

Participant Information Sheet

Research project title: The articulation of urban commons discourse in the municipalist movement

You are invited to participate in a research study which looks at how the urban commons are understood and integrated in the debates and discourse within the municipalist movement and in relation with a wider audience. Before you decide whether to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and feel free to ask me if you would like more information or if there is anything that you do not understand. I would like to stress that you do not have to accept this invitation and should only agree to take part if you want to.

Thank you for reading this.

1. What is the purpose of the study?

The study will look at how the key people involved in the municipalist project understands the concept of urban commons, what they think are the uses of it, and how it is integrated in the municipalist discourse. Furthermore, it will study how the debates on the commons and around questions directly related, like democracy, are articulated. At the same time, it will look at the interactions in Twitter to find out what is the impact in social media.

2. Why have I been chosen to take part?

Your position as [*City Councillor / Advisor*] in the municipalist government of the City Council of [*Madrid/Coruña/Barcelona*] in areas that have dealt with democracy, participation, and your work in the articulation relation between institution and social agents, makes your understanding of the commons a very relevant information that will help to analyse how the urban commons are understood and potentially integrated within the municipalist project.

3. Do I have to take part?

Participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw at anytime without explanation and without incurring a disadvantage.

4. What will happen if I take part?

Participation in the research entails the participation in an interview that can be done either by email, Skype or in person. In the interview, I will give you a definition of the concepts of “municipalism” and “urban commons” and then I will ask you four questions about your understanding and the relations between this two concepts:

Question 1: Do you agree with this definition of municipalism? Would you add, remove or change anything, or do you have/prefer a different definition?

Question 2: : Do you agree with this definition of urban commons? Would you add, remove or change anything, or do you have/prefer a different definition?

Supervisor

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Q3: What do you think is the relation between the two concepts? Is it possible to articulate them? Why?

Q4 - A: If you think it is not possible to articulate urban commons and municipalism: What is the main concepts and values that you think are, can, or must be articulated within the municipalist projects (democracy, feminism, ecology, etc.)?

Q4 - B: If you think it is in fact possible to articulate urban commons and municipalism: What do you think are the three main conditions for the development of the urban commons within the municipalist political action?

Other elements of this research will include an analysis of the discourse on commons in the Municilab and OIPD meetings through a Participatory Observation method, and a Tweet analysis focused on urban commons and municipalism concepts.

This research is part of an assessment for the Introduction to Qualitative Research Module of the MA on Social Research at the Sheffield Methods Institute.

I will be only researcher conducting and analysing the content of the interview.

The involvement in the research will entail one interview that will last approximately 40 minutes.

If you agree to take part, you will agree to answer the questions of the interview in the format that best suits you: in person, by email or by Skype conference, before the 15th December 2018.

5. Are there any risks in taking part?

Participating in the research is not anticipated to cause you any disadvantage or discomfort. No potential physical or psychological harm or distress is expected.

6. What if I am unhappy or if there is a problem?

If you are unhappy, or if there is a problem, please feel free to let me know by contacting myself or my supervisor

7. Will my participation be kept confidential?

All the information that I collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential as far as the involvement of your personal data. You will not be identified or identifiable in any of the material associated to this project. Data will be anonymised, and any data collected about you in interview will be stored in a form protected by passwords, or in a locked space. In addition, the final project will only be used internally by the Department of Sociological Science (to evaluate the work of the student), and the project does not involve public sharing of the results in any form.

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8. Will I be recorded, and how will the recorded media be used?

Your answers will be recorded and analysed by myself, and all the records will be stored in a form protected by passwords or in a locked space.

9. What type of information will be sought from me and why is the collection of this information relevant for achieving the research project's objectives?

The information collected from you will be incorporated as data in the research. This information will be gathered because this is what my research aims to explore the connection between the urban commons and the municipalist project.

10. What will happen to the results of the research project?

Results of the research will be presented as part of the MA work. It will also serve as preliminary research for my PhD proposal on *The becoming-commons of the public*. You will or not be identified according to your preferences and the information stated in the Consent Form.

11. Who is organising and funding the research?

I am organising my research and no funding is required for it.

12. Who has ethically reviewed the project?

The internal ethics committee of the Department of Sociological Studies has approved the module's assessment.

13. What will happen if I want to stop taking part?

You can withdraw at anytime, without explanation.

14. Who can I contact if I have further questions?

You can contact me:

Ana Méndez de Andés Aldama

amendezdeandesaldama1@sheffield.ac.uk

Or my supervisor:

Lucy E. Jackson

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Supervisor

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