

Title of the project:	Commoning Housing: Emerging Social Innovation across Spain and the United Kingdom
Contact:	Mara Ferreri (mara.ferreri@uab.cat)
Web page:	http://commoninghousing.net/projects/commoning-housing-in-barcelona-and-london/
Area:	Urban Governance, Commons, Internet and Social Innovation

What

‘Commoning Housing: Emerging Social Innovation across Spain and the United Kingdom’ investigates practices of co-produced and self-organised common housing, understood and implemented as alternatives to existing housing provision. The project compares historical and contemporary case studies of collaborative housing (such as non-equity co-operative housing for rental), and their political and institutional conditions, with a specific focus on Barcelona and London. It aims to understand possibilities and barriers to producing and maintain housing commons, and to identify lessons to be shared across the two contexts.

Who

Mara Ferreri is the principal investigator and she is postdoctoral research fellow at IGOP. The project ‘Commoning Housing’ is financed by the UAB’s P-Sphere COFUND programme, part of the EU Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programme (grant No 665919).

Why

The Commoning Housing project is designed to identify and analyse experiences of ‘housing commoning’ in the context of a resurgent interest in forms of production and management that are alternative to existing market as well institutional provision. While often statistically marginal, practices of commoning have the potential to transform not only imaginaries but also the relationship between homes, residents-users and wider urban governance. The analysis of ‘commoning’ housing can contribute to critically inform local and transnational debates on issues of collective non-speculative ownership and organisation in global cities, and of democratic decision-making and its relationship to public policy and governance.

How

The project builds a multi-dimensional analysis of housing commons through a mixed-method research design that combines semi-structured interviews, participant observation, case study research, archival and comparative policy analysis. Through an asynchronous comparison between Barcelona and London, the project develops new

theoretical perspectives on the commoning of housing and home, with the aim of critically informing local and transnational debates on issues of collective non-speculative ownership and organisation in global cities, and of democratic decision-making and its relationship to public policy and governance.

When

Commoning Housing started in October 2016 and it will end in October 2019.