The New Challenges of Global Cities

27th and 28th September, 2018
Sala Jordi Maragall, CIDOB. Elisabets 12, 08001 Barcelona
Organised by: CIDOB with the support of the Barcelona City Council

The concept of “global cities” was popularised during the 1990’s to account for the strategic role of the world’s main urban centres in articulating the effervescent neoliberal globalisation of capitalism. In the “roaring nineties”, as Joseph Stiglitz characterised the decade of apparent free-market buoyancy and optimism, a few cities emerged as the key spatial units that territorialised global processes. These cities acquired capabilities for global operation, coordination and control of the flows of capital and of a transnationalised workforce.

More than two decades down the line, the transnational space anchored in global cities has changed substantially. The urban populace has since increased by more than 25% and now encompasses the majority of the world’s population; a global crisis has swept away the mirage of continuous finance-led economic expansion and sparked a popular reaction and suspicion towards the promises of globalisation; whilst the prospects of widespread ecological catastrophe have become more real.

This scenario invites a new interrogation of the notion of global cities, particularly from the perspective of its associated modes of urban governance and regulation. The urban entrepreneurialism that has crafted “city brands” and driven inter-urban competition, attracting financial and real-estate rent-seeking activities as well as the unproblematised “talents” of the global “creative classes”, has also sparked a process of planetary gentrification and further disembedded cities from their surrounding environments.

Transformations in the “glocal” conditions embodied in global cities pose new challenges for city dwellers and public authorities. The scalar restructurings of the global governance system suggest a repositioning of cities at different levels. The claim to the “right to the city” underscores, in turn, the contested production and appropriation of urban space itself. In the interstices of these processes, new models of development in and beyond cultural and digitalisation paradigms, require careful consideration. This international seminar proposes to tackle these urgent issues in panel discussions drawing on the expertise of practitioners, elected officials and intellectuals currently grappling with the great urban questions of today.

PUBLIC EVENT
Thursday, 27th September 2018

6.00 – 6:15 p.m. Opening
Antoni Segura, President, CIDOB
Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona

6.15 – 8 p.m. Debate “Global cities and Spatial Segregation: Resistances, Alternatives”
Moderator: Sergi Picazo, Journalist, Critic

Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona
Josep Ramoneda, Journalist, philosopher and writer
Teresa Caldeira, Chair and Professor of City and Regional Planning, UC Berkeley
INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
“The New Challenges of Global Cities”
Friday, 28th September 2018

9.00 a.m. Opening Remarks and Presentation of the Global Cities Programme
David Llistar, Director of Global Justice and International Cooperation, Barcelona City Council
Pol Morillas, Director, CIDOB

9.30 a.m. Cities in Global Governance
Moderator: Agustí Fernández de Losada, Director of the Global Cities Programme, CIDOB

The localisation of global agendas
Emilia Saiz, General Secretary, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

City diplomacy in the international arena
Sheila Foster, Professor of Law and Public Policy, Georgetown University, and chair of the Advisory Committee of the Global Parliament of Majors

Territorial alliances to implement global agendas
Enrique Gallicchio, Associate Researcher, Latin American Centre for Human Economics (CLAEH), Uruguay

11.30 a.m. Coffee Break

12.00 p.m. The Right to the City: Towards a New Urban Paradigm
Moderator: Eva Garcia Chueca, Scientific Coordinator of the Global Cities Programme, CIDOB

Alternative urban futures: considerations from the Global South
AbdouMaliq Simone, Professor, Max Planck Institute and the African Centre for Cities

Claiming the right to the city
Betânia Alfonso, Professor, Fundação Escola Superior do Ministério Público do Rio Grande do Sul; Director, Brazilian Institute of Urbanistic Law (IBDU)

Curbing rents and gentrification in a global city
Katrin Schmidberger, Member of the Berlin House of Representatives and Spokesperson for Housing, Rents and Tourism

Tools and policies for achieving the right to the city in Asia
Anselmo Lee, Executive Director, Korea Human Rights Foundation

2.00 p.m. Lunch

3.00 p.m. New Urban Development Models
Moderator: Lorenzo Vidal, Researcher, Global Cities Programme, CIDOB

New economic development models for cities
Frances Northrop, Director for Communities and Localities, New Economics Foundation

Digital city and social change
Francesca Bria, Chief Technology and Digital Innovation Officer, Barcelona City Council

Re-municipalisations and energy transitions
Daniel Chavez, TNI fellow, Transnational Institute

The role of the informal economy
Marty Chen, Senior Advisor and former International Coordinator, WIEGO – Women in Informal Employment, Globalizing and Organizing

5.00 p.m. Closing remarks
Agustí Fernández de Losada, Director of the Global Cities Programme, CIDOB

5.30 p.m. End of seminar