

OLD CITY NEW LIVES

MOBILITY, PLACE IDENTITIES &
TRANSNATIONAL COMMUNITIES

25 May 2018 International Workshop
Faculty of Tourism
University of Girona
Call for Abstracts





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The undeniable importance of population mobility as well as its socio-cultural and economic capital through space and time allows a deeper view of the global human condition. People, objects, cultures and images travel, as Urry explains, through tourism as well as through migration, not only for need but also for pleasure. Cultural globalization has a strong influence on urban identities and consequently on place meaning, as Nijman points out. Cosmopolitan locals as well as labour and even lifestyle immigrants represent a combination of mobility and fixity that in time changes the identity of a place, since the latter depends on the identity of its residents and their social relations.

The social anchoring of non-locals especially to urban spaces, fights for adaptation or coexistence with the local tradition and way of life and contributes to the constant formation of fluid societies. New roles of power and inequality are developed within spaces and between those that do not move away and those who chose otherwise, be it tourists,

immigrants, or even refugees.

Yet this power is not a matter of cultural superiority - if there is such term - but of social magnitude. Locals who support fixity feel forced to abandon their neighbourhoods when social groups of the 'other' seem to outnumber them, while the 'other' makes new uses of existing spaces, whether that is in the city centre or the periphery. These new global communities are disrupting continuity and re-identify old cities, creating dichotomies of spatial versus cultural entities.

This is not a reality only in inner-city ghettos or its backstage, meaning out of public sight, but also in the very frontside of a highly transited area such as Raval in the centre of Barcelona or Omonoia in the centre of Athens. Old places pass hands from locals to new residents and social diversity and transnationality becomes an unsurprising part of the city view. The 'urban jungle' through its manic rhythms transforms this socio-cultural amalgam in time into part of the local culture.



Workshop Objective

The purpose of this multi-disciplinary workshop is to create a space for discussion and idea exchange regarding the use of inner-city spaces by the socio-cultural diversity that resides in it, taking under consideration the nostalgic claims of the locals and the new opportunities of the new residents. Cases of similar contradictions and their implications to place identity and space use will be discussed and analysed so as to project the new dynamics of cities' frontstage.

Abstracts (300-500 words)

- This call for abstracts is open to academics from different disciplines, professionals and postgraduate students who investigate and are interested in any of the following themes:
- Mobility, urban re-construction and new politics of visibility.
- Roles, perceptions and performances of the multi-cultural resident.
- Re-identification of central urban spaces and community transformation.
- New place meaning at the city periphery due to migrant international refugees and asylum seekers
- Place identity and newer urban generations.
- Space use in touristic frontstage areas.
- Cause-effect relationship in community and space development based on the type of the migration and the type of tourism the destination invites
- New vernacular cityscapes created by global communities.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Abstract submission until April 15
Abstract acceptance until April 30

Accepted papers to the Workshop will pass from a peer review process and selected papers will be published as a special issue of GBER journal (<http://www.globalbuiltenvironmentreview.co.uk/Pages/default.aspx>).

Please send abstract to the following address:
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Workshop Venue:

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