CITIES IN A CHANGING WORLD:
QUESTIONS OF CULTURE, CLIMATE AND DESIGN

• Paper / Proposal Title:

Covid-19 or the endemic vulnerability of unequal and polarized urban spaces? The case of Lisbon Metropolitan Area

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• Abstract (300 words):

Economic globalization didn't delivered the flat map where everything is equalized. On the contrary Covid-19 has exposed and explored the profound inequalities and polarizations that have settled in society and territories. These can be detected at different scales: between the Global North and Global South, between countries, between regions or within urban areas such as Lisbon Metropolitan Area (LMA). Socio-spatial differentiation patterns and environmental degradation - expressions of a global market economy oriented to growth and competitiveness are now traduced in a set of vulnerabilities uncovered by the pandemic crisis. Contrasts were made visible between the more qualified classes and the less qualified classes, more exposed to infection and unemployment due to its precarious housing conditions and reliance on fragile or informal employment contracts. At the macroeconomic level the pandemic revealed the risks of territorial specialization. Major economic losses were observed in the gentrified centers excessively reliant on tourism. Also the possible disruption of global value production chains brought to light problems related to deindustrialization and rural
abandonment and the need to enforce short supply chains in order to increase territorial resilience to external unpredicted shocks. Finally at the environmental level new concerns were raised about the retroactive impacts of urbanization on ecosystems loss. In this communication we will present research results related to LMA: I) the mapping of social-economic and environmental polarization II) the existent link between increased urban inequality/polarization and increased urban vulnerability to extreme scenarios such as covid-19 global pandemic (III) Finally some conclusions will be made on the need to detach public polices and planning practices from market logics and to consider them as key recovery instruments for a more inclusive, diverse and sustainable urban future.

• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Sebastião Santos

Master in Landscape Architecture (2010) Integrated researcher at Dinamia’cet – Iscte_iul (since 2011), PhD Fellow (since 2015) in Architecture of Contemporary Metropolitan Territories – Iscte-iul. Research and publications within national and European international projects (Marie Curie) in subjects such as urban sustainability, scenario development, planning and public polices, urban vulnerability, uneven geographic development and transdisciplinary methods. Currently finishing PhD whose main goal is the mapping of socioeconomic polarization dynamics in Lisbon Metropolitan Area, to identify the social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities associated with these processes and to purpose solutions at public polices/urban planning level for a more inclusive, sustainable and less vulnerable city.

Maria de Fátima Ferreiro

Associate Professor with Habilitation of the Department of Political Economy (Iscte). Habilitation (2020) and PhD (2005) in Economics (ISCTE), Master in Economics and Social Policy (ISEG, 1997). Degree in Sociology (ISCTE, 1991). Dean of the School of Social Sciences since 2019 (-2022). Researcher at Dinâmia’CET-Iscte. Teaching activities in undergraduate and post-graduate courses in the areas of history of economic ideas, social and solidarity economy, territory, and sustainability. Current research within international and national projects, with European (RurAction, Horizon 2020, Marie-Curie) and national (Splash, Portugal 2020, Compete) funding. Publications in the area of political economy in the subjects of territory, innovation, and sustainability. Director of the Department of Political Economy (2016-2019), Sub-Director of the School of Social and Human Sciences (2016-2019), and Vice-President of the Pedagogical Council of Iscte (2014-2017)