

RESUMEN PROPUESTA DE TESIS

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Título de la Propuesta de tesis: **PUBLIC SPACES PERCEPTION IN SMART CITIES**

With the widespread use of mobile smartphones, tablets, and portable computers, cities are progressively turning into the primordial locations for interacting with computing systems (F. Bentley *et al*, 2012). The merging of digital and physical spaces conducts to innovative socio-spatial practices. This has a huge impact on urban phenomena and on the dynamics of inhabiting, meeting and public places, traveling, displacement, work, provisioning, leisure and people's behaviour.

Moreover, the digital footprints left by users is allowing to study how people move in a city (Girardin, 2008), with an amount of data that was impossible to gather in the past. And here is where cross-disciplinary becomes very important.

In a time when cities around the globe claim to be *smart*, it is crucial to be conscious and highlight the value of its inhabitant's collective wisdom. We should use this power to create the kind of places we want to live in. Technology can improve efficiency in many aspects but cities cannot be understood without its people.

We are particularly interested in how inhabitants relate with and perceive urban space and how do mobile, locative, sensing and smart technologies are changing social practices and the way people interact with public spaces in Smart Cities. The *El Born* area, in the city of Barcelona, was chosen as our case study given that its urban fabric offers a rich combination of uses and users in a city that claims to be the 1st Smart City in the Spanish State, 4th in Europe and 10th in the world (<http://smartcity.bcn.cat/en>).

Combining traditional methods of observation with an online survey and interviews, we seek to obtain qualitative and quantitative data in order to generate cognitive maps representing physical, digital and social aspects of the area. Our goal is to get an understanding of how mobile technologies frame people's behaviour and interaction with public spaces and create new forms of urban dynamics.