

Paper proposal for the CUA Annual Conference:

***Market vs Society? Human principles and economic rationale in changing times***

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This paper has two purposes: to discuss the process of resistance to planned urban transformations produced within the neoliberal model of the city from a specific instance of a neighborhood in Barcelona, and reflect on the role of the social movements about the capitalist appropriation of the city. It is based on recent anthropological research.

In recent decades, especially after the 1992 Olympics, Barcelona has experienced one of its major urban transformations. The Olympics were the perfect pretext for the final impetus to the economic and territorial restructuring. One of the most affected areas by this urban renewal and industrial restructuring in Barcelona is its waterfront. This includes the port and neighborhoods facing the sea amongst others Barceloneta, Poble Nou and Besòs. Each one of these districts has been involved in different times and with different urban development plans, although sometimes shared. In all these cases, major international events were the excuse for the urban interventions.

La Barceloneta, a Barcelona seaside neighborhood and village built in the late eighteenth century, is a paradigmatic neighborhood in this context of recent urban transformations, largely to be near the beach, highly valued by the capital in recent times.

In 2005, following the announcement of a new urban plan for the neighborhood that would result in the expulsion of many people, a neighborhood movement was created in Barceloneta in opposition to these plan. This movement was adding fronts of struggle to demand and claim that urban space should be for the citizens and not a commodity.