

## **Characterizing the public space to analyse of the interaction between people and space.**

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Along the recent decades, public policies that affect the lived environment - ranging from public space to housing – have ceased to be closed decision making processes based solely on professional criteria to become open processes involving citizens (public decision making). These public, open and participatory processes require new methodologies for professionals and citizens to contribute with their knowledge and experience to jointly define the problems that affect the spaces they inhabit and to participate collaboratively to their solution.

The analysis presented here is part of a research titled "PROHABIT: Multidisciplinary analysis of the lived environment to promote the implementation of the right to the city." financed by the RecerCaixa program (2015-2016). The main objective of the project is to analyse the impact that recent urban transformations in the city of Barcelona have had on its inhabitants, in order to understand the processes of symbolization by which the inhabitants give meaning to the space.

Researchers in the field of social and environmental psychology and architecture participate in this project. In fact, one of the main challenges of Prohabit is to create a theoretical framework and a multidisciplinary methodology to investigate the interrelations between inhabitants and the built environment.

Specifically, this communication focus on one of the key aspects of this interdisciplinary methodology; the characterization of the public space based on indicators. These indicators will be the result of the morphological study of the analysed areas and the analysis of the activities that occur in them, at the same time.

The techniques applied to collect the uses and activities that occur in the public space have been Non-Participatory Observations and Individual and Group Interviews.

In order to understand the processes through which people endow the spaces they inhabit, in later phases of the Prohabit's project, the results derived from these techniques will be compared with the results obtained from the characterization of the urban space in different areas.

**Key words:** Characterization; Public space; Users' activities;