



Title: Cities in Movement: Socio-Spatial Reconfiguration in the Post-Pandemic Era

Acronym: CitiesInMovement

Project leader: Antonio López Gay

Host organisation: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Main purpose of the project:

The COVID-19 pandemic has introduced behavioral changes in residential mobility, due to the appearance of specific housing needs, new residential preferences and constraints, and the growth of telework. CitiesInMovement aims to analyze the spatial reconfiguration of social groups as a consequence of new patterns on residential mobility.

Design/methodology/approach:

CitiesInMovement combines different quantitative data sources to provide evidence with a high spatial resolution and a diversity of socio-demographic characteristics. The main data sources are: (i) Municipal Registers of Dwelling Changes, (ii) the Statistics of Residential Movements, (iii) the 2021 Population Census (available in 2023) and (iv) InsideAirbnb.

Potential results:

Much of the current attention is given to people's exit from cities. However, this is only part of a broader story, which needs to incorporate, among others, the residential behavior of the lowest income groups, which have experienced financial difficulties during the pandemic, or the arrival of international professionals encouraged by the growth in remote work.

Social relevance of the research:

The COVID-19 pandemic has emerged after years of increasing segregation and inequalities in many Western Cities. The socio-spatial reconfiguration of the population has strong impacts on infrastructure, services, housing and social needs, among others. It is essential to understand the post-pandemic transformations of urban areas to address social demands, some of which have not been completely covered in the past.

Originality/value of the project:

The innovative aspects of CitiesInMovement include: (i) the integrated analysis of the different typologies of movements and the impact on the socio-spatial structure of metropolitan areas and (ii) the methodological approach, since the project includes some sources of information that barely used among the scientific community, like the Municipal Registers of Dwelling Changes.