

February 5, 2021 at 12:00 - 1:30 PM EST via Zoom

the **PUBLIC SPACE RESEARCH GROUP** welcomes

Carmen Pérez del Pulgar, Barcelona Lab for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability

Green and Playful Public Spaces in Barcelona: Do they always work towards children's wellbeing?

Municipalities are increasingly creating and restoring green amenities directed toward children and families as an important part of efforts to shift toward more sustainable and healthy cities for all. However, so far, the impact of the socio-spatial context, planning and politics in shaping children's wellbeing has remained unexplored. This talk will present the results of two studies exploring how green and playful public spaces in Barcelona impact children's health and wellbeing. First, a cross-sectional epidemiological analysis investigating associations between residential proximity to outdoor play spaces and the prevalence of mental and behavioral disorders in children 0-12 years old in 2014. We further explore whether these associations differ by individual and area-level socio-economic status (SES). Second, an ethnographic and archival analysis zooms into two recent urban green amenities directed toward children in Barcelona. Findings point toward the importance of accounting for the social, political and environmental processes involved in the formation of children's health and wellbeing when planning child friendly public spaces.

Carmen Pérez del Pulgar is a doctoral researcher at the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and the Barcelona Lab for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability. Her research focuses on the political and social production of green-playful spaces in cities and questions how conflicting discursive, affective and material registers of green and child friendly cities become populated, renegotiated and distributed through everyday urban spaces by race, gender and class and its implications for children's physical, mental and relational wellbeing.



Galia Shokry, Barcelona Lab for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability

Vulnerability to future climate gentrification in the quest for a green resilient Philadelphia

As cities strive to protect vulnerable residents from climate risks and impacts through greening practices, recent studies have identified a wicked dilemma emerging from these measures and gentrification processes that reconfigure, but do not necessarily eliminate, climate insecurities. Green resilient infrastructure (GRI) may especially increase vulnerability to future gentrification, with lower-income residents and communities of color benefitting least. This presentation shares results from a previous paper and presents a forthcoming empirical study which identifies the extent to which recent and planned GRI are entangled in the uneven and unequal social and political dynamics of neighborhood revitalization, and their potential role in perpetuating climate and racial injustice in the forerunner green city of Philadelphia. Using a mixed method, intersectional approach, this study develops a new methodology to assess vulnerability to future climate gentrification, contributing to debates on urban development, housing, and sustainability practices. It also informs strategies that can reduce social and racial inequities in the context of climate adaptation planning.



Galia Shokry is a doctoral researcher at the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and the Barcelona Lab for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability. Her research examines intersections between climate adaptation planning, green gentrification and urban inequities, focusing in particular on how these processes drive and manifest as new social vulnerabilities and struggles for social and racial justice in the city.

