

Call for an MSc research project

Looking for patterns in urban commons in Barcelona

Requisite: Student of the Master in Interdisciplinary Studies in Environmental, Economic and Social Sustainability (MEISAES, ICTA-UAB) or alike. She/he must be fluent in English. Knowledge on statistical data analysis will be valued. She/he must be willing to do mostly desk work.

Research context: Barcelona has witnessed in the last years a burst of citizen initiatives for the provision of public and private services. Many of these initiatives broadly fit the idea of commons production (i.e., the organization of citizens to self-provide services they need). That is the case, for example of housing cooperatives, community gardens, or collective working spaces. The fast proliferation of initiatives have raised questions about what we consider as urban commons, which types of urban commons exist, and the pathways through which they contribute to socio-environmental transformation.

Description & Objectives: The project will be based on a spatial database of more than 1,500 initiatives in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona built in a previous project by the supervisors (2019). The student/s will be encouraged to use the secondary data to further characterize the concentration and diversity of urban common initiatives in specific sectors or territories and their relation to socio-environmental transformation. The study shall also include primary data collection. In this case, the student will: (i) design a questionnaire (ii) apply it to a handful of initiatives within a neighborhood via further content analysis and/or interviews, and (iii) analyze the resulting quantitative/qualitative data.

Technical details: The thesis will be directed by Laura Calvet-Mir (ICTA) and Sergio Villamayor-Tomas (ICTA). We expect that a revised version of the MSc Thesis could be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal for publication.

If you are interested on writing your MSc thesis on this topic, please contact

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