MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE INDIVIDUAL FELLOWSHIPS 2020

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HOSTING MARIE CURIE FELLOWS

HOST INSTITUTION

Interdisciplinary Center of Social Sciences – CICS.NOVA

RESEARCH GROUP AND URL

Cities, Environment and Regional Development - https://www.cics.nova.fcsh.unl.pt/research/research-groups/3-cities-environment-and-regional-development

SUPERVISOR (NAME AND E-MAIL)

Prof. Dr. João Seixas

SHORT CV OF THE SUPERVISOR

The supervisor is a Professor and Researcher on Geography, Territorial Planning and Urban Studies in the FCSH Universidade Nova de Lisboa. He has a PhD in Urban Geography (Autonomous University of Barcelona), a Msc in Urban and Regional Studies (London School of Economics and Political Science). He was Commissioner for the Strategic Charter of the city of Lisbon and the Coordinator of the Political-Administrative Reform of the city of Lisbon. He is also an Invited professor in Barcelona (UAB) and Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), and was Senior Consultant for the URBACT Programme (DG Regio and Urban, European Commission). The supervisor's scientific research is presently focused on Urban Politics and its transition needs ad possibilities, which in include recent changes and challenges posed to urban politics realms, namely to urban administration and governments, to urban civic movements, and also to urban and political sciences as well.' This provides a solid academic qualification and experience background for Professor Seixas to supervise the researcher's project proposal. More pointedly, the appointed supervisor has a vast academic experience in assessing the implementation of urban strategies and plans, including urban governance projects in several European cities, namely Lisbon and Barcelona. As a DG REGIO consultant, he also has profound knowledge of European urban landscapes, of EU Cohesion Policies and its several territorial and local development programmes and the implementation of Urban Development Strategies, which include circular economy related aspects. As regards his academic experience, the supervisor has more than 80 publications (more than 25 articles – e.g. Urban Research and Practice, International Journal of Sustainable Development and Planning, Social Sciences / 10 books – five as an editor/coordinator – e.g. Urban Governance in the South of Europe / 16 Book Chapters, and 28 reports), some in high impact factor journals, and a dozen experiences in academic supervision/training of university students, especially at advanced level (PhD, postdoctoral researchers)

5 SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- The Global Rent Gap of Lisbon's Historic Centre (2018) (com Lestegás, Iago e Lois, Ruben) in International Journal of Sustainable Development and Planning Vol. 13, No. 4 683–694 https://www.witpress.com/elibrary/sdp-volumes/13/4/2058
- Mudar de casa em Lisboa (2018) in Cadernos Metrópole v. 20, n. 41, pp. 123-149, jan/abr 2018 http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/2236-9996.2018-4106

- Cities and Urbanisation in Democratic Portugal (2018) in Méditerranée, Revue géographique des pays méditerranées, número 127
- Dinâmicas sociogeográficas e políticas na Área Metropolitana de Lisboa em tempos de crise e de austeridade (2015) in Cadernos Metrópole Nº34, 371-399, IPPUR-UFRJ e Observatório das Metrópoles, Rio de Janeiro http://revistas.pucsp.br/index.php/metropole/article/view/24198
- The long way to Ithaca. The Reconfiguration of the urban political spaces in Southern Europe (2015) in Revista Terra, Departament de Geografia de la Universitat de Valencia https://ojs.uv.es/index.php/TERR

PROJECT TITLE AND SHORT DESCRIPTION

Title: SUNstanable cities. A response for the global sustainability challenge

In an age of climate change and increasing vulnerability to extreme climate catastrophes, the choice for using renewable sources of energy, instead of fossil fuel energy sources, has become widely accepted as a concrete solution to promoting sustainable development. Indeed, how effectively a city plans and prepares for future potential environmental shocks is decisive in determining its prospects for sustainable development, as key dimension for territorial cohesion. Crucially, cities need to make choices about the use of green infrastructure in order to improve quality of life of their citizens, maximize economic opportunities, and minimize the impact of the population on the natural environment. Currently, the bulk of energy consumption and carbon emissions occur in urban areas. Indeed, the IEA estimates the technical potential for urban PV at 5,400 GW, sufficient to provide approximately 30% of the urban electricity demand in 2050. Indeed, globally, the number of solar PV plants has increased rapidly during the last decade, driven by strong deployment policies and a rapid decrease of costs. Under this scenario, the EU energy policy aims to promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy to make a very significant contribution to reducing emissions, improving security of energy supply, and boosting competitiveness of technology innovation in renewable energy sectors. In particular, new laws have been implemented in response to EU Directive 2002/91 (2002) on the energy performance of buildings, supplemented by the incorporation into national law of Directive 2010/31/EU (2010), which revises and improves the previous directive on building energy performance, to ensure that by 2020 all new buildings are so-called nearly zero-energy buildings. In this regard, the use solar energy can be viewed as an optimal sustainable development (SUNstainability) solution to be implemented in cites located in areas with significant levels of sun exposure all year round, as solar energy technologies can be incorporated into buildings and pathways' (roads, sidewalks), large rooftop areas of commercial parks, vacant land at industrial sites, as well as on top of degraded or contaminated land etc., both by public and private entities, and by citizens. In the end, it should be expected that SUNstanable cities can be economically productive, socially inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and entail a sound governance system, in order to ensure that all citizens can benefit from them. With cities being responsible for up to 70% of energy-related carbon emissions, cities are becoming increasingly aware of their responsibility to act towards a greener economy. Solar energy is also one of the most promising climate-friendly energy sources, and an important component of sustainable or green communities. Amongst other advantages, solar technologies: (i) can be efficient in large areas of the world (ii) require no special skill set to generate or provision power; (iii) need no security measures; (iv) can perform without excessive maintenance costs for prolonged periods; (v) can help to reinforce national security, economic growth, climate stewardship, sustainable land use, and economic development; (vi) contribute to an urban energy transition towards experimentation in sustainability governance and (vii) have the potential for the creation of new green jobs. In order to be successful, SUNstanable cities should create partnerships with the academic and business arenas, and to stimulate city dwellers in implementing solar energy solutions in their activities. From a governance standpoint, cities supported by solar energy systems can allow for the mitigation of over policy centralization, as they can become semi-independent in providing electrical power to the grid on an as-needed basis.

SCIENTIFIC AREA WHERE THE PROJECT FITS BEST

Urban Sustainability Studies