

MAIN RESEARCHER: MONTSERRAT PALLARES-BARBERA

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA

TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL: Challenges for cities in the twenty-first century: A research agenda for building sustainable and innovative urban spaces

ACRONYM: RETURBAN

SUMMARY:

In recent decades the transformations in urban spaces of developed countries had a significant impact on the dynamics of socio-economic models; mainly in their morphological and functional dimensions, creating problems related to socio-economic and environmental sustainability. The new context in Spanish cities has to face new social and economic challenges, which in turn requires a conceptual and methodological renewal in prospective urban spaces, planning and land-management.

In this context, the RETURBAN plans to join efforts for the study of urban areas, from economic, social, functional and morphological perspective, in the convulsive changes after the severe recession suffered, seeking new tools, allowing to pop-up alternatives and solutions to the problems of these areas for the future. The RETURBAN attempts to set common goals, and to discuss and use different methodological approaches in order to add value to these themes:

1. New economies in the digital society. Formal economy, social economy and collaborative economy.
2. Society and quality of life. Urban services and segregation, individual welfare and disparities in the labor market.
3. Social interaction and spatial mobility. Delimitation and analysis of functional areas.
4. Economic and social movements citizen participation and multi-level governance.
5. Geosimulation prospective urban growth and sustainable metropolitan planning. Preservation and improvement of the territorial articulation for an ecological design from biodiversity and green infrastructure.

To do so, this network will organization three seminars and it will create a website.

KEY WORDS: Urban spaces, smart cities, new economies, mobility, planning, governance, big data, new methods