

Urban agriculture at the urban peripheries: Allotments, community gardens and social struggles for green heritage (GreenHer)



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Abstract

GreenHer explores the heritage dynamics of allotments and gardens located on the urban peripheries of European cities. The project is grounded in the idea that these gardens represent an emerging form of heritage. They play a crucial role in enhancing the urban environment through greening efforts, increasing biodiversity, mitigating climate change, promoting food education, improving dietary habits, and fostering community engagement. Allotments provide a sense of belonging and mutual support, strengthening neighbourhood ties.

However, these spaces are often overlooked as heritage sites and are vulnerable due to their location on the fringes of metropolitan areas, which are increasingly under pressure from land development and property demands. In recent years, local communities have raised concerns, advocating for the preservation and protection of these vital spaces.

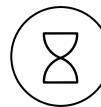
Through a comparative study of six urban and metropolitan peripheries (including Paris, Madrid, Edinburgh, Bologna, Krakow, and Leuven) GreenHer examines the emergence of these allotments as shared local heritage. It also considers them as potential alternatives for sustainable metropolitan development, focusing on how local residents have appropriated these spaces in the face of urban redevelopment and densification pressures.



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