



# BEYOND THE COMPETITIVE CITY

## Political Strategies and Movements in Comparative Perspective in Europe

Beyond the city limits: That was the engaging title of a collection of contributions of urban scholars trying to respond to the thesis of the role of cities in a globalizing world dominated by neo-liberal ideas. Urban research has been particularly good at analyzing how cities and policy-actors have become entrepreneurial by introducing competition and competitive strategies into urban affairs and the policy-sphere. This, however, has been at the expenses of a research agenda on the various counter-movements that have emerged to challenge the domination of market principles. A growing field of investigation of urban research deals precisely with this matter. Meanwhile, the covid-19 pandemic has generated new opportunities for local political action and new policy approaches in a context where austerity measures are weakening, and in favor of public investment. To what extent this new scenario will reinforce the European city model in general and new emancipatory projects is a question that deserves a closer look. The aim of this webinar is to contribute to this debate by putting in question how alternatives can be imagined and also enacted in European cities. The question of the preservation of a European social model articulating economic prosperity and social cohesion will be therefore addressed by different perspectives and geographical contexts in three sessions. The issue of how to wield power resources and deal with constrained economic and institutional contexts will be analyzed in depth through a dialogue between researchers and policy-actors. The workshop will be of interest to anyone interested in urban politics and policy, and more broadly social change and tensions between global tendencies and local responses.

**April 16, 2021**

*JOINT WEBINAR*

10.30 - 11.00

### Opening

**Luigi Burroni** | University of Florence  
**Deborah Galimberti** | University of Florence  
**Marc Pradel** | University of Barcelona

11.00 - 12.30 ► **SESSION 1**

### PUBLIC PHILISOPHIES AND POLICY-PARADGIMS: THE NEOLIBERAL CITY IN QUESTION

#### **The limits to the neoliberal city**

*talk given by* **Gilles Pinson** | Sciences Po Bordeaux, Centre Emile Durkheim

*in conversation with*

**Angelo Salento** | University of Salento  
**Łukasz Medeksza** | Deputy director Strategy and City Development Department  
at the Municipality of Wrocław

14.00 - 15.30 ► **SESSION 2**

### NEW MUNICIPALIST EXPERIENCES: ACTIVISTS WITHIN AND BEYOND THE CITY HALL

#### **New municipalism: the right to the city and radical democracy**

*talk given by* **Ricard Gomà** | Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona (UAB)

*in conversation with*

**Andrew Wallace** | School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds  
**Massimo Alulli** | Ufficio studi ANCI, National association of Italian municipalities

15.30 - 17.00 ► **SESSION 3**

### PLACES: DEVELOPMENT IN/AT THE MARGINS OF METROPOLITAN CONTEXTS

#### **Economic development and reconstruction after the crisis beyond central cities**

*Talk given by* **Marc Pradel** | University of Barcelona

*In conversation with*

**Filippo Barbera** | University of Turin and Collegio Carlo Alberto  
**Vincent Béal** | University of Strasbourg, SAGE

The workshop is open to everyone,  
PhD students are particularly  
welcomed to join.  
In order to receive  
the link to join the webinar  
please confirm your participation  
by sending an email to  
[deborah.galimberti@unifi.it](mailto:deborah.galimberti@unifi.it)  
[marcpradel@ub.edu](mailto:marcpradel@ub.edu)

