distressed neighbourhoods contest the existence, creation, or exacerbation of environmental inequities as a result of urban (re)development processes and policies. She is also a Senior Researcher and Principal Investigator at the Environmental Science & Technology Institute (ICTA), Barcelona Autonomous University (UAB) and coordinator of the research group Healthy Cities and Environmental Justice at Institut Hospital del Mar d'Investigacions Mèdiques (IMIM).

Dr. Helen Cole – Postdoctoral Researcher, Barcelona Laboratory for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability (BCNUEJ)

Helen holds a Doctorate in Public Health from the City University of New York Graduate Center, an MPH in Health Behavior and Health Education and Certificate in Global Health from the University of North Carolina, and a BA in Psychology from the University of Arkansas. Bridging the fields of public health, urban planning and environmental justice, her research aims to reveal the implications of socioeconomic status, race, and ethnicity in health inequities and how they relate to gentrification associated with urban greening.

Day 3 – Socio-Spatial Diagnosis – Working Groups

Today's focus is on tools for socio-environmental diagnosis in the planning and management of green urban spaces. The Barcelona *Superilles* (Superblocks) project will be presented by BCNecologia (the Urban Ecology Agency of Barcelona) as your case study for the team-based socio-spatial design project. The sessions today will be hosted by Eco-Union and the architecture/sociology initiative, Pla Estel* - an independent organization specializing in participative urbanism.

09:30-11:00 | Case Study Introduction: The *Superilles* Model

Presentation of the working group case study by BCNecologia

> **This is the case study for which you will work in groups to propose socio-spatial and participatory models for the future design and implementation of the Superilles (Superblocks) project at the Poblenou site. This session is your opportunity to ask any clarifying questions of BCNecologia about the Superblocks concept.**
>
> **You will be organized in multidisciplinary working groups in this session and you will prepare for and conduct your on-site diagnosis of the Superilla Poblenou. You will continue working in the same groups on Thursday and on Friday morning to present your findings and solutions to the rest of the group and PROGRESS project partners.**

The Barcelona *Superilles* (Superblocks) have received attention in media outlets around the world, for the project's bold step toward transforming a current, automobile-centric urban fabric into one that prioritizes pedestrians, residents, and the active/nature-oriented/communal use of space in the public realm.

The vision for the Superblocks model is one where public space becomes an extension of residents' living quarters and is a shared domain, hosting areas for play, green spaces, and celebrations of the history and local life of the neighbourhood. The regrouping of street blocks within Barcelona's traditional street grid is intended to create such spaces and to encourage social interaction and cohesion.

Figure 3: Superblock traffic circulation and transit considerations

Reading references:

City of Barcelona *Superilles* (Superblocks) Project:
http://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/superilles/ca

http://www.slideshare.net/Barcelona_cat/mesura-de-govern-oomplim-de-vida-els-carrers-lla-implantaci-de-les-superilles

Guardian article, "Superblocks to the rescue: Barcelona's plan to give streets back to residents":
https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/may/17/superblocks-rescue-barcelona-spain-plan-give-streets-back-residents

11:30-13:00 | Socio-Spatial Skill-Building Workshop

Afternoon session by Arnau Boix and Konstantina Chrysostomou (Pla Estel*)

The workshop

Pla Estel* will lead the group in a reflection on how, as designers, we can use collaborative diagnosis to approach a public space where we intend to intervene. Tools for social perception analysis and information gathering in the public realm will be given, as well as case studies involving diverse degrees of citizen engagement and ultimately successful public space improvements.

The workshop will explore the limits of participatory democracy in terms of the planning and management of green urban spaces: how collaborative diagnosis and co-design of the public realm can improve quality of life, support urban maintenance, and build local networks and agreements on future developments; how cartographies arise as a shared language between citizens and administrations, allowing both ends to pose their own questions, put forth proposals and establish common ground. A number of questions will be considered:

What tools do we have to scale citizen participation on a metropolitan level?

How is continuous citizen engagement maintained on long-term transformation or planning processes?

Can participation raise awareness of environmental justice and choice consequences?

How can participation foster a sense of ownership of the care of the environment?

Is it possible/useful to join metropolitan technocrats and citizen leadership on public realm design efforts?

Universal design and previous forms of public space imaginaries

Top-down, uni-dimensional traditions in public space planning have neglected the complex relationships between nature and urban forms, and the impermeability between the two. Similarly, expert-led design processes have often neglected to incorporate the richness and complexity of human diversity. The consequences of this inattentiveness have manifested in the form of physical barriers for people with disabilities and in various forms of social exclusion, by limiting the range of activities and purposes designated for a space.

Static and One-dimension Design

Dynamic and Peirherical Design

Urban phenomenology

Pla Estel* takes a different approach, which, through its embrace of complexity, encourages urban spaces that allow a maximum diversity of experiences to be generated via the activities designed for a space. The quality and the potential of urban public life is
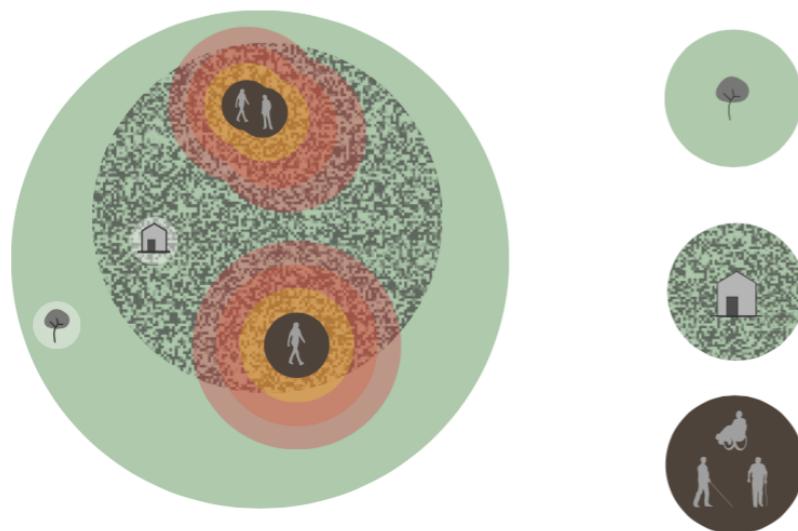
heightened with the introduction of spaces that enable the perceptive, corporal, and mental spheres of human activity and which also integrate the natural with the urban.
However, public places should be seen as an essential support for a healthy society and not as an architectural leftover (Pertz, 2015). The architectural preservation and environmental protection of a neighbourhood space can happen successfully only if they are complemented by a strong community process that occurs as an extension of a sense of personal responsibility toward the collective space. Evidence of the importance of good quality public spaces can be seen in every aspect of public life, but in particular, their presence influences positively the democratic life of the city (Gehl, 2011).

The current climate of social cutbacks and economic austerity in many cities makes it necessary to rethink urban transformation processes and, above all, to focus once again on people and their experiences as the main characters in these processes, so that neighbours, once just passive users of the space, become its main actors.

Civic engagement in green space conceptualization
Civic engagement strengthens and empowers the interaction between the citizenry and formal institutions, helping amplify the voices of local residents so that the design of green spaces in their neighbourhoods becomes more likely to be conducted both with and for them. The process of participatory urbanism strengthens social learning and agency, transforming citizens from users into actors of the public space.

The construction of the engagement process must take into account the possibility of various level of engagement and knowledge among participants and it needs to be designed so as to maximize collective learning by adapting to individual abilities and expertise. The pedagogy of participation should thus be able to serve people of different ages, genders and political views. In this way residents become informed and able to develop joint priorities for the space they live and work in, leading to meaningful and creative agreements.

Accesibility, Universal Design and Urban Phenomenology

The exercise of collective power in reshaping the process of urbanization – the joint analysis, design and construction of the public realm - bolsters urban resilience in the short and long term. Through a redistribution of the power and agency inherent in the production of public space, the resident communities, the institutions, the businesses and the natural systems within a neighbourhood strengthen their capacity to survive, adapt and grow in the face of stress and change. (100 Resilient Cities, 2016)

Collaborative socio-spatial diagnosis

A collaborative, shared diagnosis of the public realm develops as a result of the overlapping visions of technicians, political-administrative representatives and citizens. This vision arises from a gradual process of collaborative problem definition, design, and implementation, so that trust is built and all groups involved engage in respectful and constructive exchanges. For various stakeholders in the collaborative process, this implies different commitments: for the community member or local resident, it means being willing to engage in and devote time to a process of developing priorities for a place; for the urban designer, architect, or official, it means being willing to work for the community, instead of assuming control of the design process from the top down.

Understanding community context involves listening to the needs of residents – from both its highly vocal and its most vulnerable groups - and appreciating the effects of past and current social injustices on members who are invisibilized or otherwise ignored by existing social or state structures. Meaningful inclusion in public space production gives often-ignored neighbourhood residents the opportunity to be involved in the process as respected and equal partners.

Reading references:

Appleyard, D. (1981), Livable Streets, University of California Press, p. 1

Gehl, J. (2011) Life between buildings: Using public space, Island Press, p. 23-31

Gehl, J. & Svarre, B. (2013) How to study Public Life, Island Press

Hayden, D. (1997) The Power of Place: Urban Landscapes as Public History, Massachusetts: MIT Press

Jacobs J., (1961) The Death and Life of Great American Cities, Random House, New York

Madanipour A., Knierbein S., Degros A., (2014) Public Space and the Challenges of Urban Transformation in Europe, Routledge, New York

Perry, F. (2016), Right to the city: can this growing social movement win over city officials?, retrieved from: https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/apr/19/right-city-social-movement-transforming-urban-space

Pertz, S. (2017, March), Stuart Pertz: In conversation [soundcloud], Project for Public Spaces, retrieved from https://soundcloud.com/project-for-public-spaces/stuart-pertz-in-conversation

Randolph T. Hester (2010) Design for ecological democracy, MIT press

Tonucci, F. (2016, March), City to City Barcelona FAD awards 2016, retrieved from: https://www.fad.cat

UNESCO Regional Bureau Beirut (2011) Arab Youth : Civic Engagement & Economic Participation, UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States – Beirut

100 Resilient Cities (2017, March), What is Urban Resilience, retrieved from http://www.100resilientcities.org/

14:00-17:30 | Technical Visit – *Superilla Poblenou*

Location: the Placa Dolors Piera in the centre of the Poblenou Superblock, Sant Martí District – see map link

The first of the Superilles (Superblocks) in Barcelona was piloted in September of 2016. The Sant Marti district saw nine blocks in the Poblenou neighbourhood converted into a "Superblock", for which long-term goals have been set in terms of traffic calming, pedestrianization, improved cycling amenities, increased green space, and air pollution and noise reduction. The installation of the pilot project, however, was done on a temporary basis, to test impacts on mobility and to adjust the final design of the Superblock after consultation with residents, neighbourhood councils, and other key local organizations. More than two hundred architecture students have also been invited to submit proposals for the spaces in question.

Figure 4 The Poblenou Superblock is bordered by the streets Badajoz, Pallars, Llacuna, and Tanger

Next steps for the Superilla Poblenou include street painting and the addition of street furniture and street trees in motor-vehicle-reduced sections of the area by Spring 2017. These changes are meant to facilitate interaction, be welcoming to children, and to prepare spaces for eventual activities such as picnics, literary tours, performances, markets, games of chess and table tennis, and sports activities. Later developments include the redevelopment of the Dolores Piera and Isabel Vila squares, with adaptable green space and municipal housing planned as part of the upgrades.

Reactions to the pilot project in Poblenou have been mixed; changes in the direction and movement of traffic have affected users of cars, buses and bicycles leaving some residents dissatisfied with the loss of street parking and relocation of bus stops, while others have welcomed the improvements in air quality, increased activity, and recuperation of the street for pedestrians and cyclists. Others have generally questioned the rushed nature in which the pilot was carried out and the apparently limited time taken for planning.

Reading References:

City of Barcelona plans for the Poblenou Superblock:
http://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/superilles/ca/superilla/sant-marti
Newspaper articles on the opening of the pilot and mixed reaction of residents:
http://www.elperiodico.com/es/noticias/mas-barcelona/superilla-del-poblenou-una-realidad-5361399
http://www.elperiodico.com/es/noticias/barcelona/experimento-superilla-poblenou-provoca-debate-divide-vecinos-5375063

Day 3 Presenters

Cynthia Echave (BCNecologia)

Cynthia Echave is the Area Coordinator for Urban Planning and Public Space. She holds a PhD in Architecture, with a specialization in Energy and Environment from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia (February 2007). She has been responsible of the coordination of Superblocks implementation projects for several cities and also achieves a wide experience leading projects with different scopes such as mobility plans, public space, greening strategies, and ecological urbanism. Her excellent abilities in the approach of methodologies that encourage conceptual framework complement her proven experience in managing projects. She participated in books edited by BCNecology: "Ecosystemic Urbanism Certification" (2012); "Ecological Urbanism. Its application to the design of an eco-neighborhood in Figueres" (2011) and "Barcelona, ciutat mediterrània, compacta i complexa. Una visió de future més sostenible"(2007). She participates in academic seminars and is lecturer at several venues and international conferences.

Arnau Boix (Pla Estel)*

Arnau Boix is an architect, a designer, with the strong belief that the result of his job needs to improve people's quality of life. His focus is on the relation between human beings and the built environment; on how people with different abilities sense cities and architecture.

He is an enthusiast of collaborative design for interior architecture and for the public realm, since human interaction drives environment perception in both cases. He finds working in transdisciplinary teams essential to deal with complexity on urban and architectural projects. Everybody involved on a process contribute in a greater or lesser extent to the result of a spatial transformation, that's why the qualities that he claims are respect and closeness, organization and determination, and emotional involvement with common purposes.

Arnau is engaged with estel* initiative (social strategies for the public realm), a widely inclusive innovative project on urban analysis focused on people activity and its involvement on decision-making.

Konstantina Chrysostomou (Pla Estel*)

Konstantina Chrysostomou is an architect, dedicated on the social and spatial analysis. She has an intense interest in urban sociology, focusing on the democratization of the urban space, the empowerment of the community and the collaborative relation between citizens, administration and technicians mainly on the Mediterranean region.

Her academic research negotiates the context of divided cities in post-conflict situation; the cultural heritage, the identity and the memory at the urban environment. She is member of estel* initiative and she works among a multidisciplinary team, dealing with spatial and social issues from different perspectives.

Day 4 – Place-Making – Working Groups

Today provides an opportunity for hands-on design of citizen participation in the planning and management of green urban spaces! This day is dedicated to your working group project on the *Superilles* (Superblocks) case. The session will be designed and delivered by Pla Estel*. Eco-Union will also be on board to support theme-based teamwork activities and brainstorming.

10:00-17:00 | Studio: Inclusive design of green public spaces

Here you will work in your group to summarize the findings of your diagnosis and create a proposal for the further implementation of the Superilles (Superblocks) project/model, taking into account all that you have learned over the past three days. Your focus is on the citizen experience in this public green space and on the participation processes that can be employed as the City of Barcelona further rolls out its Superblocks model. Your team will be focusing on a specific design theme or a specific population. Regardless, keep in mind:
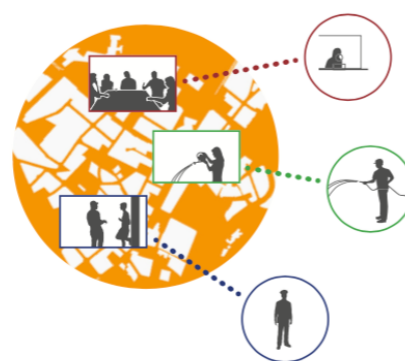
- *How can your theme/population best be given a voice in Superblock design and planning?*
- *How can community members, technicians, designers, and administrators share knowledge and create a balance of power in the production of Superblock spaces?*
- *What initial activities/experiences/materials do you hypothesize might enrich Superblock public spaces for your theme/population?*
- *How will you ensure the long-term participation of community members in a process that demands time and dedication?*

> **Do stop for lunch - you can find a variety of places to buy food in the area. Pay attention to the various dynamics taking place on these streets - you are in a neighbourhood undergoing rapid and often contentious change!**

Remember, you are working on a project at the intersection of Top-Down and Bottom-Up approaches. Consider the role of human-centred design and human-centred policy. How can the optimal social return be achieved for these large-scale public space investments? Be creative in how you approach governance, maintenance, and public safety concerns. Have fun and enjoy the process!

Bureaucracy, Cost of Maintenance and Public Safety

Governance, Sustainable Maintenance and Passive Surveillance

Day 5 – Presentations and Closing

Today we will reflect on the week and hear your presentations on the Superblocks case.

10:00-11:00 | Presentation preparation time

You have an additional hour to finalize your preparation for the presentation of your group's proposals/findings on the *Superilles* (Superblocks) project at Poblenou. Please have your presentation ready to be launched quickly to minimize transition times between groups. Your 5-to-7 minute presentation can be given by as many or as few members of your group as you like, but all must be present to answer questions and engage in discussion.

11:00-12:00 | Group presentations

Each group will have a maximum of 7 minutes to present their proposal for the *Superilles* (Superblocks) project to BCNecologia and to the rest of the workshop participants. We look forward to hearing your ideas!

12:00-13:00 | Workshop debrief and diploma presentation

We want your feedback on the workshop and to celebrate the work you have done!

14:00-18:00 | Tour of Can Masdeu (Collserola Natural Park)
Location: Can Masdeu in Collserola Natural Park – see map link

Can Masdeu is an occupied garden, social centre, and residence to activists and families concerned with climate change, agro-ecological and agroforestry land management, social justice, free education, and responsible consumption. Originated in 2001, this was the site of an international gathering of climate change activists who famously squatted the property and resisted removal in 2002.

Since then, this former abandoned nunnery and leprosy hospital with its surrounding gardens has become a place for communal living, ecological agriculture, self-sufficiency,

Figure 5 Image by Brinerustle-Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

social support, and collective learning. Communal meals serve a couple hundred people each day, and open house tours are held on most Sundays. The community of squatters manages the overall project through consensus-based decision-making.

Can Masdeu defines itself as a network of projects, a creative act of disobedience, a practice in community self-management against the forces of market logic. Situated at the edge of Barcelona, in the Collserola Natural Park, it advocates for the agro-ecological defence of the area in connection with the surrounding Nou Barris Neighborhood. Can Masdeu feels the land belongs to the people who work it, despite formal ownership by Hospital de Sant Pau.

Reading References:

Can Masdeu website descriptions:
http://www.canmasdeu.net/who-are-we/?lang=en
http://www.canmasdeu.net/our-history/?lang=en
Wikipedia page on Can Masdeu:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Can_Masdeu