

PROJECT: THE RIGHT TO THE CITY AND THE AMBIVALENCE OF TOURISM: A COMPARATIVE APPROACH TO MEDIA DISCOURSES AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS' DISSENT IN VENICE, AMSTERDAM AND BARCELONA

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LANGUAGE: SPANISH

TRANSLATION: DR ALEXANDER ARAYA LÓPEZ

SELF-REPORTED GENDER OF THE HUMAN PARTICIPANT: MALE

AGE OF THE HUMAN PARTICIPANT: [WITHHELD DUE TO PRIVACY CONCERNS]

COLLECTIVE: DEFENSEM PARK GÜELL

INTERVIEWER: DR ALEXANDER ARAYA LÓPEZ

DISCIPLINE: SOCIOLOGY

PAGES: 17

THIS INTERVIEW FOLLOWED THE ETHICS GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCHERS AND A WRITTEN CONSENT FORM WAS SIGNED BY THE HUMAN PARTICIPANT, AFTER DISCUSSING THE OBJECTIVES, SCOPE AND POTENTIAL RISKS AND HARMS ASSOCIATED TO THE INVOLVEMENT IN THE STUDY. THE ETHICS COMMITTEE AT CA' FOSCARI, UNIVERSITY OF VENICE APPROVED THE ETHICS GUIDELINES FOR THE «RIGHTS UP» PROJECT ON JULY 2ND, 2018.

HOW TO USE THIS TRANSCRIPT? THE FOLLOWING TRANSCRIPT IS A NON-LITERAL TRANSLATION FROM SPANISH TO ENGLISH. CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION, WHEN DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE RESEARCHER, HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN SQUARED BRACKETS. SOME DATA HAS BEEN REMOVED DUE TO POTENTIAL HARM TO THE HUMAN PARTICIPANT OR DUE TO PRIVACY CONCERNS. ACCESS TO THE ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT IN SPANISH COULD BE OBTAINED ON A CASE BY CASES BASIS. THE ORIGINAL AUDIO FILE WILL NOT BE SHARED. THE NAMES OF PUBLIC SPACES, BUSINESSES, POLITICIANS OR INSTITUTIONS MENTIONED BY THE INTERVIEWEE HAVE BEEN INCLUDED, WHEN THIS INFORMATION IS CONSIDERED “SAFE” ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLE OF “NO HARM” APROPOS THE HUMAN PARTICIPANT.

Interviewer: Let me see that it is working... Ok. The first question is: Have you lived enough in Barcelona to perceive a change between “before” mass tourism and “after” mass tourism?

Subject BAR01: Oh man, and how, and how! Now this is savage, do you understand? But well... It's savage in all senses. In all senses because now, for example, and this is a comment that might sound silly, but for me to go home, if before I used to take the first bus available... Now, it could be that I have to wait for even three buses, because they come crowded with tourists. And sure, there comes the time when you say, well, for me... I don't have to be thankful for the tourism, when... I mean, the fault could not be attributed to tourism, watch it! The fault is of the management. It's bad management all this, because it's something as simple as increasing the number of buses... but then they say there is too much traffic. What do I know! All lies! So, we are paying the consequences. And above that, the politician tells you

that you have to be thankful... that they [TOURISTS] come... I don't win anything with tourism, on the contrary... Now, the rents, they said that Barcelona is the most expensive city in Spain... the city of Barcelona... Rents are a minimum of 1.000 euro. But who earns 1.000 euro when the minimal wage is 900 [EURO]? It's making fun of people. It's constantly making fun of people. And who says that? Forty thousand things. Before, if I wanted to make a photocopy, I would go down and I would make a photocopy. But now, I have to walk two kilometers to make a photocopy. So... But the worst, the gratitude is to say... yes, good or no, good. These gentlemen, above all, they are prepotent because they say they are bringing events such as the Mobile Web [MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS]... that they are going to do now... What I call the "Champion Chip", well, because it's worldwide... Mobile Web Congress... Well, they come here, and well, what kind of jobs are they creating? The gentlemen that work there, they pay them 4 euro per hour, maybe they work 12 hours in a row... The poor women... because it is frequently women... I mean, during this congress... They might work only 4 days in a month... but... Is this creating jobs? This is making fun of people. Give them a fixed job and stop fooling around... But no... And, of course, this adds a lot of jobs... This same woman, they might not hire her for next month for another "Congress of Whatever", but she counts like a worker... And in this way, you can make all the numbers that you want... But ...People are having a bad time here... And it is not tourism's fault... It's because they are 4 that are... You have the director [REDACTED DUE TO POTENTIAL HARM FOR THE PARTICIPANT], for example, he is director of the hotel sector, this gentleman has so many hotels that one shits oneself... sure, for this gentleman, the more tourists that come, the better... But for the worker? Tell that, to the worker, to the poor Kelly [HOTEL HOUSEKEEPER] that is working making beds and that gets paid 2 euro per each room, the one that they are driving crazy, lost... that later has to take pills so she can sleep... or because all her body hurts... This woman, let her talk, and she would say: "Look, mister, make fun of someone else..." I bet they don't have a single family member working in tourism. And this is happening in Park Güell. These gentlemen earn a maximum of 5 euro, and if they earn 5,50 euro is the same... They have to pay taxes on it. And how long do they keep them? Maybe a year, and maybe after that year another fictitious company comes, like those that are all... companies... that are... that are not... well they might be legal, but not real... It has a name that I have said before...

Interviewer: Franchise? Or?

Subject BAR01: Yes, franchise, or whatever... And each year, they are changing... But for the worse and for the worse... Why? Because there are people coming from all over the world, and they want to work, and they work for nothing... Logically, because they have to survive. And who takes the rap? [IN SPANISH: "QUIÉN PAGA EL PATO"] The man who lives here, all his life...

Interviewer: If you have to mention the three more serious problems that the tourism industry, or the bad management of tourism, is generating in Barcelona, which ones are these three?

Subject BAR01: Robberies. There have never been so many robberies, not like today. And as I understand according to foreign media, we are the first in Europe in [TERMS OF] robberies. Not bad! It is gold medal! Because the causes are... the port... and this is something interesting to tell... Because it is, they say, the first port in Europe for ships with passengers... this... What is it called?

Interviewer: Cruises.

Subject BAR01: Cruises. And the third of the world, automatically, it attracts robbers. I know a lot of robbers, even Chinese, watch it! And they come from all over the world to rob here. Why? Because the tourist that comes as passenger, in a ship, this gentleman generally only stays for a day, a morning and gone in the afternoon... So, they don't have time to report a crime... And this the rats of the sewer, they know it. This is number one. Number two is the [PUBLIC] transport, fateful... And number three, I blame the local government for all this shit, that... that they are promoting themselves... because they are taking public spaces away from us... [PUBLIC] Spaces are ours. They have stolen from me, they are stealing me my heart, they robbed me Park Güell. But not to me, to thousands of people. I don't have to have a card, visa, a card or document to cross a park, and they deny me to cross even with my own DNI [SPANISH ID CARD], and I'll show you, I'll give you a paper that says so... With my DNI, I'm not able to cross this park, even though I am from Barcelona. Even though I was born here, these people don't care at all... [IN SPANISH: "NO LES IMPORTA UN HUEVO LOCO"]... I could not cross the park... "No, because you have to have the pass..." But why? I mean, I could cross all Europe... Maybe one hundred countries with my DNI, but it seems I couldn't cross a damn [IN SPANISH: "PUTO"] park? Who are you laughing at? If these people, the politicians, and I think... What the politicians have to do is, and I'm going to be very sincere, they should lock themselves in their own houses, now that they have their many properties, and... If they want, at a given moment, people could come to watch them... like the monkeys... People pay 1 euro, and we go to see them. But they are no one to close the public spaces.

Interviewer: Uh. Since its election, the local government, specifically [MAYOR] Ada Colau, she said that she would do things for Barcelona in order to control tourism. What has the local government done?

Subject BAR01: Well, nothing. To promise [IN SPANISH: "PROMETER"]. Pro and screw. [PLAY ON WORD WITH THE SPANISH VERB: "METER"] Because I have it here written, [MAYOR] Ada Colau, it is written and you can see it, here in the newspaper. Look, [READING A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE] "[MAYOR] Colau promotes free access to Park Güell" and this is 2015, sure! Very good! This was a promise made by this lady, and where are these promises? Gone with the wind. It was written by her, or well, by the newspaper... but with her consent, so... Stop lying! I'm fed up with lies. You are promising... No, you are screwing me. Eh? Don't promise things you could not deliver, because she knows that she maybe could not deliver... She can have all the motive in the world... and everything, but she knows... It's like a marriage, when you get married, you have your wife and then comes the son, and you could not say, I do this or undo that... No, you have to have consent, and she knows it, but the main issue was to achieve power... and later the promises are gone with the wind... Because how many people voted for her precisely because she said this? Thousands and thousands and... fuck... [IN SPANISH: "COÑO"] This woman... "Park Güell... She is not going to close it". And she closed it! The bunkers [BUNKERS DEL CARMEL], they want to close us that. The St. Paul Hospital, the same. Before, you didn't have to pay to visit St. Paul Hospital, but now if you want to visit it, you have to pay. Eh? The labyrinth! Ok, well, then close Barcelona and, it is really simple, create a circus of all damn Barcelona and enjoy... Come on, and so tourists come to see us, and we act like monkeys and Tarzans, come on, man! This is the problem. They are selling Barcelona. There has to be a "stop" [ORIGINAL WORD IN ENGLISH]. They should not sell something that is not theirs. The parks, they are not theirs... Parks belong to all.

Interviewer: Talking about your collective in defense of Park Güell, how was this group created?

Subject BAR01: The group was created in... I'll give you the papers.... In 2006. In 2006 they started here to place some fences and other silly stuff, but these fences were not resistant... So, people got angry, and they were like: "Damn, why are they putting up fences?" And I was one of the first ones to warn them [THE NEIGHBORS] about this... "Because they want to close it, it is so simply like that, they want to charge us..." Whatever the motive was, people rebelled against it. Do you understand me? And the fences lasted close to nothing, because they were not resistant. And then, later, let me see... in 2009, I believe... I have all this written here somewhere... because, of course, the antecedents are serious... Because first there was a coordinating committee, and then a platform... See, and I tell you, for example, it could be really interesting... Ok, well, I'll show you later, because it's so much information... All this started in 2006, oh well, because it would be interesting... [THE SUBJECT REVIEWS HIS NEWS ARCHIVE] Papers and papers, and papers, we only have papers here... And... The war has continued and continued... Because... Of course... Here... Here it is... In 2007, but already in 2006 when it started, we collected 3.447 signatures against the enclosure of Park Güell, alright? Alright! Then, the thing... The thing is in... Look, here you have the chronology of what has happened, in [19]21 the municipal land was sold with the objective of turn it into a park, etcetera... Here you have a chronology... So, all this, if you read it, you will see the history... The history... It's a history that starts in two thousand... no I mean, in... let's see... I'll tell you. This is crazy. I have [REDACTED DUE TO PRIVACY CONCERNS] years with this, it's driving me crazy... Because I see... Later when I give you all this history, you will see ... You can see everything, all the politics. That they are closing us all the public spaces... It comes a moment when... Where are we going to go? The parks, whom do they belong to? This is a municipal park, stop fooling around... Well, yes, there is an artwork by [ANTONI] Gaudí, but it has been open for over 100 years... Why are you closing it now? "Well, to do some business..." And the worst thing is that these are private companies, the ones doing the business... Eh? They close a public space, and then comes a private company that belongs to Nuñez i Navarro, and they make a profit... Eh? "This is mine". Then comes this and whatever, and makes a profit... Eh? And so on... And they are all construction enterprises... And one takes a piece, the other takes another, but who pays the taxes? We do! I have to pay to enter a public space that belongs to me, well, thank you so much! Why? Private companies that are making a profit. This makes no sense [IN SPANISH: "HUELE A MÚSICA"], of course, and one says: "Damn! Who are these people to charge me for entering a space that has been mine, all my life? Who are they?" And above that, it is deteriorated, as you have seen... The broken spheres... [STONE SPHERES AT PARK GÜELL] They deteriorate it themselves. No one asks them any consequences. They have no consequences. None. When you scratch a car in the street, they hit you with... you can even go to jail, a fine and... these gentlemen... It has been denounced in UNESCO, all the spheres that have disappeared... Broken... All this has been documented... And no one wants to know anything... But this is more serious than it seems, that no one cares about the ancient... a work of art by Gaudí... It is like if I just go now to the La Moreneta [A RELIGIOUS ARTIFACT]... La Moreneta is the patron saint of... That she is Black, by the way... The patron saint of Barcelona... I go there, and I tear her head off... and I have no consequences... This is very relative... Why? Because maybe I'm [JORDI] Pujol's son, or the Mayor's son, and so... No consequences... When it is done by the local government, the heritage... It is heritage... Who are these gentlemen to have zero consequences for what they have done?

Interviewer: In recent years, there has been several protests for Park Güell, as a public space... The people from Arran, they tied themselves up to the salamander or the lizard or etcetera... Is this the objective of the collective Defensem Park Güell, to make the park public again?

Subject BAR01: Of course, man. Parks belong to all. I understand that a house that belongs to someone is your house, but a park...? A municipal park? Who are they to say: "This is mine"? It's been more than 100 years... This was in 2013, when all the movie started... but well, from 1900 to 2013 is 113 years, here... It has been public and now... "I go there and take it"... And above all, they destroy the work, because they have destroyed me that... All the original spheres... All the original benches, and no one asks them for consequences... to these people... When you do something wrong, chances are you get a fine... You go to jail... But these gentlemen... With roses... And above all, they have the nerve to charge... for something that does not belong to them... That was a gift, that was a donation, by the Güell family to the citizens... This does not belong to them, this is heritage, but for all... There was a police commissary here, down there, at the square, well down there, in Calle Olot [CARRER D'OLOT]... Well, goodbye commissary! There was vigilance, since always... But now there is not. "Oh, but we close it [PARK GÜELL] because people damage it!" But more damage has been done by you, to the spheres and by breaking the original benches, what are you talking about? "They closed it in order to preserve." This is for conversation; you close something when you have destroyed it... And no one demands consequences... This is the problem... Everyone is turning a blind eye... Why? Because this has a very exciting income, and these are companies, that I tell you, Nuñez i Navarro, the other... what's the name of the other? Fomento de Contratas y Construcciones [FOMENTO DE CONSTRUCCIONES Y CONTRATAS]... These are companies that are magnificent, and they manage the park, and they have privatized a public space... That is clear as water. "This is mine. Well, why is it yours? Because I said so. Well, thanks." And watch it, they want to close it completely, because they started down there [THE MONUMENTAL AREA], but because there are people like you, and other people who are interested... Because of the platform, we have had people from Japan, United States, watch it, Israel, they have come from half of the world to see what is going on... Because this is a sacrilege, what they are doing... It is like if I take the holy Mother of La Moreneta and I cut her neck... And no one demands consequences... No man, because this is not a wooden bench, and even if it were, once it has 1.000 years, you are desecrating it...

Interviewer: There is a report published some months ago, maybe a year, from Park Güell, from the current management and they talked about a "before" and "after". This report says that before the introduction of the ticket, the park had overcrowding, and there was some destruction in the monumental area, that people used to take pieces of the ceramic, etcetera. This report says that these solutions... These problems have been resolved. It also mentions that, in the long term, there are going to invest in social activities to once again bring the neighbors to the park. What do you think about this?

Subject BAR01: Lies, it is lies and more lies. They have destroyed the park themselves; it has been demonstrated, the spheres... This is the rosary of Gaudí, watch it!. And the original benches, they have destroyed them, there are 16 missing... The original benches are broken. It has been demonstrated. Well, what consequences are they facing? None. That they removed a piece of... But it is nothing original left, down there, all the mosaics are not original... Because in 100 years, this deteriorates... I mean, and because there is a dragon that was broken one time, by someone, a piece of the head, that nobody knows who did it... Do you understand? It could have been... Who knows? The question remains in the head... Maybe even one of them... Uh? Well, for this reason, we close the whole park. No, man, don't fuck with me! This is not a motive. It is not a motive. And I tell you they are going to spend 25 million euro in a renovation of the park, they did a renovation in the upper part, the superior part, because it was all destroyed... Well... Twenty-five million? When people have nothing to eat? And above

that, you made me pay to access the park? They would say: “No, you don’t have to pay, ask for the card I-don’t-know-what”. I have to go to the local government to give my fingerprints, I could only access it one time per day... Drop it! And I could not access the first eight working days and moreover... I’ll give you this in paper... Because it has been demonstrated... Why are you complicating my life only because I want to enter a damn park, that belongs to my street, that is mine and that has been paid by my family, leave me in peace... And put some vigilance, there used to be a police commissary down there, and it is gone... Where is the commissary? They took it out. There used to be vigilantes in motorcycles, the gentlemen from Parques y Jardines. Oh yes, they took them out. There used to be some guys that the local government had, and this created jobs, to show people the park or if you had some problem you could talk to them... They removed them... They want it to deteriorate. They want to close it entirely. And they will close it entirely. Then close Barcelona. It’s really easy. A crematorium and take all the Catalans... To the crematorium...

Interviewer: The management of the park, in the last months, they created the bus. Allegedly, it is to bring tourists here in an alternative manner that is not the normal transport that would be used by the neighbors... Are there any... Does the bus work? Or are there any other issues?

Subject BAR01: No, no. It works, but people say it is used by only a few [PEOPLE]. The tourist, what the tourist wants is to get mixed with the [LOCAL] people... It’s the most normal thing, if you go to London, it’s the same... You don’t want to end up... It’s being used, but... Look, when you start bringing more and more people, it doesn’t work at all... I could demonstrate this to you... That... I mean... Really interesting things, that one could say, I don’t want to believe this... I, from the local government... I... These are words... Whoever wants to believe in them, then believe them... But I don’t believe anything with this lady... [MAYOR] Ada Colau, she said she was going to re-open the park and she did not re-open it... And if words are gone with the wind, and this is said by a Lady Mayor, then find another job... You could not lie to people this way, to thousands of people... Think about this, there are 60.000 people that have signed against the enclosure of the park, there are 61 entities against it, all the high schools, all God is against the enclosure... of a public park... Well, this lady said it in the newspaper, you have seen it, that she was going to re-open the park... And then, she passes the subject... Manifiesto del Park Güell... These people... Sorry... [THE SUBJECT REVIEWS HIS NEWS ARCHIVE] Look, this is laughable... This is laughable... Look, this is 2010, [READING] “in 2008, it was visited by two million people and the current projections are four million”, 2008... it means in 2010, 4 million... This is June 28th, alright! Now, we go to the 29th, one day, now it says that [READING] “up to date, it carries 25 thousand visitors per day”... This are 9 million tourists... 25 thousand multiplied by 365... I mean, it passed, in one day, from 4 million to 9 [MILLION]... But how are you going to believe these statistics? And this is from the local government of Barcelona, I didn’t write this... This is worth filming it... But the movie doesn’t end here... September 29th, and we are in the same year, September 2010, here it is, now it ends up being 30 thousand [VISITORS PER DAY]... It passed 5000... It passed from 25 thousand to 30 thousand in a few days... But what are these jokes? 30 thousand in 365 days... Three multiplied by six... Eighteen... Three by six... This is more than 10 million tourists, so we passed from 2 million to 10 million... We are talking about things said by the local government, it is written here... They wrote it. Oh well, now, [READING] “according to the estimation of the President of Tourism in Barcelona, Joan Gaspart, in 2009, the capital received one million eight hundred thousand...” What numbers are you going to believe? When in a matter of days, it passed from 2 million to 9 or 10 [MILLION]? What numbers do we believe? Who are you laughing at? And besides that, that nobody demands consequences from them... I could lie, yes and what? [MAYOR] Colau could

come: “I will open the park, now I close it, now I don’t open it, now...”. Well, lady, you said you were going to open it...

Interviewer: Now the local government has proposed several solutions, some of these solutions are the ticket for Park Güell, that is like enclosing an area... To create new spaces, for tourism attraction...

Subject BAR01: Yes, and to bring more tourists... Sure...

Interviewer: Yes. To bet for quality tourism, what is the opinion that you, the neighbors, have about these solutions?

Subject BAR01: To stop the propaganda [ORIGINAL WORD. THE SUBJECT DOES NOT USE THE TERMS “ADVERTISING” OR “MARKETING”], to stop it. That if they want to do some propaganda, they could do it in their own damn house. In their house, they can do whatever they want. But this is other people’s house. And here we don’t ask for anyone’s opinion. We have had consultations. The local government has made consultations in all Barcelona. And in the consultation in Gràcia, the most voted item, I could give you this later... It was against the payment in Park Güell and for free entrance... They did a consultation, has it been useful for anything? [REDACTED DUE TO POTENTIAL HARM FOR THE PARTICIPANT], he was at the time the counselor... It’s written, you will see it written... I speak to him, with the bullhorn in hand there in [REDACTED DUE TO PRIVACY CONCERNS] and what does he says? That it is not legally binding. Why do you make a consultation then? Which family wants... Which family does not like that his kid could play in a park? You tell me that... Because it is forbidden to play ball games, it is forbidden to go around in a bike... Before, in the little square down there, there were even bike businesses, for rent... People danced sardanas [A CATALAN DANCE], people played soccer, people did what they wanted to... Why is this not possible today? Who are these gentlemen to say: “This is mine”? They are Mr. No One. They are dependent on us... The park is better... Well, the moment will come when they will close the city and... they will close the beaches... Why? Because there is overcrowding... But you are bringing them here yourselves... You only spread propaganda... Once one buys propaganda, even the shit could be sold... And this is the problem...

Interviewer: So how should, or should not, Barcelona be advertised?

Subject BAR01: It should not be advertised. Period.

Interviewer: Period. Ok. The next question is more related to Gaudí. Has the image of Gaudí been commercialized in Barcelona?

Subject BAR01: Totally, because even now you have the Gaudí Museum, that receives more than half a million people... These people don’t pay anything for the maintenance of the park... This is also documented, you will see, I tell that in the documentary... Because this is... Because they are... What is it called? An association like these that...

Interviewer: An NGO.

Subject BAR01: Just like if it was... It has a name... They are...

Interviewer: Non-governmental...

Subject BAR01: Yes, non-governmental, but it has a name... It's not an association... in itself... It is, well it has a name, and these people, they don't pay any taxes... I mean, all the taxable... And well, why don't you have to pay taxes for your income? It has a name... Why? "Well, look, because it is the Church... Well, and what do I care?" I mean, I am not the Church, I have to pay to enter the Museum... and above all, they have closed part of... they put some fences up, and now you could not enter this part that it used to be a mountain... But what is happening here? What is happening? And of course, people don't complain, because they don't have any force left... There are so many... There are so many wars to fight, do you understand? So, here, we have a grave problem in Barcelona, Catalonia... It is the [CATALAN] Independentism... I mean, people, people have left the fight in the associations, do you understand? They used to be linked... Too linked, very smart people... Well, Catalans, no one is stupid... These people have prioritized El Procés [CATALAN INDEPENDENTISM]. And here, we have had the disbandment... For example, I can tell you and you can see it later, you enter [REDACTED DUE TO POTENTIAL HARM FOR THE PARTICIPANT], and you can see that this man, before, he used to go online and bring people, he used to work basically in irregular conditions, but these are particular things, and you can check them... Now this man, he is working as an advisor... An advisor that used to be with the platform and he made the documentary [REDACTED DUE TO POTENTIAL HARM FOR THE PARTICIPANT], and he did this... Do you understand? The denounce to the UNESCO. This man was taken by [MAYOR] Colau and comes here, now he is advisor for heritage, that he says that he isn't, but [REDACTED DUE TO POTENTIAL HARM TO THE PARTICIPANT]... Because he doesn't want any proof, and well done, secretly, but he has secured a job and he has made his own business, coming from nothing... This man has a tourism enterprise, practically... He has ten or twelve routes. Do you understand? You can see it, you enter [REDACTED DUE TO POTENTIAL HARM FOR THE PARTICIPANT] and you will see who he is... Oh, this was one, the other one is [REDACTED DUE TO POTENTIAL HARM FOR THE PARTICIPANT]... This man was also in the platform and [MAYOR] Colau took him and now he is also against the enclosure... No, sorry, now he is in favor of the enclosure... and before, he was against it. And you can see all this in the documentaries... But now he is Technical Director of the Integral Plan for Tourism in Barcelona. I mean, they made him Director of Tourism. Fuck! I mean, they sell out in one way or another... Why? Because they need a job, and I understand them, and they have a family... And then, you stay in the margin and you say: "Well, I don't have these needs, of course, so I can keep fighting..." Do you understand? But what do you think? That they haven't tried to buy me? I mean, man, there are many ways to buy someone... "You remain calm, that you and your family could enter for free... The counselor comes and tell me this and I said: Hey, don't say this to me. Eh? Don't say this to me because I'm not here for fooling around."

Interviewer: So, you have an archive of newspaper articles and media texts that is quite extensive, my question is, in your opinion as an activist for Park Güell and Barcelona in general, do you think mass media are doing a good work observing what is happening with tourism?

Subject BAR01: Let's see, the media... Uff, this is a word. The media help with what they can, but you are talking... I mean, they could, because I can show you, indeed they help you... But what happens is that you are talking to deaf ears... They don't care about what you have to say... Because I have attended plenaries, and in the plenaries, well, it could be about 100 people from diverse entities... You take the councilors and... In this case... Yes, yes,

[REDACTED DUE TO POTENTIAL HARM FOR THE PARTICIPANT], and other from Convergence [CONVERGÈNCIA DEMOCRÀTICA DE CATALUNYA], that now it is not Convergence anymore... And of course, they can sue you for saying this silliness... Well, the other one, what was her name? She is from the greens, mmm... From the greens... [REDACTED DUE TO POTENTIAL HARM FOR THE PARTICIPANT]... She closes her folder, and says: “Well, we decided that Park Güell...”, and I said: “But how, we decided”? I mean, after a plenary. “Listen, lady, all the people here are against the enclosure...” And do you know what she answered: “You shouldn’t have elected me.” “But we didn’t elect you for this.” I mean, you give them power to do whatever they want... There comes the moment when their words, it’s the same... [MAYOR] Colau herself has said it, in the newspapers, that she doesn’t look at the tweets anymore, she doesn’t care... She raised her salary 40%, when she was reelected. She did, and all her team. Do you know what forty percent is? And she says: “Yes, of course, with my past salaries, part of the salary was dedicated to... helping or...” Do you understand? But you pay quotes for this salary... And sure, when old age comes, watch it. It is for these 3.000 euro, even if you only get paid 2.000 [EURO]... Do you understand me? Or when pension comes... Or sickness... Or whatever... You are paying quotes... But increasing your salary 40%? This, if you check internet, you will see it... Fuck it! And the regular pension a 0.9%, for the old people... for disable people they want to increase 1.5% or 1.6%, and they 40% because they said that politicians suffer burnout... This is making fun of people!

Interviewer: So, media pays attention, but the politicians don’t...

Subject BAR01: Of course they don’t. They don’t care.

Interviewer: And in terms of online activism, via Twitter, is this an effective way to engage in politics?

Subject BAR01: I think it’s the best one.

Interviewer: It is the best one...

Subject BAR01: Yes, because you go straight to the point, do you understand? And the newspapers, people read them less every time, it’s a shame... Because people are on the internet, and the newspapers... The only thing is, what I think I’m doing is, word of mouth... day by day, and non-stop... Because I have been with this since 2006, my friend. It is [REDACTED DUE TO PRIVACY CONCERNS], and basically every day... [REDACTED DUE TO PRIVACY CONCERNS]. Because this is warfare material, from my point of view, I could shut up anyone... Look, here are the broken spheres... Someone from the local government could come and discuss that with me... This is done from the local government, they signed it... And this is serious... And now they agree to the enclosure... The same people that made the pictures, the same that were defending: “Hey, Park Güell!”, with banners here... “We want it open for everyone”, and after... Now they don’t want to know anything. But they tell you, they tell you clearly that they do it because they are in need...

Interviewer: How frequently there are protests, from the neighbors, in favor of the opening of the park, that are physically here?

Subject BAR01: Physically here, not anymore... I could tell you that everything has gone to the damn, damn politics. Everyone is blinded with El Procés [CATALAN

INDEPENDENTISM]. People are leaving the institutions; the institutions are dying... It is that simple... Man, so simple... It's a shame, because there are forty thousand types of institutions, for dancing and for whatever you want... But sure, when El Procés comes, even now, practically every day, for months, they are blocking the Meridiana, they block the street, well, to protest... Do you know what it means a demonstration every day, my friend? Well, these people that before, because they are intelligent people... These people... They can do whatever they want... But these people are screwing others that have to pass through there with their cars... They don't go... It could be that the son goes to high school and the teacher wants to talk to the dad, but he is in a demonstration... This is nowadays, it's every day, practically... Today, they said there will come I don't know how many hundred policemen from Madrid, or what do I know... Because there are elections today... Because there are elections today at two o'clock, or so... So, don't find it strange that there are some demonstrations here, that one shits oneself. Why? Because I... I don't want to know anything about politics... I don't want to. Now, it seems, for the socialists to be in the... What's the name? In the government... They need the support of the Republican Left of Catalonia! [ESQUERRA REPUBLICANA], that these gentlemen are what they are... They want a country for themselves, what do I know, nothing makes sense... All politicians sell out... And then, what happens? The ones from Convergence, that are the other Catalan party, they are now upset with the Republican Left because they are selling out, so that the socialists... It's something unbelievable, the left joins the right, and... I shit myself because of all this... I have my own politics, I mean, the platform has its own politics... We want the public parks free, the public spaces free, and don't mix me with anything else...

Interviewer: Is there any collaboration with other groups fighting against mass tourism, I mean, you mentioned Las Kellys...

Subject BAR01: Yes, yes, yes. The ABTS [AT THE TIME, ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM (ABTS), BUT RECENTLY RENAMED AS ASSOCIATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS FOR TOURISM DEGROWTH (ABDT)], that is the assembly for a neighborhood of sustainable tourism... By the way, I was also there... Practically, it's a difficult thing, but I was the creator of all this... There might be people who discredit this, and what not... But for me, because the platform was kind of turning off, and we were among the first ones to fight... It was in 2009... Fighting against all this stuff, that they were closing the parks and everything... This park... They would get in touch with me, people... So, there were people that would get in touch with me to create other platforms, for example, what could I say, in Gràcia... Eh? In Carmel, etcetera. So, I would go there and give some lectures, and, in the end, it was like platforms were emerging in different sites of Barcelona... And so, I would tell them, to fight against tourism... They wanted a sustainable tourism... I would tell them that we need to unite, all of us, and not keep fighting each one of us only for their own territory... We have to have a union, and then someone... Big break! In Ciutat Vella [OLD CITY]... Do you understand? I, indirectly, promoted the creation of a big organization, but what happens is that I have always dedicated myself... I participated in this, and I attended meetings, and so... But my main point is "public spaces". Barcelona is mine, what do I know, I'm not saying anything weird... I want to walk in a park without having to have a card, I don't need it, they can shove it up the ass... I don't need a card for crossing a park, and the extreme... And besides that, they said, any person could... If they ask... I will show you here... You have to do a lot of bureaucracy, so that they let you enter a park... But what is happening? And do you see children playing here? No. It is forbidden to play ball games. Do you see children...? And even if you go with, oh, what is the name of this? [MAKES A GESTURE].

Interviewer: Zip line?

Subject BAR01: Yes, some shit like that! It would draw your attention... You'll see... Because this should be for the children... A park, 17 hectares... And it turns out that you don't have a place to practice gymnastics... There are none. Before, there were some circuits, for gymnastics, for the bike rides... Here, there is nothing. Only tourism, and tourism, and more tourism... It ends there. And 4 of them profit from it. Do you understand?

Interviewer: Regarding the proximity of Park Güell and the neighbors, what kind of problems are being generated outside the park? Are there any more Airbnb? Is there any more noise?

Subject BAR01: Man! It's been a change that one shits oneself. There is not a single building without tourist rentals [IN SPANISH: "PISOS TURÍSTICOS"]. If you go any day, any regular Sunday, for example, that before there were only Spanish people in the supermarkets, and now they are crowded with tourists... No one would believe it. We are living something incredible... You don't know who the fuck lives in your building, sure... Who do I reprimand about it? That the door is always open, one could not close it anymore, because they break it... Why? Because they are tourists that come and go. They don't give a fuck. You maybe don't do that, but there are others that surely do... And then, you are lost. You don't know who lives there anymore. And this is happening up here, don't miss it. Where we never imagined that it could happen... But this is thanks to Park Güell... We have to be thankful to all these politicians, because my door is broken, because my son is paying a 1.000 euro rent when he earns 700 [EURO]... I mean, stop it. I'm not able to go to the store, because there are no stores anymore, they are souvenir shops, all of them... Do you understand? But what gratitude! And above all, you have to kneel down before these people because they say that they are giving you... greatness and... What do I know! Do you understand? And robberies, whatever you want and more... People are scared, because we have never seen something like this, so many robberies like nowadays, here... Here, you have to go... You go to Las Ramblas, if you have balls... Take a walk around Las Ramblas... and you will see what you find around there... And who says Las Ramblas, here also... I carry a whistle, so I can help people out... [THE SUBJECT POINTS TO A WHISTLE AROUND HIS NECK] This is not joking; this is to help people out... Here, I have seen a Russian woman getting three broken teeth, just to steal her gold... This, you see it almost every day... I mean, and above that, to be thankful! They should break the teeth of the politician's mother, but not my mother's... Because we pay the consequences... Because these gentlemen almost all of them live outside of Barcelona... There in Collserola, and other sites, that by the way, these are green zones... And there you surely could build...

Interviewer: I have a last question: What is the future of Barcelona?

Subject BAR01: Bad. Bad. I hope to be dead by then, because there is no future, no future... No future... even less with these politicians... All of them, eh? All politicians are selfish [IN SPANISH: "BARREN PARA CASA"]. And we have a problem, all of them are... There is no majority... Do you understand? Everyone rules here. And they all want to rob... When I see a politician, I see a robber. Not all could be alike, logically... But you see... that they are selfish [IN SPANISH: "BARREN PARA CASA"]. They put their kids in good places for work, they don't care... You can have demonstrations... and... Fuck, in Bilbao, they are doing demonstrations for increasing the pensions for over a year, almost every Monday... For over a year... And they don't increase them... "You will get tired someday". Do you understand? The

politician has the authority to say: “Keep complaining. You will get tired someday, because in four years I won’t be here anymore, I would have already profited from it...” And [MAYOR] Colau raises herself a 40%, the other what do I know... the other who knows what business he has, but he got his brother there... What do I know, and that’s it... This is the problem they have; they don’t have any other one... It’s like a soccer player...

Interviewer: With this activism regarding Park Güell, I have just decided to ask you, do you feel empowered because you are doing something for the park, or in the contrary, do you have a more pessimistic view because you feel that you are fighting against a...

Subject BAR01: No, no, no. The problem is “not to fight”. Everyone who does not fight, I feel sorry for him... I mean, you have to believe in something... I believe things are terrible, because politicians are the worst... But, if one day something gets fixed, it would be with the help of people like you... Because I could not do this anymore... Do you understand? For me, it would be all retaliation... I... My phone for sure has been tapped, etcetera. When I submit my tax declaration, they check it 100%, minimum... So, we need help... This is the problem... And man, they are coming from all over the world... I tell you from United States, Japan, Iceland, Brazil... everywhere... and this could be demonstrated... You go online and search for Balance 2019... [REDACTED DUE TO PRIVACY CONCERNS]... 2018, 2017, 2016... and you will see all the places... and documents... all in my personal computer... Everyone is interested in this problem, with the exception, logically, of Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain... Now you go and write... Fuck, what I’ve just learned... And this is enough to lose the category of World Heritage... What has happened in Germany? In Germany, they did a bridge I don’t know where... in the Rhin...

Interviewer: Dresden.

Subject BAR01: Perfect. They built a bridge and they warned them, United Nations... Sorry...

Interviewer: UNESCO.

Subject BAR01: The UNESCO. And the Mayor passed from it. This is to take away the money, with some balls... Because this is not normal... Come and tell me, that this is normal... But no one has the balls, because you are gambling your position... I don’t know your position, but a regular journalist, they might write about it... Just like here, I’ll show you... Look... Read this...

Interviewer: [READING A HEADLINE] “The bunkers of Carmel will be accessible by payment just like Park Güell”.

Subject BAR01: I’ll give you a copy. And you will see what it says here... Well, if you want to read it in a second, I don’t know... But what do I want to say with this...? Of course, newspapers help you... but, whoever wrote this newspaper, he is also gambling his future... Because you could not write whatever you want... I would give you an example... An example, we, in the “Bye, Bye Barcelona” [A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT TOURISTIFICATION OF THE CITY]... Did you watch it? When we had more than 300.000 entries, we had a meeting with the town hall from here in Gràcia, because the park was closed for over a year... So, they asked for our opinion, us and that of other various entities, and we went to the town hall in Gràcia, and the same day, practically, that we had the meeting with the town hall in Gràcia about this topic apropos Park Güell and the enclosure... They removed from YouTube the

[DOCUMENTARY] “Bye, Bye Barcelona”. The man who filmed it was penalized, a Venezuelan guy, he got a fine... So, what happened? That this guy, after it... I said, fuck, I called him... I don’t remember his name right now... Well, it doesn’t matter... I said: “Fuck, they have removed the documentary “Bye, Bye Barcelona” from YouTube...” Fuck, what is the name of this guy? Well... And it’s because my head spins... So, he says, that it was because image rights... And I wondered, what did they see, maybe a cat? And yes, yes, they removed the 300.000 entries, they disappeared. The guy had to pay a fine, that he never told me how much it was, and then he put it back again, he uploaded it to the internet... and now, there are 300.000 [ENTRIES] more... 320.000 [ENTRIES] more... This is the local government of Barcelona; this is full censorship... This has also happened with a documentary that is called... Wait, I’ll write it here... Because this is interesting... They came from Switzerland for an interview... Do you understand? And they came... Switzerland, Italy... These are people that only film documentaries... And then... Ausverkauf... Ausverkauf [ORIGINAL WORDS IN GERMAN] Park Güell... Something Park Güell... Well, once I remember it, I’ll tell you... This documentary, made by Andreas Pichler... Andreas Pichler... This documentary, there are nine countries that are included in it ... The documentary was made in nine different countries... “Ausverkauf Europa...” Europa... Europa... Fuck! This never fails. Europa. “Europe for sale” [ORIGINAL PHRASE IN ENGLISH] In English, Europe for sale. Europe for sale. And in German, Ausverkauf Europa. Well, Andreas Pichler... Greece... This people went to visit Greece... Germany... Because this problem... Europe is selling out... You have the Berlin Wall, that the Berlin Wall, there are sections where they have built hotels... and, of course, that is worth some money... And to tear down the Berlin Wall when it is history... Well, that is a crime... It the same with the spheres, it is a crime... So, they complain... And this... Andreas Pichler with his team, they went there... They have been to Greece... Nine countries... Italy, etcetera... Including France, that the Chinese bought the vineyards... The vineyards... If you... Do you speak German, by the way?

Interviewer: Yes. Yes. Yes.

Subject BAR01: Fuck! Just enter Ausverkauf... Because... In Spanish... They first did it in Spanish, in the TV 3 or TV 1 here, and later they removed it... That is what I’m telling you, that there is censorship... They removed it in Spanish... And for me, the person who removed it was this [REDACTED DUE TO POTENTIAL HARM FOR THE PARTICIPANT]... That I tell you, now he is the Technical Director of the Integral Plan of Tourism... But that I think he has changed... Now he is something else... But still inside the Catalan government... Catalan of [MAYOR] Colau... And sure, I called this man and told him... “Listen, they are going to show the movie... no, the documentary... by Andreas Pichler... “Europe for sale”... Eh? Or “Ausverkauf Europa”... well...” Fuck! and the fragment of Spain, Catalonia, that I was there giving out flyers in Park Güell... they didn’t show that... They deleted it... So, if I want to watch “Europe for sale” [ORIGINAL PHRASE IN ENGLISH], because in Spanish is “Europa en venta”... “Europa en venta”... [ORIGINAL PHRASE IN SPANISH], I have to watch in German, or in English... so I can see myself... In Spanish, they removed it... In Spanish, whatever it has to do with Park Güell...

Interviewer: And the platform took part in this documentary, when? Which year?

Subject BAR01: Well, if you have internet there [POINTS TO THE PHONE]... You enter and...

Interviewer: Yes, I can check it out...

Subject BAR01: This was in two thousand... Well... I don't know... But it is mind-blowing... [IN SPANISH: "PERO QUE ALUCINA VECINA"] I mean, I think it was in 2013... Yes, 2013, because it was for the enclosure... They came, and that's when we had the demonstration... Alright? "Europa en venta". So, they could not tell me that there is no censorship... There is! Why did they remove that...? A documentary that you can watch in nine languages... and it turns out that the Spanish part about the Park Güell, they have removed it... Where you see the demonstration... "Ausverkauf Europe"...

Interviewer: Yes, I found it.

Subject BAR01: You found it. Andreas Pichler... It's going to blow your mind... Because you like this stuff...

Interviewer: 2015... No, even before... 2013

Subject BAR01: 2013. Andreas Pichler. This is a great documentary! And I'm in several documentaries... But what happens is...

Interviewer: Do you have any kind of coordination with groups outside Spain? Or?

Subject BAR01: No, no, no. This is very unique. What I was telling you is that we are losing people to the political theme...

Interviewer: Yes.

Subject BAR01: This is a wreck! A wreck! And good people... Some of them have gone to the CUP [CANDIDATURA D'UNITAT POPULAR]... Do you know them?

Interviewer: Yes, of course, the CUP.

Subject BAR01: I mean, you say: They are intelligent people... And it's a shame... It is not that they don't care anymore, because they don't quit the platform... Because thanks to the platform... This is a steppingstone... [IN SPANISH: "CATAPULTA"] Do you know what it is? It helps them to get good jobs inside the government... Either the central one, or the autonomous... That this happened with [REDACTED DUE TO POTENTIAL HARM FOR THE PARTICIPANT]... Because if you enter and check his biology...

Interviewer: Biography.

Subject BAR01: Biography, sorry... You will see that all of them mention that they have been collaborators of the... platform in Defense of Park Güell [DEFENSEM PARK GÜELL] or... the coordinator group Defense Park Güell... This has helped them a lot to get inside politics, and to secure an income...

Interviewer: Sure.

Subject BAR01: And they don't quit the platform. None of them. Because I sent this [NEWSLETTER] to maybe 20 or 25 people... and to the meetings, they might come 3 or 4 [PEOPLE]... Do you understand? Why? Because there is a demonstration every day... I mean,

they call me and say [REDACTED DUE TO PRIVACY CONCERNS]... “I haven’t quit, but I have a protest...” Fuck. Stop it now. I mean, I only have this. I don’t want to know anything else. [ONLY] Public spaces.

Interviewer: You said that you were giving out flyers in various languages. What is the reaction of the tourists? Did they ask for more information about what is happening with Park Güell? Or they don’t take the flyers?

Subject BAR01: Everyone takes it. I have been here since 2013 giving out flyers. I have them in 20 languages. Only in two occasions they didn’t take them. Not bad. In seven years. I have giving out thousands of them, thousands... And one of them was a German man, pay attention to this... I told him, that one [CRUISE] ship pollutes just like 12.000 cars... This is the problem we have in Barcelona... In Barcelona, two people are dying every day because of the “pollution” [ORIGINAL WORD IN ENGLISH]. The pollution. And this is thanks to the pollution coming from the ships... and the airplanes... We have the first port in the world... This is very serious; a ship pollutes just like 12.000 cars... Do the math! Sometimes you have 6 or 7 ships here... Cruises, watch it! But this shit is what we swallow... That almost 2 people are dying every day because of this, it is very serious... But well, they don’t care here... They don’t give it any attention... This is what the newspapers say... You check the library... Well... We are we heading to? Where are we heading to? This could not be! There has to be an end, for everything... And besides that, they want to make the port bigger... And the airport, the same... Bigger. Stop now! Because these politicians do not live in the city, they are always outside... You have the President of the country... He has been in the Presidency for two years... and for one year and a half, he has been going around to many countries... It’s like they are on holidays... They take advantage of it... and they go up or down... with the official car... And well! Fix me the issues that we have here, not the issues of someone else... We have problems here... I mean, we are living crazy times... Crazy. And the end of the movie is that... each one must be content with oneself... And I told you, the flyers... This German man, do you know what happened, he told me “I don’t want the flyer”, when I started talking to him about the 12.000 [CARS]... I said... “Well, don’t take, it’s not a big deal”... Because I have it in German... And he says: “It’s because I sell cars...”

Interviewer: Oh.

Subject BAR01: So, I said... Fuck... “Excuse me”... There was a motive. You see... I have something else... [THE SUBJECT REVIEWS HIS NEWS ARCHIVE] The closure... I could give it to you in Spanish... [A FLYER]

Interviewer: Sure. Thanks.

Subject BAR01: I have it, logically, in Catalan, logically, in French, in Hebrew... in Japanese, Korean... and this has been done by... This is Russian... Basque... Well... See, this is the Tres Turons [ANOTHER PUBLIC GREEN ZONE IN BARCELONA], that they also want to enclose...

Interviewer: And these translations, they were done... with...?

Subject BAR01: The tourists did them for me.

Interviewer: Is it so?

Subject BAR01: Yes. You see... This is the subject of tourism, but it's in Catalan...

Interviewer: It doesn't matter.

Subject BAR01: I can give it to you... In which languages do you want it? If you want it... in Basque... Korean, Japanese...

Interviewer: No, it's fine. Not Korean. [LAUGHS]

Subject BAR01: In German. English. Because English is... Take this. And I tell them, that if they enter here [THE URL IN THE FLYER], in Park Güell, they can watch a documentary in Catalan, Spanish or any other language... Because there is the translation... And the "Bye, Bye Barcelona" in YouTube... In any language... Because what matters to me, well... To the platform... It's the spread... That people... All over the world... You see, Hebrew... This is from Israel... They are very interested. These people are great... You already saw it, if you checked the documentary... They are one of the few people... and they have so many problems, poor people... But who doesn't have any problems? That's another thing. Everyone has problems. I'm giving you this... This is so I won't forget, "Europe for sale".

Interviewer: Yes, yes, yes.

Subject BAR01: And if you check [REDACTED DUE TO PRIVACY CONCERNS], platform in Defense of Park Güell, you will find more stuff... [REDACTED DUE TO PRIVACY CONCERNS], platform in Defense of Park Güell... There is the TV 1, and I shitted myself on the director... That I told him... The director of Tourism in Barcelona... But what do I have to be thankful for? An old lady, 80 years old, that the poor woman has to climb the bunkers [BUNKERS DEL CARMEL] because the bus does not stop... She, with her shopping bag on wheels... Climbing, because the bus does not stop... The small buses, that are the ones that go inside the neighborhoods... The buses of the neighborhood... It does not stop, because it's crowded with tourists and the poor woman, 80 years old... going up... This happens every day. And above all, she has to be thankful because she is going up and builds stronger legs... And what if she has a heart attack... This woman, 80 or 85 years old... This happens every day... The people who live there in the bunkers, they are fed up... Tourists go there, and they stay outside the door, maybe they piss there... They bother them at night... Suicides... They kill themselves... There is...

Interviewer: From the bridge?

Subject BAR01: The wooden bridge. I've found people there... That they tried to kill themselves, and if it wasn't for me... I have had to call the firefighters, the police... But a policeman told me, one of the Catalan ones, he told me: "They come here to kill themselves". But... Come on! Every two by three people kill themselves, ask the neighbors... They'll tell you... Why? Because for them, it's paradise, they will see Barcelona... Those who kill themselves, they think about it... It's a thoughtful fellow... I'm going to choose a spot... and they jump off... They jump off the bridge... This... You can ask any neighbor... And this is what tourism is bringing us... Listen... And working-class people... The one I found there was a guy from South America, and the poor guy, he didn't have a job... The typical stuff, without a family... And he wanted to jump off and I said: "Don't fuck me". And he was under the

bridge, ready to jump... No, no, no... Stop now. And he was asking for help... Because he had his cell phone and... He was calling... And I said: "Who are you calling?" And... Give me...

Interviewer: I'm going to stop the recording here. Thanks for the interview.

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