

CALL FOR MASTER THESIS

Urban vitality and tourist activity in Barcelona.

Project framework:

This MSc thesis is offered within the [GEMOTT](#) (Grup d'Estudis en Mobilitat Transport i Territori) research group, within ICTA and the UAB's Geography Department.

Research Background:

Urban vitality is widely considered as an indicator of wellbeing, as these urban conditions have been frequently related with more healthy lifestyles. To define urban vitality, Jane Jacobs highlighted the role of a number of key attributes of the built environment such as compact, dense, diverse and accessible environments which she considered to be the main determinants of vibrant street life. However, some authors suggest that the celebration of urban vitality sometimes can turn out to be excluding, as they coexist with social dynamics that discourage everyday local life, such as gentrification and *touristification*. To date, not much is known on the relationship between the morphological characteristics of the built environment that lead to urban vitality and their relationship with other social phenomena. This research will focus on exploring the relationship between urban vitality and touristic activity in Barcelona.

Objectives:

Using data from the synthetic index of urban vitality (JANE index) and the database of housing with touristic use (Airbnb), the student will analyze the spatial distribution of the tourist activity according to different contexts of urban vitality.

Methods:

The student will use GIS methods to visualize spatial data of urban vitality (through JANE index) and the geolocated housing with touristic use, conducting the analysis using quantitative methods.

What is expected from the student?

- Interested in the relationship between urban vitality and touristic activity.
- Interested in quantitative analysis.
- The student will be asked to conduct a literature review, decide upon the most adequate method for this purpose and conduct basic analysis using specific software for quantitative research.
- The student will have to attend weekly meetings in which he/she will have to inform of the work's progress.
- Certain knowledge and interest on the use of statistical data analysis packages (EXCEL, SPSS ...) and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software (ArcGIS, Qgis ...) are recommended.

Technical details:

The thesis will be directed by Dr. Oriol Marquet. With the collaboration of the rest of the GEMOTT members. We expect that a revised version of the MSc Thesis will be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal for publication. The final document can be presented in Catalan, Spanish or English.

If you are interested on writing your MSc thesis on this topic, please contact oriol.marquet@uab.cat