

### **Question 1: Can you introduce yourself ?**

Good Afternoon, my name Marcela Alonso Ferreira. I'm a second year PhD student in political science at the Center for European Studies and Comparative Politics.

My research interests are urban governance and the politics of public policies in the city and more particularly in large metropolises. My research focuses on informal housing and the policies addressing it.

### **Question 2 : Can you introduce WHIG?**

WHIG stands for what is governed and not governed, and cities. This is a collective research project interested in governance issues in large metropolises around the world, notably Paris, London, São Paulo, Mexico City, but also Amsterdam and Milan.

This is a partnership between colleagues from both Universities in London, São Paulo, Amsterdam, Mexico, Milan and Paris.

This group gathers a very interdisciplinary team of junior and senior researchers from multiple disciplines like political science, sociology, and urban planning, and we are all very much interested in developing comparative work across these seeds that I mentioned.

So, within this larger project and social network there are specific projects under development. For example, there is one focusing on investments in the real estate market and the governance of housing production.

This project is looking at three European cities like Amsterdam, London and Paris and there are also other collaborations interested for example in the networks of local policy elites and some follow Paris, Milan, just to give you two examples of what we've been doing as a group.

### **Question 3: Can you present your involvement in the project ?**

My participation in this project is through my PHD thesis project which is concerned with the governance of informal settlements and particularly on the public action to formalize and consolidate informal housing.

So, I focus on the cases of Sao Paulo and Mexico City, which are the largest metropolises in Latin America, and we're formalisation by the state has been put in place for a relatively long period for three to five decades. Uhm, and therefore my contribution to this project is by providing analysis of criminalization policies in these two cities through historical comparative approach. But, I must say that I don't really see informal settlements as a distinct, distinctive issue of countries of low and middle income.

So, I draw a lot from the historical literature on loans and unauthorized land divisions in Paris and London to discuss these two Latin American cases.

#### **Question 4: What are the results of your common reflection through WHIG?**

Our discussions within the week project generates maybe three main outputs.

First and foremost we overcome the divide in the urban studies literature that typically understand cities from the global North and South as fundamentally different entities, and they assume that it's not possible to carry on comparative work.

Also, these leads to a second point, which is that this project is has developed and continues to develop analytical tools to pursue this rigorous comparative research of apparently very different cities, but that can still be compared. They're still similar phenomenon that are interesting to discuss, and while still accounting for the historical trajectories of particularities of each context.

The third output that I would say that this project needs to be is by adopting these analytical tools and pushing forth this research agenda, this College in this network contributes to fundamentally proposed new empirical and theoretical contributions to the political science, to urban sociology and to urban studies literature in general.