Urban transitions: Replacing traditional work practices in traditional workspaces

Montserrat Pallares-Barbera, Esteve Dot Jutgla

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Overview

• Introduction
• Research question
• Literature
• Methodology
• Results
• Concluding remarks
Research question and working hypothesis

- Economic Social spaces
- **Public** intervention
- Why new environments
- Social claim
- **Political** requirement
- Is it compatible
- Why ideological spaces are picky and not evenly distributed over the space
- What are the determinants
- WORKING HYPOTHESES: Ideological economic spaces appear where there have been a concentration of civic society movements, work unions, working labor movements
- This IES produce a ideological atmosphere
Elements

• Firms
• Space
• Actors
• Governance
• Functions
• Ideology
Firms

• Very small one to two-person firms in a multiple sector start-ups of collaborative economy

• Location: traditional industry buildings
Space

• Former traditional industry space
• Historic work and social associations
• Industrial heritage
• Medium to tiny spaces
Actors

• Civil society organized in social networks
• Neighborhood organizations
• Cultural groups
• Artists
• Local authorities
• Private owners
Individuals

• Leader transitions
• Former worker union leaders
• Neighborhood association heads
• Social activist
• Low-wage workers
• Low-skill workers
• Manual chores
Governance

• Bottom up demands for the city:
  – Social facilities
  – Libraries

• Heritage conservation

• Private housing
Functions

• Transitional functions:
  – Nano enterprises
  – Production of physical and knowledge goods
  – Cultural activities
  – Artistic exhibitions
  – Community strength
  – Mutual cooperation
  – Collaboration
Ideology

- Economic crisis 2007-2015
- Bottom-up movements
- Conquered traditional urban spaces
- New propositions of urban fabric
- Undetermined future
- Ideology forged the space
- Economic activity: mutual actions, gain a stipend, contribute to activist movement
- Causes: surviving, struggling forces behind,
Can Batlló Barcelona

- Neighborhood of Sants
Sants neighborhood
Transitional economic spaces
Struggle 1978-2017
The turning point
From occupying to tenants

“El Bloc Onze com a cavall de Troya. En aquí hi ha diferents projectes: escola, fusteria, horts i jardins, mobilitat, alimentació... Destaca el projecte viver de cooperatives que serà Barcelona Activa.”

Joan Costa. Plataforma Can Batlló

“The (initiative) Bloc Onze (The Eleven Bloc) will be the Trojan Horse. There are different projects: school, carpentry, orchards and gardens, mobility, food ... It is important to mention the project nursery of cooperatives. Which will be coached by Barcelona Activa. “

Joan Costa. Can Batlló Platform
Economic projects and ideology

• “The carpentry project (4 employees) has (authorization) to work for private clients part of their time, to “earn their lentils.” Although the (Platform) philosophy is oriented so that everyone could use the tools in exchange for donations.”

• “Permits are given from the Assembly every six months.”

• “Carpenters converted into autonomous cooperative? In any case a % of profits must go to Can Batlló.”

Joan Costa. Can Batlló Platform

“El projecte de la fusteria (amb 4 treballadors) té excepcionalment alguns dies que fa treballs privats per guanyar-se les llenties. Encara que la filosofia és orientar perquè cadascú utilitzi les eines a canvi de donacions.”

“Els permisos es donen des de l’Assemblea cada 6 mesos.”

“Fusters autònoms convertits en cooperativa? En tot cas un % dels beneficis han d’anar a Can Batlló.”
Cooperative and self-financing

- “Decisions are made by a weekly assembly and a committee meeting.”
- “Economic and all type activities do not pay rent. Carpenters do not pay. The Council pays electricity and water. No space can make profit (except for those with permission).”
- “The cafeteria is self-financed: even the volunteers pay for their coffee.”

Joan Costa. Can Batlló Platform
From volunteers to cooperatives

• “There is an economic and social return. For example, in a theater company play, the return amount varies: 70-30, or 80-20.”

• “We must make a leap forward because (we understand that) voluntary work has its limits. The project Coòpolis as a cooperative nursery would make this function. This project is at the beginning.”

Joan Costa. Can Batlló Platform

“Hi ha un retorn econòmic i social. Per exemple, una companyia de teatre, es fa una taquilla inversa de 70-30, o de 80-20 (si és un motiu solidari).”

“S’ha de fer un salt endavant perquè el voluntariat té límits. El projecte Coòpolis, com a planter de cooperatives, sí que faria aquesta funció. És un projecte a madurar.”
Concluding remarks

• Economic spaces
• Public intervention
• Social spaces
• Why and how a new environment
• Social claim
• Political requirement
• Is it compatible
• Transformation of the urban fabric from bottom-up activities
Thanks!

Montserrat Pallares-Barbera