Olatz Ribera Almandoz

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About me: I am a political scientist and social researcher. I obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Political and Administration Sciences from Pompeu Fabra University (UPF, 2010), a Master's Degree in Applied Social Research Techniques from the University of Barcelona and the Autonomous University of Barcelona (2013), a Master's Degree in Current Democracies from UPF (2014) and a PhD in Political and Social Sciences from UPF (2019), and I am currently a researcher and public policy evaluator at Episteme – Social Research and Intervention. I am also an associate researcher at CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs) in the area of migration and a member of the Johns Hopkins University – Universitat Pompeu Fabra Public Policy Center. My research uses a critical and comparative approach to examine migration and asylum policies, inequalities in urban settings, and the (new) demands of social justice, welfare and housing. I have previously been a visiting scholar at The University of Manchester and a researcher in public policy analysis in a variety of institutions, including the Institute of Government and Public Policy (IGOP), and the Barcelona Institute of Regional and Metropolitan Studies (IERMB).

WORK EXPERIENCE

19/01/2021 – CURRENT – Barcelona, Spain
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCHER AND PUBLIC POLICY EVALUATOR – EPISTEME. SOCIAL RESEARCH AND INTERVENTION

Social research and public policy evaluation in different projects, including the pilot programme 'Servicio Comunitario' for the prevention of harm and risk of alcohol and other drugs, funded by the Spanish Ministry of Health through the National Plan on Drugs.

https://www.epistemesocial.org/

01/10/2018 – 31/12/2020 – Barcelona, Spain
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER – CIDOB – BARCELONA CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Social research and public policy evaluation in the projects '«Our house, your house»? Conditions and paths of access to housing for asylum seekers and refugees in Catalonia' and 'The National Integration Evaluation Mechanism (NIEM)'. Research design, creation and analysis of the CASASIL Survey 2019, performance and analysis of in-depth, semi-structured interviews, social media management, and writing of academic publications and final monography '«Casa nostra, casa vostra»? Condicions i trajectòries d'accés a l'habitatge de sol·licitants d'asil i refugiats a Catalunya'.

Area of Migration | www.cidob.org

01/10/2014 – 30/09/2018 – Barcelona, Spain
PREDOCTORAL FELLOW AND TEACHING ASSISTANT – UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA

Elaboration of the doctoral thesis, which compares multiple social movements in defence of the right to decent and affordable housing and the access to free and universal health care in Spain and the United Kingdom. Predoctoral scholarship through the National Programme for Training university lecturers (FPU), by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports (FPU13/06393).
Teaching experience: Introduction to Research Methods in Public Policy Analysis (Master's Programme in Public and Social Policies), Advanced Statistical Analysis Using SPSS (Master's Programme in Public and Social Policies) and Theory of Public Institutions (Bachelor's Programme in Political and Administration Sciences).

Department of Political and Social Sciences | www.upf.edu

01/07/2013 – 30/06/2014 – Barcelona, Spain
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCHER – UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA

Research in the project AJOVE2012 'Desigualtat i participació de la joventut a Catalunya. Una aproximació quantitativa i qualitativa en un context de crisi', funded by de Catalan Youth Agency.
Research design, performance of in-depth interviews and participant observation, quantitative and qualitative data analysis, writing of final report.

Department of Political and Social Sciences | www.upf.edu

01/04/2013 – 30/06/2013 – Barcelona, Spain
MARKET RESEARCH ANALYST – BCF CONSULTORS

Data collection and statistical analysis. Research in the projects: 'El mercat de l'habitatge a Catalunya: Evolució i perspectives, 2013', 'Sistema de Indicadores Económicos y de Gestión de la Librería en España, 2012', 'Observatorio de la Librería en España, 2013' and 'Report about the Europe Senior Tourism Programme (2012-2013)'.

01/03/2012 – 31/08/2012 – Barcelona, Spain
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCHER – IGOP – INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY

Research in the project 'Mejora de la empleabilidad de los/las estudiantes universitarios mediante el desarrollo de competencias participativas y sociales. Gobernanza universitaria y participación estudiantil', funded by the Spanish Ministry of Education.
Research design, performance of in-depth interviews, data collection and statistical analysis, writing of the final report 'La participación estudiantil en las universidades públicas. Estudio de caso de la Universidad Pompeu Fabra'.

https://pagines.uab.cat/participacionestudiantil/content/bienvenidoa

01/09/2011 – 31/01/2012 – Barcelona, Spain
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCHER – IERMB – BARCELONA INSTITUTE OF REGIONAL AND METROPOLITAN STUDIES

Member of the technical-methodological team for the project 'Enquesta de Condicions de Vida i Hàbits de la Població, 2011 (ECVHP 2011)'.
Fieldwork supervision and validation, statistical data analysis and writing of the reports 'Resultats sintètics Barcelona. Ciutat, àrea metropolitana, regió metropolitana, província' and 'Crisi econòmica, creixement de les desigualtats i transformacions socials. Informe general. Enquesta de condicions de vida i hàbits de la població de Catalunya, 2011'.

https://iermb.uab.cat/ca/enquestas/enquesta-de-condicions-de-vida-i-habits-de-la-poblacio-2011/

01/07/2010 – 31/08/2011 – Barcelona, Spain
TRAINING CONSULTANT – COLPIS – THE ASSOCIATION OF POLITICAL SCIENTISTS AND SOCIOLOGISTS OF CATALONIA

Management of courses and training schemes.
Data collection and analysis of COLPIS's employment board in order to explore the career trajectories and opportunities of political scientists and sociologists, and prepare appropriate training courses.

https://www.colpis.cat/

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

01/10/2014 – 09/12/2019 – Ramon Trias Fargas, 25-27, Barcelona, Spain
PHD IN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES – Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Thesis title 'Searching for autonomy and prefiguration: Resisting the crisis of social reproduction through housing and health care struggles in Spain and the UK' supervised by Prof Mònica Clua-Losada.
European Mention and 3-months research stay at the University of Manchester.
Examiners: Dr Angela Wigger, Dr Ian Bruff & Prof Tània Verge.

Excellent Cum Laude | https://www.upf.edu/web/phd-political-and-social-sciences |

https://www.tdx.cat/handle/10803/668176

20/09/2013 – 30/06/2014 – Ramon Trias Fargas, 25-27, Barcelona, Spain
MA CURRENT DEMOCRACIES: NATIONALISM, FEDERALISM AND MULTICULTURALISM – Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Field(s) of study
- Political and Social Sciences

https://www.upf.edu/en/web/democraciesactuals

01/10/2010 – 30/06/2013 – Avinguda Diagonal, 696, Barcelona, Spain
MA APPLIED SOCIAL RESEARCH TECHNIQUES – Autonomous University of Barcelona; The University of Barcelona

Field(s) of study
- Political and Social Sciences

https://pagines.uab.cat/tisa/

20/09/2006 – 30/06/2010 – Ramon Trias Fargas, 25-27, Barcelona, Spain
BA POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ADMINISTRATION – Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Field(s) of study
- Political and Social Sciences

https://www.upf.edu/en/web/politiques/ccp

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): CATALAN | SPANISH

Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
ENGLISH	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
FRENCH	A2	B1	A1	A1	A1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

DIGITAL SKILLS

Microsoft Office | Microsoft Word | Microsoft Powerpoint | Microsoft Excel | Outlook | Zoom | Google Docs | Google Drive | Social Media | SPSS Statistical Tool | Stata: statistical software for data science | Atlas.TI | NVIVO (Basic) | Microsoft Forms | Microsoft Teams - Work From Home | Skype | Internet user

PUBLICATIONS

Ribera-Almandoz, O. and Clua-Losada, M. (2020). Health Movements in the Age of Austerity: Rescaling resistance in Spain and the UK. Critical Public Health [Advanced online publication].

DOI: 10.1080/09581596.2020.1856333
https://doi.org/10.1080/09581596.2020.1856333 – 2020
Since the outbreak of the global financial crisis that started in 2007/8, austerity measures have been promoted in many European countries. Frequently justified as a form of crisis-management, these measures have been used to further privatise and deregulate welfare systems, as well as to reinforce the isolation of certain decision-making arenas from democratic processes. At the same time, they have also generated new strategic opportunities for resistance to different forms of anti-austerity disruptive agency. The paper analyses the rescaling strategies implemented in public health services in Spain and the UK during the current economic crisis, and contributes to the understanding of the scalar dynamics and strategies of two social struggles against the privatisation of hospitals and health centres in these two contexts: *Marea Blanca* (White Tide) in Madrid and *Keep Our NHS Public* in Greater Manchester. It argues that social movements are more successful when they exploit scale shifts to transform institutions into centres of resistance.

Ribera-Almandoz, O., Huke, N., Clua-Losada, M. and Bailey, D. J. (2020). Anti-austerity between militant materialism and real democracy: exploring pragmatic prefigurativism. Globalizations 17 (5), 766-781.

DOI: 10.1080/14747731.2020.1722493
https://doi.org/10.1080/14747731.2020.1722493 – 2020
The anti-austerity movement that emerged in the wake of the 2008 global economic crisis and 2010 Eurozone crisis, and which forms part of the 'age of austerity' that came after those crises, was underpinned by a set of ideas and practices that we refer to here as 'pragmatic prefigurativism'. Whilst the anti-austerity movements typically rejected formal ideologies such as Marxism and anarchism, nevertheless pragmatic prefigurativism can be understood as a 'left convergence' of sorts. The paper explores the features of this pragmatic prefigurativism, comparing the anti-austerity movements in the UK and Spain. In particular, we note the role of unresponsive institutions of democracy in prompting the move towards pragmatic prefigurativism, the adoption of techniques of direct democracy and direct action as the means through which to express a voice and to refuse austerity, and the pragmatic nature of the subsequent (re)turn to political institutions when this became a possibility.

Huke, N., Bailey, D. J., Clua-Losada, M. and Ribera-Almandoz, O. (2020). Struggle, resistance and disruption in austerity Europe. In Hosseini, S. S. H., Goodman, J., Motta S. C. and Gills, B. K. (eds.): The Routledge Handbook of Transformative Global Studies. London: Routledge.

DOI: 10.4324/9780429470325-37
https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429470325-37 – 2020
The onset of austerity politics in 2010 in most high-income democracies represented a fundamental challenge to established welfare compromises. Whilst welfare provision had already been in decline throughout the neoliberal period, the post-2010 experience represented a more thoroughgoing assault on the living standards of Europe's working population. In addition, the austerity agenda came at a time when institutions typically associated with the advance of working-class interests – especially trade unions and social democratic parties – were at a low ebb. In many contexts, however, the absence of a formal left response, alongside the existence of a nascent horizontalist protest movement, facilitated a wave of grassroots organisation that opposed austerity and sought to generate an alternative that was built around the principle of prefiguration. Subsequent developments have witnessed a flourishing of populist responses – both of left- and right-wing varieties. Yet, as the chapter highlights, these responses can only be understood with an acknowledgement of the ongoing potential for Europe's (changing) working class to act disruptively in contemporary capitalism. These trends will be illustrated empirically, mapping some of the key ways in which resistance has been enacted in austerity Europe.

Ribera-Almandoz, O., Delclós C. and Garcés-Mascareñas, B. (2020). «Casa nostra, casa vostra»? Condicions i trajectòries d'accés a l'habitatge de sol•licitants d'asil i refugiats a Catalunya. Barcelona: Monografías CIDOB nº. 77.

ISBN: 978-84-92511-81-5
https://www.cidob.org/es/publicaciones/serie_de_publicacion/monografias/monografias/casa_nostra_casa_vostra_condicions_i_trajectories_d_acces_a_l_habitatge_de_sol_licitants_d_asil_i_refugiats_a_catalunya – 2020
In the last ten years, applications for international protection have increased exponentially both in Spain, where they have risen from 3,005 in 2009 to 117,795 in 2019, and in Catalonia, where they have risen from 214 applications to 13,270 in the same period. This increase, as well as the lack of preventive measures on the part of the public administrations, have often led to significant delays in asylum procedures and to the collapse of the Spanish Reception and Integration System. In this context, the rise in rental prices and the double discrimination that asylum applicants suffer (because of their origin, but also because of their legal precariousness) have turned housing into one of the main obstacles to a proper reception, and have contributed to dynamics of residential segregation and social exclusion. Based on data obtained through the CASASIL 2019 Survey, this CIDOB Monography explores the residential situation of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection in Catalonia, with special emphasis on their housing trajectories and conditions. The main objective of the volume is, therefore, to offer data that allow to identify which are the factors and actors that facilitate or hinder their access to the housing, and that serve as a base for the formulation of public policies and specific programmes in the field.

Bailey, D. J., Clua-Losada, M., Huke, N. and Ribera-Almandoz, O. (2018). Beyond defeat and austerity: Disrupting (the critical political economy of) neoliberal Europe. London: Routledge.

ISBN: 978-1-13889-054-1 | DOI: 10.4324/9781315712314
https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315712314 – 2018
Much of the critical discussion of the European political economy and the Eurozone crisis has focused upon a sense that solidaristic achievements built up during the post-war period are being continuously unravelled. Whilst there are many reasons to lament the trajectory of change within Europe's political economy, there are also important developments, trends and processes which have acted to obstruct, hinder and present alternatives to this perceived trajectory of declining social solidarity. These alternatives have tended to be obscured from view, in part as a result of the conceptual approaches adopted within the literature.
Drawing from examples across the EU, this book presents an alternative narrative and explanation for the development of Europe's political economy and crisis, emphasising the agency of what are typically considered subordinate (and passive) actors. By highlighting patterns of resistance, disobedience and disruption it makes a significant contribution to a literature that has otherwise been more concerned to understand patterns of heightened domination, exploitation, inequality and neoliberal consolidation. It will be of interest to students and scholars alike.

Bailey, D. J., Clua-Losada, M., Huke, N., Ribera-Almandoz, O. and Rogers, K. (2018). Challenging the age of austerity: Disruptive agency after the global economic crisis. Comparative European Politics 16 (1): 9-31.

DOI: 10.1057/s41295-016-0072-8
https://doi.org/10.1057/s41295-016-0072-8 – 2018
This article explores the different forms of disruptive subjectivity that have developed in the context of the post-2008 global and European crises. The article traces developments both before and after 2008, with a specific focus on events in Spain and the UK. These country contexts are chosen due to their considerable differences in terms of the impact that the crisis had; yet we witness notable similarities with regard to the instances of refusal and resistance observed, especially in terms of the motives held and forms adopted, albeit with differences in scale. The paper presents the results of qualitative research, including 65 in-depth interviews, to highlight the way in which disaffection, the search for voice, and the threat of withdrawal from relations of exploitation have each become problematic as means of dissent following 2008. As a result, we have seen a merging of these more conventional forms of dissent with a number of more radical prefigurative practices that had been developing prior to 2008. As a result, the stagnation of neoliberal capitalism from 2008 onwards has witnessed the development of a new form of pragmatically prefigurative disruptive subjectivity, responsible for some of the more important and interesting political developments in contemporary advanced industrial democracies.

Huke, N., Bailey, D. J., Clua-Losada, M., Lux, J. and Ribera-Almandoz, O. (2018). Disrupting European authoritarianism. Grassroots organizing, collective action and participatory democracy during the Eurozone crisis. Amsterdam: TNI - Transnational Institute.

https://www.tni.org/en/publication/disrupting-european-authoritarianism – 2018
EU institutions and governments responded to the Eurozone crisis with a combination of austerity and authoritarianism that increased precarity and eroded liberal democracy. However, a survey of social movements shows that this technocratic depoliticization was only partially successful as the increasing exclusion of people from democratic decision-making also sparked novel forms of organizing that have opened up potential avenues for radical social change.

Las Heras, J. and Ribera-Almandoz, O. (2017). When Corporatism Fails: Trade Union Strategies and Grassroots Resistance to the Spanish Economic Crisis. The Journal of Labor & Society 20 (4), 449-466.

DOI: 10.1111/wusa.12303
https://doi.org/10.1111/wusa.12303 – 2017
This article analyses the fragmented working class struggles that emerged in Spain after the eruption of the economic crisis in 2008–2010. Through the use of qualitative methods, such as in-depth interviews and activist participant observation, the article traces the progressive institutionalization of the major Spanish trade unions—Comisiones Obreras and Union General de Trabajadores—, which during the crisis have prioritized the defense of social dialog over the adoption of more radical strategies. The article argues that the incapacity of institutionalized trade unions to organize an increasing proportion of displaced workers, including unemployed and precarious workers, has been challenged through the establishment of new, more inclusive grassroots forms of resistance and mobilization based on civil disobedience, prefigurative practices, and direct action.

Clua-Losada, M. and Ribera-Almandoz, O. (2017). Authoritarian neoliberalism and the disciplining of labour. In Tansel, C. B. (ed.): States of Discipline. Authoritarian Neoliberalism and the Crises of Capitalism. Rowman & Littlefield International, pp 29-46.

EISBN: 9781783486205
https://www.rowman-select.com/?id=-239675 – 2017
The rise of authoritarian forms of neoliberalism has been well-documented in the literature which has mainly focused on various reforms that have removed key decision-making arenas from democratic control. As Ian Bruff (2014) skilfully highlights, this is not a new process 1 but rather the continuation of a key characteristic of neoliberal governance. While the return of authoritarian forms to European states is crucial to understand the current crisis management strategies of states and capital, we still lack an understanding of the concrete forms in which this authoritarian turn is being developed, deepened, and, more importantly, challenged and contested. In this chapter, we explore the ways in which authoritarian neoliberalism finds expression in and against labour, and how, labour's agency shapes, contests and subverts such strategies.

Ribera-Almandoz, O. (2012). La participación estudiantil en las universidades públicas: Estudio de caso de la Universidad Pompeu Fabra. Barcelona: Institute of Government and Public Policy (IGOP).

https://pagines.uab.cat/participacionestudiantil/sites/pagines.uab.cat.participacionestudiantil/files/IGOP_estudio_caso_UPF.pdf – 2012
This report seeks to analyse the democratic quality of the different spaces of student participation that exist at Universitat Pompeu Fabra from the approach of the different models of democracy: the model of representative democracy, the model of participatory-deliberative democracy and the model of radical democracy. It also offers some suggestions for improvement in this field. These include: (1) the creation of a weekly time slot shared by all the students that will be used to promote their participation and involvement, (2) an improvement in the dissemination and communication of the governing bodies and the participatory spaces of both the faculties and the University, (3) the creation of accountability and communication mechanisms between student representatives and those represented, (4) the sharing of experiences of mobilized students, and (5) the promotion of a UPF Student Council that is truly participatory and which is based on deliberative democratic processes.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

24/11/2020 – 24/11/2020 – Barcelona
Migració i Sensellarisme: Escenaris durant i després de la pandèmia [Migration and Homelessness: Scenarios during and after the pandemic]

https://www.cidob.org/ca/activitats/linies_tematiques/migracions/migracio_i_sensellarisme_escenaris_durant_i_despres_de_la_pandemia

25/02/2020 – 25/02/2020 – Barcelona
Accés a l'habitatge per a sol·licitants d'asil: trajectòries i reptes [Access to housing for asylum seekers: trajectories and challenges]

https://www.cidob.org/ca/activitats/linies_tematiques/migracions/acces_a_l_habitatge_per_a_sol_licitants_d_asil_trajectories_i_reptes

26/06/2019 – 28/06/2019 – Malmö
City of Refuge? Housing integration and multilevel governance of asylum in Barcelona

Conference paper presented at the 16th IMISCOE Annual Conference on International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion.
https://www.imiscoe.org/events/passed-events/861-cfp-understanding-international-migration-in-the-21st-century-conceptual-and-methodological-approaches-16th-annual-imiscoe-conference-june-26-28-2019-malmoe-university-sweden

01/07/2018 – 02/07/2018 – Lisbon
Health Social Movements Contesting the Dismantling of the Public Health System in Spain and the UK

Conference paper presented at the Critical Political Economy Research Network Midterm Workshop.
https://criticalpoliticaleconomy.net/2017/12/02/cpern-2018-midterm-workshop/

29/08/2017 – 01/09/2017 – Athens
Where Are the Workers? Understanding forms of Resistance to the Crisis in Spain

Conference paper presented at the 13th Conference of the European Sociological Association
https://www.europeansociology.org/13th-conference-2017-athens

13/09/2017 – 16/09/2017 – Barcelona
Authoritarian Neoliberalism and the Disciplining of Labour

Presentation at the 11th Pan-European Conference on International Relations
https://eisa-net.org/events/11th-pan-european-conference-on-international-relations/

14/07/2016 – 15/07/2016 – Barcelona
Resistance from Below: The Household's Role in the Contestation of the Multilevel State

Presentation at the ESRC Seminar – Democratic responses and political pressures for change.
https://www.upf.edu/web/jhu-ppc/news/-/asset_publisher/rr16qaqF7cHE/content/id/5383378/maximized#.YCpaDHnOFyw

27/05/2016 – 28/05/2016 – Ljubljana
Contesting the Multilevel State: Social Reproduction and the Construction of Scale

Conference paper presented at the Critical Political Economy Research Network Mid-Term Conference.
https://criticalpoliticaleconomy.net/2016/03/15/cpern-mid-term-conference-programme-27-28-may-2016-institute-of-labour-studies-university-of-ljubljana/

25/08/2015 – 28/08/2015 – Prague
Constructing and Contesting the Multilevel State: Social Movements and the Redistribution of Authority

Conference paper presented at the 12th Conference of the European Sociological Association
http://esa12thconference.eu/

12/09/2014 – 13/09/2014 – Vienna
Strategic Multilevel Political Struggle: The Case of the Platform of People Affected by Mortgages (PAH)

Conference paper presented at the Critical Political Economy Research Network Mid-Term Conference
https://criticalpoliticaleconomy.net/2014/09/03/cpern-mid-term-conference/