



BUILDING INCLUSIVE CITIES: AGENDA FOR BARCELONA AND CHICAGO

29th and 30th May 2017

Faculty of Economics and Business

Diagonal, 690

UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA

Preliminary programme

Since the Global Crisis of 2008, municipal and metropolitan governments have struggled to meet the needs of residents. The crisis brought revenue shortages because of lower incomes and property values and because austerity policies imposed by higher levels of government diminished financial support. Combined with political turmoil at higher scales, the increased uncertainty and risk surrounding new public investment has made it harder for local governments to access capital on reasonable terms. Older ways of raising and spending revenues may not work in this changed environment.

At the same time there has been an increase in bottom-up claims for the preservation of communities and the sustainability of urban neighbourhoods. At the top of the list of social demands by residents in Barcelona and in Chicago are more affordable housing, accessible and high-quality public schools, transit, and health care, and enhanced safety and security.

Into this void have stepped private and non-profit actors who have proposed alternatives that promise both public benefit and private gain. Private actors have pushed new forms of public-private partnerships, employer-assisted housing, social-impact bonds, and infrastructure investment funds. The current environment is also an opportunity for civil society to show its



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strength and creative capacity, and both Chicago and Barcelona have histories of mobilizing residents to contribute to the local policy and political agendas. For example, non-profit organizations have established “bottom-linked” governance relations with local institutions to put forward innovative programmes directed at the preservation of mixed neighbourhoods to counteract gentrification processes.

Rather than simply analyse and critique these new models, we wish to know: what do public sector-led, inclusive urban policies look like? Our interest is in finding feasible policy solutions that bring in new actors and also address questions of access, equity, and growth.

We propose a one-and-a-half day conference in May 2017 that brings scholars, planners, technical professionals, elected and non-elected officials, and leaders of civil society from the two cities currently grappling with these issues: Barcelona and Chicago. Both cities have seen their economies shift away from their industrial activity into other sectors (finance, technology, tourism) but have struggled to secure meaningful pathways of advancement for their populations. Both grapple with income polarization, social fragmentation and segregation, although to different degrees. Both have experienced tensions with higher levels of government, and both have a dense network of social non-profit organizations. They also face different challenges, which will be brought into the discussion.

The workshop will build on existing scholarly and practitioner networks to create a transnational dialogue that will result in a sharing of policy and planning knowledge.



Programme

May 29th, 2017

Sala de Grados, Faculty of Economics and Business Diagonal, 690

08:30 Registration

09:00 Welcome addresses

Ramon Alemany, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Barcelona

Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona/ Gerardo Pisarello, First Deputy Mayor of Barcelona.

Marisol García, CRIT, University of Barcelona

09:30 - 11:30 Session A: Social Inequalities

This session lays out the socio-economic challenges facing these two cities, particularly growing income polarisation and spatial segregation.

Sebastià Sarasa, University Pompeu Fabra.

Nik Theodore, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Cristina López, University of Barcelona.

Chair: Hector Santcovsky, Direcció de l'Àrea de Desenvolupament Social i Econòmic, Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona.

11:30 Coffee break

12:00 - 14:00 Session B: Employment and Housing Dynamics

This session addresses questions of housing affordability and employment opportunities examining the transformations in markets of Chicago and Barcelona before and after the 2008 financial crisis as well as social policies meant to address these transformations.

Javier Burón, Barcelona City Council.

Phil Ashton, University of Illinois at Chicago



Joan Trullén, Autonomous University of Barcelona.

Chair: Amadeo Iglesias, IMPSOL (Intitut Metropolità de Promoció del Sòl).

14:00 Lunch

15:00 - 17:00 Session C: Sustainable Neighbourhoods and Governance

This panel will address issues of sustainable neighbourhood development and social inclusion in Barcelona and Chicago, tackling questions of multi-level governance involving state and non-state actors.

Alejandra Ibáñez, Woods Fund of Chicago.

Antoni Codina, General Director, Taula d'Entitats del Tercer Sector Social de Catalunya.

Dick Simpson, University of Illinois at Chicago and former Chicago alderman (City Council member).

Chair: Ricard Gomà, Autonomous University of Barcelona. Institut d'Estudis Regionals i Metropolitans de Barcelona

30th May 2017

09:30 - 11:30 Session D: Political Perspectives on Inclusive Cities (Castellano)

This dialogue will discuss how politicians can draw on the energies of new social and political movements and ideas to reform administration and promote policies that prioritize equity.

Jesus "Chuy" Garcia, Cook County Commissioner and former mayoral candidate, Chicago.

Jaume Collboni, Empresa, Cultura i Innovació, City Council of Barcelona.

Chair: Hector Santcovsky, Direcció de l'Àrea de Desenvolupament Social i Econòmic, Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona.

11:30 Coffee break



12:00 -14:00 Session E: Investing in Infrastructure and Services

This session confronts the financial challenges that municipalities and metropolitan regions face in providing and managing infrastructures and collective services.

Manel Villalante, Barcelona Regional, UPC.

Rachel Weber, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Germà Bel, University of Barcelona.

Chair: Carles Conill, Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona.

14:00 Lunch

Afternoon fieldtrip: Visit to 22@ District-Forum by Metropolitan Area of Barcelona Planning Department.

Participation in the workshop is free but it is necessary to register. For registration please visit the following link: <http://www.crit.ub.edu/news-and-events/building-inclusive-cities-agenda-for-barcelona-and-chicago/>

