

Invited and claimed spaces for the co-governance of the urban commons. Lessons from Italy.

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The development of collaborative practices in the field of urban commons might represent an observation point for the study of democratic innovations. This issue shall be considered particularly interesting because it arises from the intersection of different fields of study: in addition to studies on democracy, the theory of the commons (Ostrom 1990; Nagendra 2016) and the urban commons in particular (Foster 2011; Iaione 2012; Dellenbaugh et al 2015) studies on local co-governance, active citizenship (Morlino and Gelli 2010; Bang 2005;). The open government framework, of which collaboration is one of the constitutive dimensions (Lathrop and Ruma 2010; De Blasio and Sorice 2017) also provide the creation of public-private-civic partnership (Foster and Iaione 2016) as a component of this variable. Finally, the body of scientific knowledge focused on cities is extensive and rapidly expanding, stressing the role and power that cities will exercise in the 21st century, and the challenges and democratic concerns posed by the urban context (UN Habitat 2016; Sassen 2014). The analysis of practices of collaborative governance of urban commons, involving different actors that aim at building long-term forms of public-private-civic partnerships might shed lights on the understanding of innovative formats of participation in the urban context.

This topic is also taken into account because it implies the government's action to be directed to the development of a culture of collaboration with citizens, aimed at enhancing their contribution to the general interest, which is not uniformly spread across and within cities. The study of democratic innovations and the quality of democracy has highlighted the mechanism behind their emergence and their consequences stressing also the role of equality concerns in their institutional design (Font 2014) and the impact of institutional design itself on democratic qualities such as responsiveness, accountability and equality (Pogrebinschi 2013). The study of participation in the Italian context is been widely addressed and prominent scholars have highlighted the characteristics of those processes, mainly focused on urban planning (Font, della Porta and Sintomer 2014).

The article focuses on the analysis of hybrid spaces (Cornwall 2004) of co-governance of urban commons in a set of Italian cities, considering both public policies and innovative institutional process promoted at the urban level, where the institutions act as an enabling actor (Regulations for public collaboration for the urban commons, Collaboratories, governance labs among the others) and community-led practices conceptualized as claimed spaces (Gaventa 2006) where civic actors takes a proactive role. The analysis of the cases is focused on highlighting the process of institutional genesis of the invited and claimed spaces of self organization/co-governance of the commons in the urban context, stressing the features of intersection and integration between them, and how those processes have different capacity in terms of equality/solidarity and participation.