



# urbanA

THE 2ND URBANA ARENA – ONLINE CONVERSATIONS  
'JUSTICE CHALLENGES IN URBAN SUSTAINABILITY'  
5-6 JUNE 2020

The second Arena event aims at fostering a transversal dialogue on what we mean by 'justice' in urban sustainability. Participants will begin this dialogue by reflecting on the initial results of an UrbanA study that summarizes the manifestations and drivers of urban injustice in different countries according to recent EU research.

The purpose of this Arena is twofold: to engage invited participants and the existing UrbanA Community of Practice in producing a **clear, powerful and comprehensive statement on the drivers of urban injustice as challenges for sustainability**, and to further contribute to the overall UrbanA objective of **consolidating and communicating knowledge and experience on how to make cities more just and sustainable**.

### Building transformative alternatives together, with and for communities:

The spirit of this Arena revolves around the idea of stepping outside our “comfort zones” (often entrenched in some sort of privilege or expert and very specific field of practice) in order to recognize, listen and give visibility to the needs and demands of vulnerable and/or marginalized individuals, social groups and communities. This will be achieved through the thematic content of this Arena event, which is focusing on justice challenges, and input from a variety of participant viewpoints and session formats.

### Responding to current public health emergencies, an online format and platform:

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, this event has moved from a physical gathering in Barcelona to a series of online conversations designed to take place between UrbanA fellows, team researchers, new participants, and the wider community of practice interested in Just and Sustainable cities, around the theme of “Justice Challenges in Urban Sustainability”. The event will be held online using Zoom and combining short introductions and debriefs with all participants with small breakout





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rooms for discussions of specific themes. We are currently developing the exact agenda of these conversations and will be updating this document frequently.

## TENTATIVE AGENDA

**DAY 1:** What are the drivers and manifestations of urban injustice and how do they challenge sustainability? Theoretical insights and case examples from around Europe. *(2h sessions, in the morning and in the afternoon)*

### Thematic breakout sessions morning:

- Exclusive access to the benefits of urban sustainability infrastructure
- Material and livelihood inequalities
- Racialized or ethnically exclusionary urbanization
- Uneven and excluding urban intensification and regeneration
- Uneven environmental health and pollution patterns

### Thematic breakout sessions afternoon:

- Unfit organizational structures
- No or tokenistic participation in urban planning
- Lack of effective knowledge brokerage
- Unquestioned neoliberal growth and austerity urbanism
- Weak(ened) civil society

## DAY 2

**MORNING SESSION:** Contentious issues of urban justice and sustainability: Open conversations on difficult questions concerning justice and sustainability in cities today. *(Morning session, 2h)*

### Breakout group discussions:

1. Re-naturing cities (Nature-Based Solutions, Green Infrastructure) is often part of sustainability interventions but remains trapped in growth-oriented discourse that limits justice potentials. Do you agree?
2. Is gentrification an unintended or intended consequence in cities? With regard to urban sustainability interventions, what examples are there where gentrification was the desired outcome; the undesired outcome; or was actively avoided?





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3. Can focus on the urban/metropolitan scale be counter-productive? A recent study pointed to how it doesn't matter how local food is in terms of environmental impact, rather what matters is what we are eating, ie vegan or vegetarian will always be better. What would that mean for environmental and social justice?

*Two or more proposed themes/questions emerging from a co-creation process initiated with UrbanaA fellows and participants, tbc.*

**AFTERNOON SESSION: 'Let's imagine' – open space: Building projects for urban justice and sustainability - a collective exercise** (*Afternoon session, 2h) – details tbc.*

