

March 17 | 2022 | 13:30-15:00 CET | Online | Register [here](#)

Commons and Polycentric Governance within and across cities

Ana Rosa Chagas Cavalcanti and Matteo Roggero

Abstract

This seminar will address polycentric governance both within and across cities. Against the background of a weakened state power and an increasingly urbanized society, local governments are confronted with challenges as diverse as climate change, pollution and inequality. Meeting such challenges requires addressing collective action problems, raising questions of institutional design.

The study of the common goods opens a wide range of new opportunities to design policies and governance approaches for collective action. Within the city, the commons increasingly represent a tool to foster dialogue among different social groups, promoting decentralized self-governance. Outside the city, networking among cities challenges the view that global problems cannot be solved through international cooperation. Commons scholars identified early on the potential for polycentric approaches, now emerging through the increasingly active role of local governments on climate change, and through the importance of climate networks fostering the transfer of knowledge and resources across cities. Against this background, Ana Rosa Chagas Cavalcanti will introduce some experiences of co-planning and co-governing urban settings based on an analysis of the 'Co-Cities' project in Italy, which tackles the role of common citizens, architects and planners as well as the role of state to the construction of the common good. Subsequently, Matteo Roggero will present empirical results on the relative role of horizontal and vertical coordination for urban climate governance. Together, the two talks highlight the experiences and policies related to the governance of cities under the umbrella of institutions and state as well as the importance of institutional diversity for a truly polycentric governance.

Reading material

Cavalcanti, A.R.C. (2022). Abstract (in English) and presentation (in Portuguese) on common goods and public policies in urban settings. Available at [URL](#).

Eisenack, K., & Roggero, M. (2022). Many roads to Paris: Explaining urban climate action in 885 European cities. *Global Environmental Change*, 72, 102439. [DOI](#).



[Ana Rosa Chagas Cavalcanti](#) is a Professor Collaborator and a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of São Paulo. Her research project is titled "Learning with the Commons: Housing for an Urban Social Revolution" and is Funded by FAPESP(20/11917-6).



[Matteo Roggero](#) is a researcher at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. His work focuses on the institutional dimension of adaptation and mitigation to climate change and on qualitative methods for social sciences and the environment.

About the Colloquium Series: IASC Europe & CIS is organizing this colloquium series to support the communication among the IASC members in the region and beyond to facilitate content-based exchange and cross-disciplinary networking on bringing together the commons scholarship and practice with policy.