

Towards a new alternative Urban Agenda: a Radical Deconstruction of the Habitat III Process

ENCOUNTER WITH LOCAL SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND INITIATIVES

This workshop will be held in Spanish

The ONU Habitat conference are organised every 20 years in different parts of the world, putting forward the urban policies to boost capital accumulation and dispossession. Considering the fact that the Quito 2016 Habitat III new urban agenda is a fragmented monolithic apparatus gazing at cities and citizens through specific terms, this workshop aims at deconstruction the neoliberal rational backed by the United Nations, thus at developing alternative discourses. It will indicate and problematise properly the thematic fragmentation of the urban agenda, disputing the absences and key topics that have not been incorporated into the new urban agenda. Hereby, we refer especially to the injustices created by global capitalism and the further embodiment of financial governance.

By deconstructing and analysing the current neoliberal strategies and the expansion of capital, we want to strengthen the bottom-up voices who suggest an alternative and more just living in the city. Therefore we will focus on themes, essential for the future of urban lives in cities across the globe: **housing policies** and **rent gaps**, **action policies** and **housing, mobility** and **transport**, **social control** and **public space**. Through researching and deconstructing these three themes, we will develop alternative proposals in collaboration with social movements and academics. This research will build upon two events, pursuing to create ties and develop strategies towards an alternative urban agenda, which will be produced with activists and social movements:

- (i) Initially, before and during the International Conference “From CONTESTED_CITIES to Global Urban Justice” (Madrid, 4th-7th of July, 2016);
- (ii) Secondly, before and during the UN-Habitat III conference (Quito, 17th-20th of October, 2016).

In both events, activists and academics will strengthen existing alliances on both sides of the Atlantic, in order to radically transform hegemonic pathways from which cities are imagined and appro-priated today and in the future. The proposals of this project will integrate and strengthen the alter-native Habitat III forum in Quito, organised by social movements across Latin America. Thus this project will critically analyse the Habitat III policies as well as developing networks between aca-demics and social movements, in order to tackle the future urban agenda, before, after and beyond the Habitat III conference.

The workshop brings together activists and radical academics that struggle against the further commodification of urban life in the 21st century. The initial step of this encounter is the creation of a policy toolkit. This will be achieved through a reflexive

deconstruction of the hidden meanings and misleading usage of critical urban terminology in the Habitat III policy documents, as well as a dispute for visualising the absences and gaps of the process. Analysis will be undertaken by members of the international CONTESTED_CITIES network.

Timetable:

Friday, July 1st:

- 18.00: Welcoming and presentation by members of the CONTESTED_CITIES network
- 18.15: Presentation of the participants from the social movements: perspectives, aspirations and challenges of the "new urban agenda".
- 19.00: Cultural activity by the group Revealed Cities (*Ciudades Reveladas*): video screening with themes related to the workshop topics.
- 20.00: Food and drinks

Saturday, July 2nd:

- 10.00s: Opening by members of the CONTESTED_CITIES network.
- 10.15: Presentation and contextualisation of the meeting.
- 11.00: Working groups per theme
- 14.00: Lunch.
- 15.00: Working groups.
- 16.30: Debate.
- 18.00: Conclusions and closing of the workshop.
- 18:30: Documentary screening by *Ciudades Reveladas*.
- 19:30: Food and drinks