

Preserving the value of the urban transformations in Barcelona, London and Oslo

The rules and ruptures of post-industrial cities
SIEF 2021, 21st-23rd Helsinki

Deep Cities Project (Curbatheri)

Torgrim Sneve Guttormsen
Kalliopi Fouseki
Ana Pastor Pérez
Marga Díaz-Andreu



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Improvised space to chat with neighbours in the district of Sant Andreu

Some initial considerations

In modern western cities, **transformation of the built environment** is conceived through urban planning and design, motivated by **utopian visions for solving societal challenges** and materialize through technological advances.



The questioning of predominant development frameworks supported by neoliberal policies also influenced the way the heritage values-based management has been framed in research.

Concrete actions such as **revitalization, renewal and recovery of historic urban areas have shown limited appreciation for the social differences and dynamics** in cities.



Theory planning and urban studies are encompassing more interdisciplinary methodological approaches, however **challenges remain related to differences on epistemological assumptions on values in place-based research from environmental and cultural fields**, and or from **social science and humanities perspectives**.



Whilst academic approaches are exploring new interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches, **the challenge of how this knowledge could be extracted** and applied in real time persist in practice. Moreover, **heritage management research on social values can provide new analytical lenses** and outlets to the broader field of **urban democracy** and policy fields.



Heritage meanings are socially constructed,
and therefore inherently contestable.

Deep histories in Deep Cities

- **##TORGRIM TO IMPROVE##**
- **Most of cultural heritage** that remains in today's cities appears **as fragments from different time periods**, thereby representing the **city's 'deep history'**.
- **Challenging a traditional aesthetic approach in the heritage discourse** on perspectives on the protection and uses of the past by emphasizing the long- term historical changes and the *longue durée* of changing memories of cities.



Questions to explore

Should we **protect cities** as images **frozen in time**, without taking into account the **events** that take place in them?

Which “heritages” should we preserve?”

Wouldn't it be more sustainable to focus on the conservation of a site if **we already know about its historical uses** and transformations?





Three post-industrial “deep cities”



Border between Sant Andreu and Nou Barris in the main entrance to Barcelona from France

Oslo Pic

London Pic



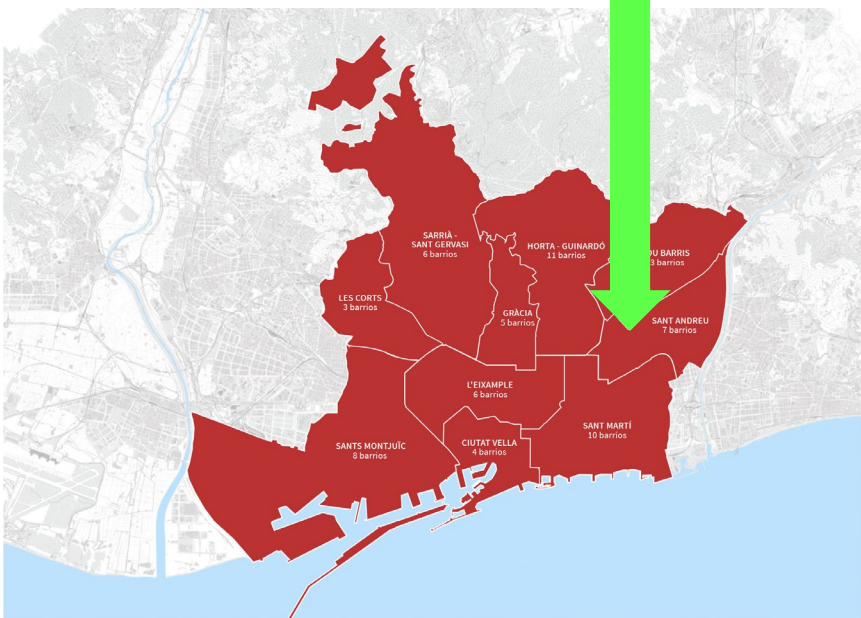
Our case studies

- Post-industrial districts
- Spaces in re-use
- Places with different social and economic actors at stake
- Changing spaces in constant movement and transformation



Can Barbosa in 2018. A protected building. A self-managed squatting centre that will become social housing in 2021. Sant Andreu (Barcelona)





Sant Andreu de Palomar

Barcelona

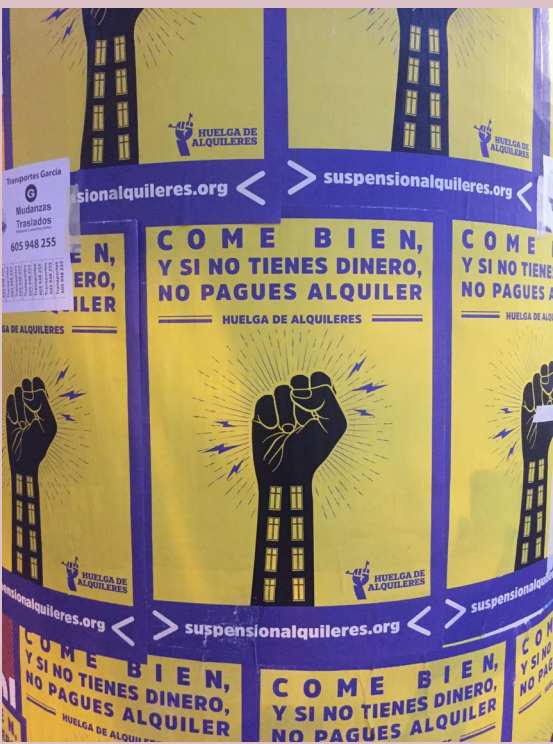




**Ciutat Vella
Old City**

Sant Andreu





“Eat well and if you do not have money, do not pay the rental”
Rental Strike (Summer 2020)



Protesta vecinos
Sant Andreu por el
nuevo sistema de...

Full Video

Protesta vecinos Sant
Andreu por el nuevo
sistema de recogida de
basura



Woolwich (London)

Kalliopi



The Tukthus Prison Quarter (Oslo)

- Torgrim



Deep Cities Project Structure

WP 6 . Dissemination, exploitation and sustainability plan.

WP 1 . NIKU.

- Theoretical framework.

WP 2. University College London.

- Observatories. Methodology and appliance.

WP3. University of Stirling.

- Laboratories.

WP4. Università degli studi Fireze.

- Digital tools.

WP5. Universitat de Barcelona

- Evaluation and recommendation.

WP 7. Project management.



Wokflow proposal

Documentary
Research
Conceptual
Framework

Modelling Materials
Ethnographic and
Participatory
Research
Digital Innovation

Results compiled in a
Management Toolbox
Tech. innovation
Recommendations



Wp.2.
UCL (UK)
Observatories

Design of materials
for case study
analysis.

Woolwich (London)
borough analysis for
techniques
extrapolation.

Wp.3.
Stirling (UK)
Laboratories

Work with
participatory
exercises focusing
on society.

Approach to social
values.

Discussion forums.

Joint analytical work
with WP.2.

Wp.4.
Firenze (IT)
**Technological
tools**

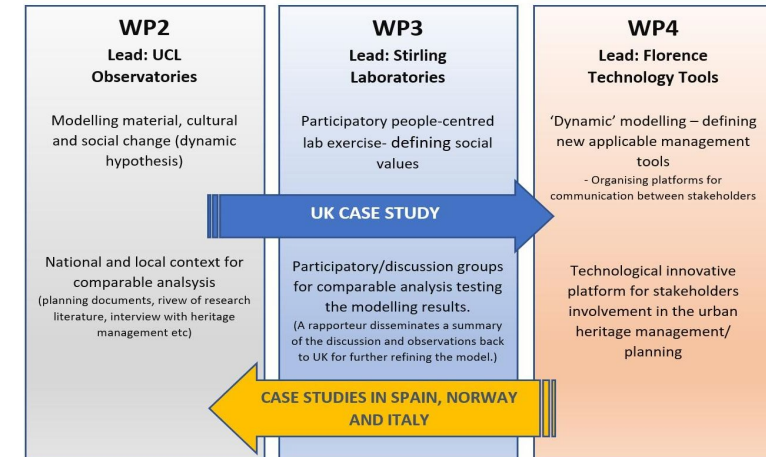
Dynamic models that
define new tools for
both analysis and
communication
between agents
involved in
management.

Application of new
interdisciplinary
technologies in urban
heritage

UK Case studies

Case studies SP, NOR, IT

Main Approach



Togrim

Theoretical slide

Fragments, decay...



Kalliopi Dynamic Systems

Kalliopi to insert image





Caregiving Cities

Our research can be complemented by **a cross-cutting gender perspective.**

What about **adding a politics of care approach to urban heritage** management?

What would these care policies contribute to the conservation of urban heritage **and would they be participatory cares?**



Caregiving Deep Cities, would foster spaces where everyone could participate in overcoming **sex-gender inequalities** and the social division of labour.

We can find new **ways to generate a more equitable participation encounters** in heritage management.



Wenseite "Decidim" Council of Barcelona



Tentative answers

Society connects with heritage consciously and unconsciously. **The narratives that are generated** in these urban heritage spaces and building **shape the traces of their transformation.**

Knowing the dynamics of transformations allows us to **approach heritage in a multivocal way**, in which different shared discourses can be highlighted in one place.

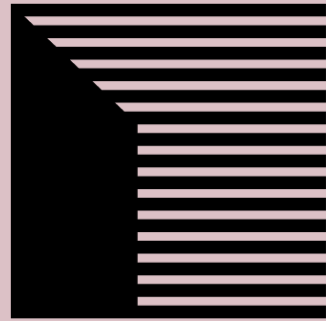
Understanding the different lives and uses of places through participatory ethnographic research will lead to the **generation of sustainable roots-based preservation strategies.**



Expected outcome

- **To bringing to light** diverse visions and perceptions of heritage in urban transformations at a local level, and in a comparative European context.
- **To improve the way citizens connect with heritage** removing stakeholder barriers by strengthening participatory citizenship and democracy building finding better ways to understand core social and cultural values embedded in heritage attributes.
- **Create new knowledge on urban heritage production under rapid transformation** and offer new guidelines that enable urban planning to maximize such added values in a sustainable manner.





DEEP CITIES

Curating sustainable urban transformations
through heritage



We welcome your suggestions!
Thank you very much