

# Coexistence and conflict in the age of complexity

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A photograph of a busy city square, likely in a European city. The scene is filled with people, some standing and some sitting on the ground. In the background, there are several multi-story buildings, including a prominent white building with blue shutters. The foreground features a paved area with some trees and graffiti-covered walls. The overall atmosphere is one of a vibrant, urban environment.

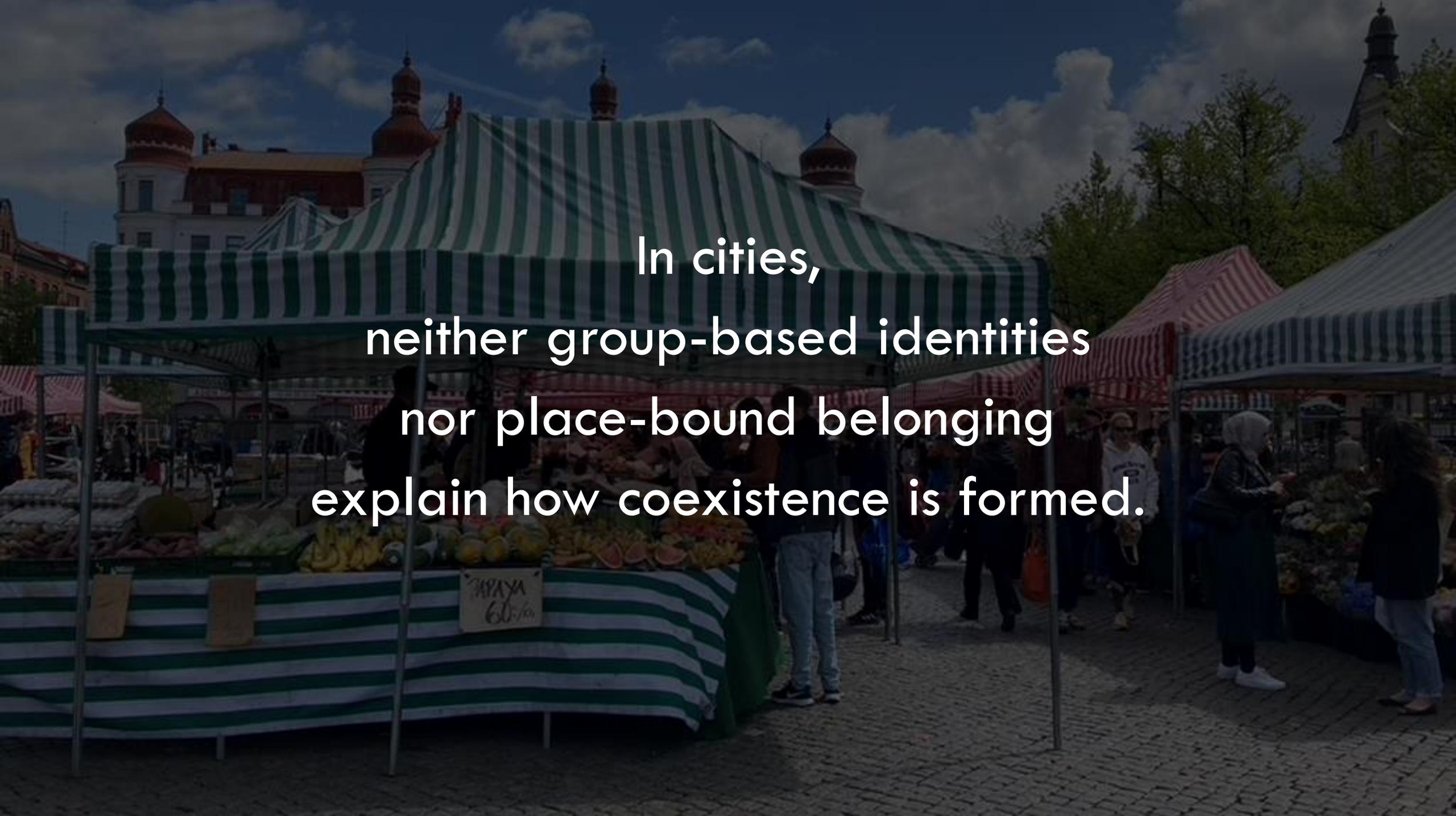
European societies are experiencing rapid demographic, social, and political changes.

A photograph of a public square at dusk. The scene is filled with people, some standing and some walking. In the background, a large building with a prominent dome is visible. The lighting is dim, suggesting the time is either early morning or late evening. The overall atmosphere is one of a busy, communal space.

The EmergentCommunity project explores the social, spatial, and affective dynamics of coexistence in cities.



Research sites

A photograph of an outdoor market scene. In the foreground, a stall is covered with a green and white striped awning and displays various fruits like watermelons and bananas. A sign on the stall reads "AYAYA 60/100". People are seen walking and shopping between the stalls. In the background, there is a large, ornate building with several domes, likely a church or historical structure, under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The overall atmosphere is that of a bustling, traditional market.

In cities,  
neither group-based identities  
nor place-bound belonging  
explain how coexistence is formed.

Diversity  
&  
inequality

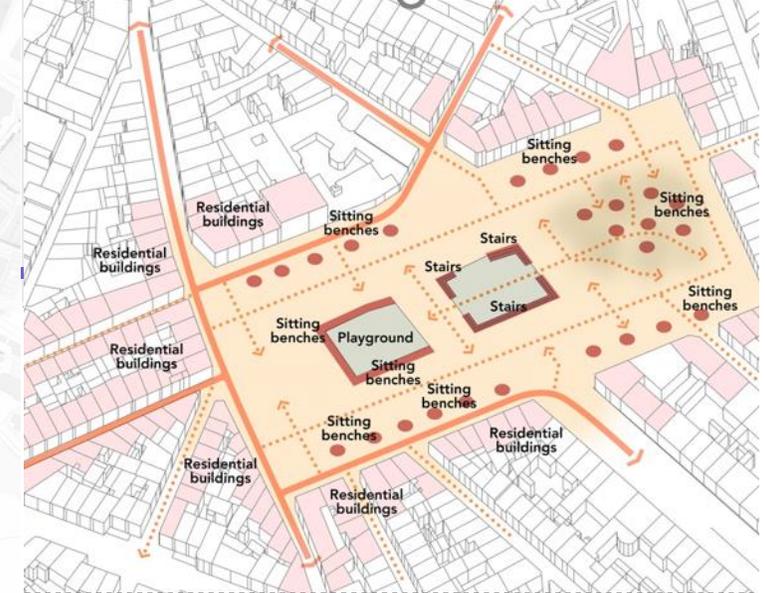
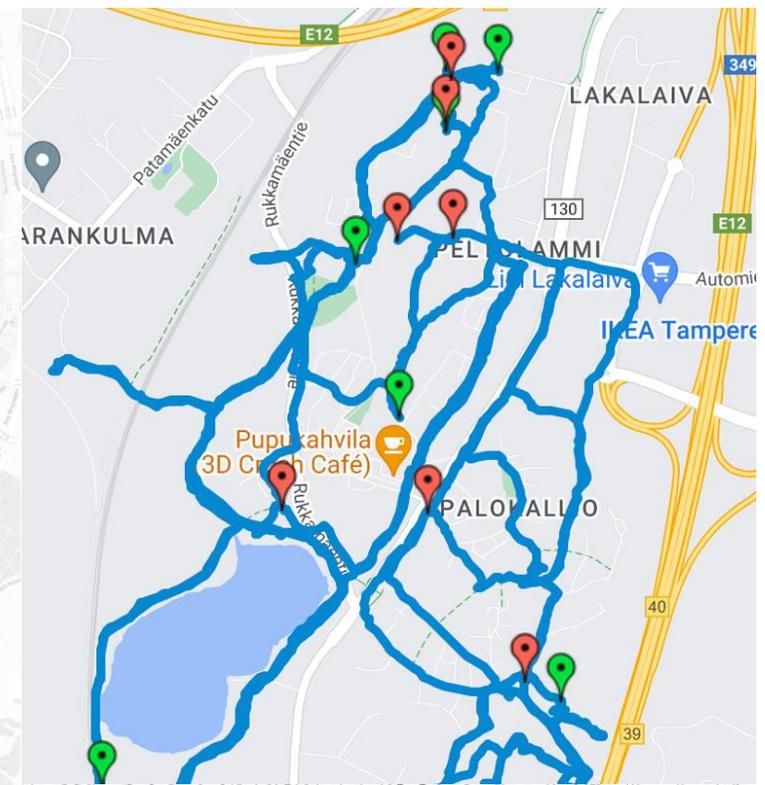
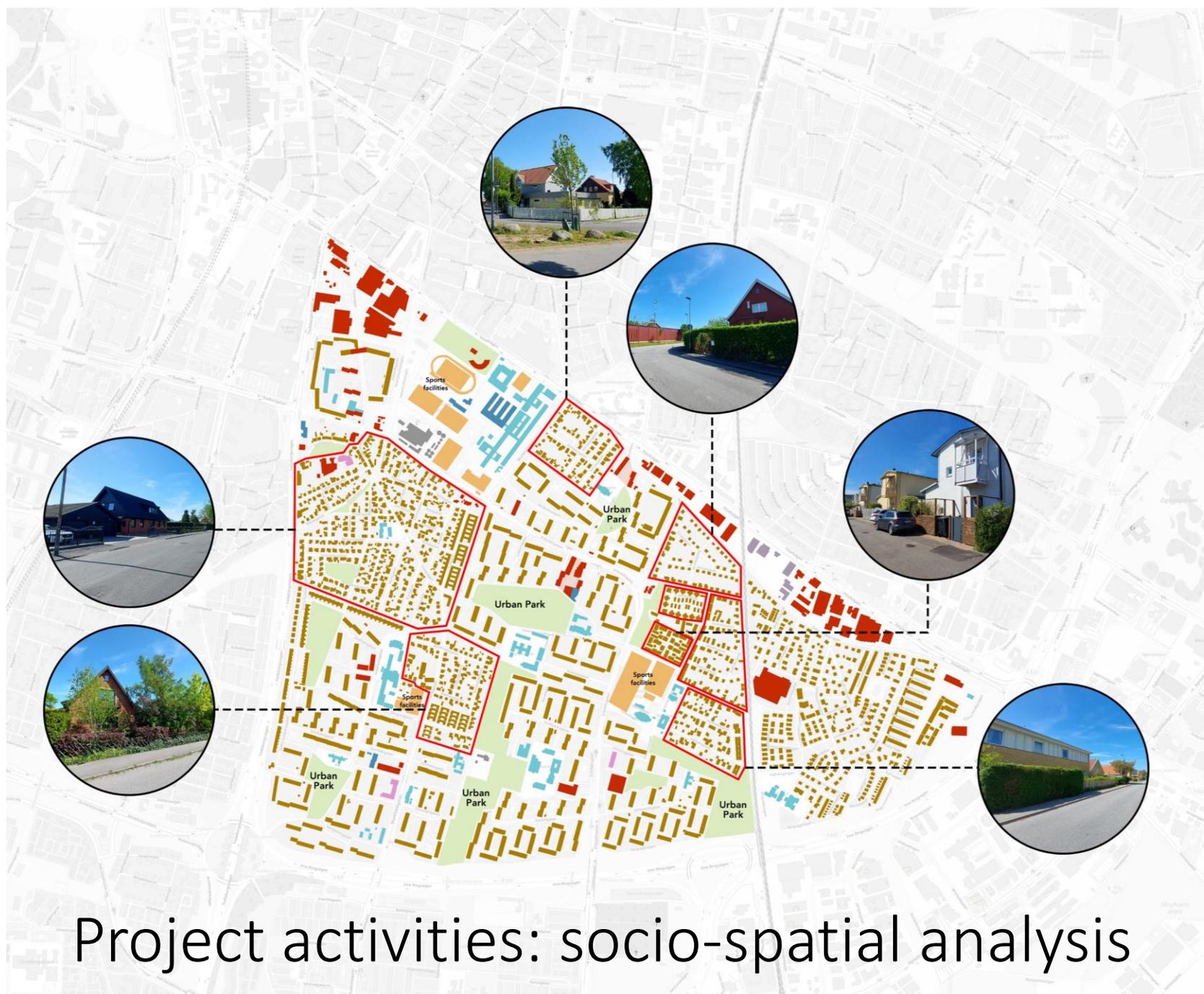


# Diversity-driven research

- The idea of diversity informs the research design, cuts across the epistemological and methodological framework, and culminates in **an open-ended inquiry**.
- **Fields of research:** social and public policy, peace and conflict research, political sciences, urban planning, cultural anthropology, sociology, science and technology studies, signal processing, cognitive psychology, human geography, and interaction studies.
- **Methodologies:** ethnography, focus groups, interviews, spatial mapping, experimental human research (physiological measuring), and ethnomethodology that are brought together via virtual technologies.



Project activities: data collection I



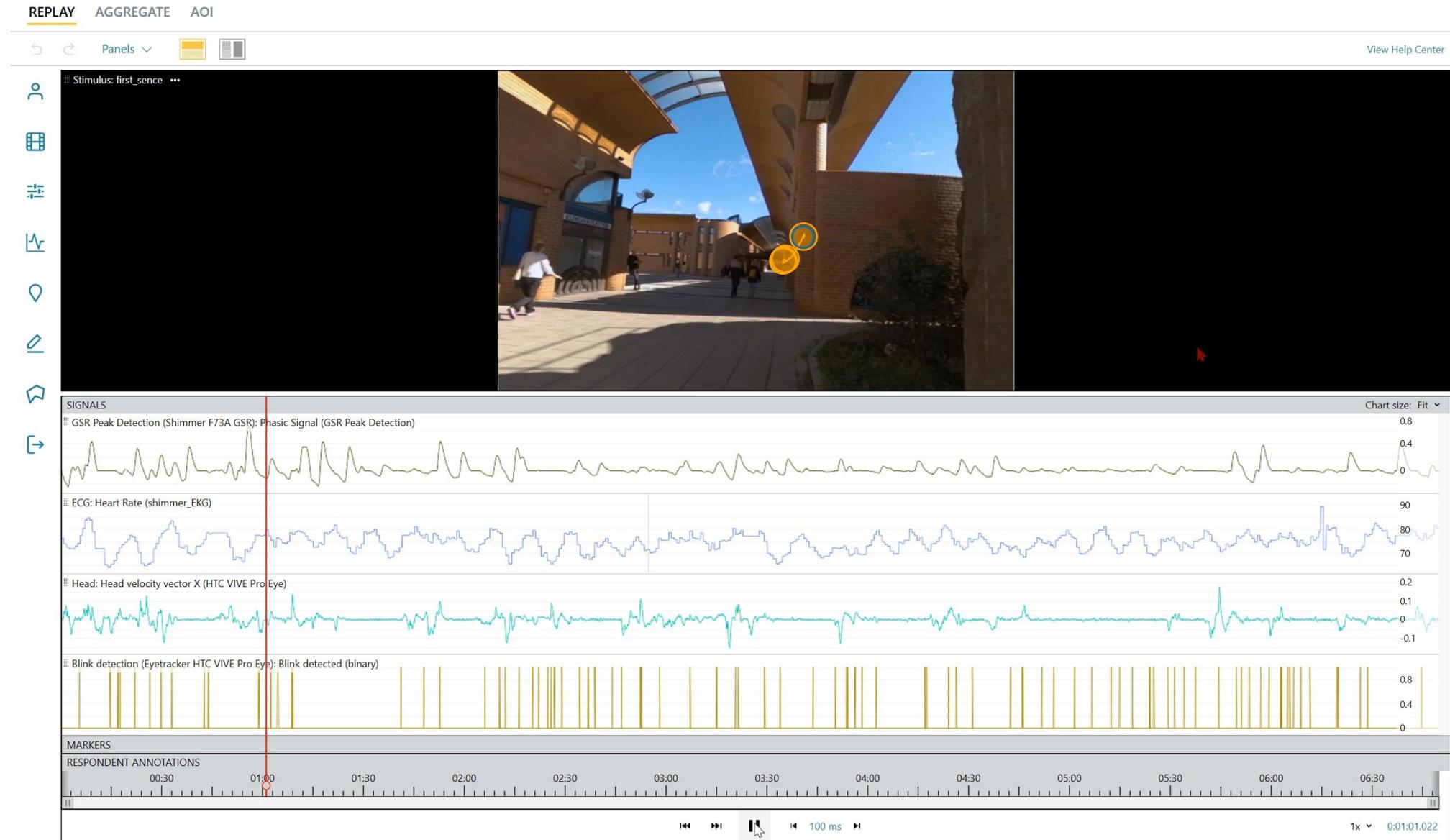
Project activities: socio-spatial analysis



## Project activities: methodological translation



# Project activities: validation & data collection II

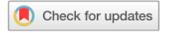


# Initial results & expected outcomes

- The study of social change through emergence:
  - New, empirically-grounded concepts to make sense of the change
  - Potential tools to address the change in policymaking
- New insight into:
  - the meanings and significance of emotional experience for coexistence
  - the subjective, intersubjective and social nature of emotions in everyday life
  - the methodological avenues for the study everyday life and everyday emotions

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## ‘Whether you like it or not, this is the future!’: everyday negotiations of the community’s boundary in urban space

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### Everyday coexistence: moving beyond the idea of living-with-difference

Bruno Lefort and Eeva Puumala

How do we live together? This question, at the heart of society, is vividly debated in European cities in times of rapid demographic changes and rising inequalities. While often point towards increased differences and the emergence of new cleavages, they fail to grasp what unfolds in everyday relationships. Creating a dichotomy between self and alterity, thinking through difference muffles the distinction between diversity and alterity, and thus conceals the power relations that impact how people experience living together. Drawing on ethnographic data collected in six cities in Finland, France, and Sweden, this article proposes an alternative, and more nuanced way to unpack the complex dynamics of everyday coexistence. This article places the place between people in daily relationships. In close dialogue with ethnographic data, we formulate a research agenda in terms of everyday coexistence that shows how everyday coexistence emerges as a contested domain of continual negotiations and persisting tensions. Living-together is at the same time already there and permanently reinvented. This article opens a methodological horizon opened by the concept of everyday coexistence shifts at the level of the self and others and reinstates a sense of hope to the study of living-together.

Keywords: coexistence, everyday, city, difference, diversity, inequality



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