

RIDING THE ANTHROPOCENE

AN INQUIRY INTO THE ECOLOGIES OF MOUNTAIN BIKING

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

May 14 2024

Barcelona



Organized by:



In collaboration with:



Supported by:



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INTRODUCTION

This international seminar aims to delve into the intricate relationship between mountain biking and natural areas, examining both the ecological consequences and the socio-cultural dynamics surrounding this activity in today's Anthropocene scenario. The change of habits of the population along with the disruption of different technological changes – electric motor propulsion, hydraulic brakes, safety elements - have facilitated the rise of mountain biking in natural areas. However, its popularity raises concerns about potential impacts on the delicate ecosystems, adding more pressure and difficulty to comply with the conservation objectives of natural areas but also among the different uses such as other recreational and economical activities. Most of these disputes have overflowed scientific and technical discussions and have become public issues, provoking the emergence of new voices and new relationships turning the elements of the debate and the issues at stake more heterogeneous and difficult to disentangle.

14 MAY

FACULTAT DE GEOGRAFIA I HISTÒRIA
UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA

Free registration

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AIMS

- To explore the new trends of mountain biking practices, specially related with digital and technological mediations.
- To explore the recreational benefits of mountain biking and its contribution to promoting physical activity, mental well-being, and community engagement.
- To analyze ecological impacts of mountain biking on in natural areas such as soil erosion, vegetation and fauna disturbance and forest and agricultural economic activities such (livestock, forestry, etc.).
- To examine existing policies and regulations governing mountain biking in natural parks and identifying the main controversies but also best-practices in balancing conservation and recreation.
- To reveal the role of sustainable trail design, management practices in mitigating the environmental effects of mountain biking in the Anthropocene.
- To discuss strategies for balancing the preservation of natural ecosystems with the recreational demands of mountain biking practitioners.



TARGET

This seminar is designed for academic researchers, park managers, conservationists, environmental scientists, recreational planners, mountain biking enthusiasts, and anyone interested in understanding the complex interplay between outdoor recreation and conservation in natural park settings.

FORMAT

The seminar will combine keynote presentations by leading experts in mountain bike studies, ecology and conservation and tourism and recreation management with papers presentation and panel discussions. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in dialogue, share experiences, and collaborate on innovative solutions to reconcile the competing demands of conservation and recreation in natural parks.

PROGRAM

- 9:00 - 9:15 **Reception**
- 9:15 - 9:30 **Welcome and opening**
Lola Sánchez Aguilera (ANTERRIT, Geography department. UB)
Albert Arias-Sans (CiMColl research project PI)
- 9:30 - 10:15 **Mountain biking in catastrophic times**
Keynote presentation
Jim Cherrington (Sheffield Hallam University)
- 10:15 - 11:30 **Trends and future of mountain bike**
Panel session and discussion
- *Ecologies of Mountain biking. A controversy mapping from Collserola.*
Albert Arias-Sans (CiMColl)
 - *A Critical Analysis of E-Mountain biking and its Relationship with Active Ageing.*
Hannah Reynolds (Sheffield Hallam University)
 - *The EUROPARC and IMBA - Europe approach. Steps for mutual understanding and tightening cooperation between the Protected Area and MTB sectors.*
Teresa Pastor Ramos (EUROPARC Federation)
- Moderator: Wilbert den Hoed (CiMColl. URV. TU Delft)
- COFFEE BREAK -----
- 12:00 - 13:15 **Assessing recreational mountain biking in natural areas**
Panel session and discussion
- *Monitoring Mountain biking through VGI - from Web Share Services & Sports APPs to Geocatching.*
Ricardo M. Nogueira Mendes (DBA/MARE FCUL, University of Lisbon).
 - *Websharing applications as a source of data to study the intensity of use or potential impacts on natural systems. The case of Collserola NP.*
Meritxell Gisbert (UAB)
 - *Mountain biking in Serra de Collserola Natural Park: Profile MTBikers.*
Víctor Dorado (GISEAFE, INEFC Lleida)
- Moderator: Albert Arias-Sans (CiMColl)
- LUNCH BREAK -----

14:30 - 15:45

Socioecological traces of mountain biking in the Anthropocene

Panel session and discussion

- *Mountain bike events in Spanish natural areas.*
Estela Inés Farías Torbidoni (INEFC -Universitat de Lleida)
- *Assessment of trail erosion by Mountain biking using High-Resolution Topography: pilot study in the Sobrarbe-Pirineos Geopark.*
Manel Llena (IPE-CSIC)
- *Leisure and conservation dialectics in natural proximity areas.*
Inmaculada Díaz-Soria (TUDISTAR, UAB)

Moderator: Carles Barriocanal (GRAM, UB)

15:45 - 17:00

Multiplicities and the politics of coexistence

Panel session and discussion

- *Coexisting with wildfire risk in the wildland-urban interface.*
Maria Cifre (CareNet-IN3, UOC)
- *Collserola: a landscape infrastructure.*
Ioanna Spanou (UPC. Barcelona Regional).
- *The future of Mediterranean forest in the Anthropocene.*
Xavier Úbeda (GRAM, UB)

Moderator: Tomás Criado (CiMColl. CareNet-IN3, UOC)

17:00 - 17:30

Insights recap and closing

by the CiMColl research team





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REGISTRATION

The seminar is an open public funded event and is free of charge but there is a limit of attendees (15).

A registration is needed in order to keep a capacity control. Please, fill the [registration form](#).

VENUE

Aula 302
Faculty of Geography and History
University of Barcelona
c/ Montalegre, 6 (3rd floor)
Barcelona

Google maps: [here](#).

ABOUT CiMColl

CiMColl is research project funded by the Pla de Ciència Barcelona. Recerca Jove i Emergent 2022. The project analyzes in depth the practice of mountain biking in the Collserola Natural Park, delving into the various disputes associated, in order to draw up a controversy mapping. The resulting knowledge aims to nurture academic discussions around the leisure uses of natural environments but also to contribute to the public debate so as to enhance policy-making and public management. See more at: www.cimcoll.org

Contact: info@cimcoll.org

CREDITS

Organized by:
[CiMColl](#) Research Project.



In collaboration with:

[ANTERRIT](#) reserach group. Department of Geography, University of Barcelona.
Cultures of Mountain Biking ([COMTB](#)) International research group.
Institut d'Educació Física de Catalunya ([INEFC](#)). Universitat de Lleida (UdL)



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