This project addresses the socio-cultural effects of festivals and events that are staged in urban public spaces. Festivals and events are time limited phenomena, but they can have enduring effects on the people and places involved. They may affect who uses public spaces and how they are used, both in the short and longer terms. Festivals and events offer opportunities for urban public spaces to be reconfigured and reimagined as more welcoming and diverse spaces. However, there is also a risk that festivals and events represent merely a superficial 'quick fix' to social problems or - worse - they might exacerbate social exclusion.

The focus of this PhD (Dublin, population 1.2 million) is on public events, such as cultural events that explore a conflictual past in Northern Ireland (NI), and commemorative events, such as events commemorating key moments in NI’s history, taking place in both NI and England. The research team includes Prof. David McGillivray (Pl), Prof. Dr. Kristina Lindström (Gothenburg, population 500,000) and Prof. Dr. Bernadette Quinn (Dublin, population 1.3 million). The project looks at the ways in which these events intersect with public space, considering their relationships with other events that coexist in the same urban public space.

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The Barcelona research focuses on the use of public spaces for culture and leisure, and the potential for enhancing social and economic development. The project analyzes the relationship between events and public spaces in the city, investigating how different events are integrated into the city's public space fabric. The research team includes Dr. Alba Colombo (Barcelona, population 1.5 million) who is based at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) and the Urban Design Unit of the City Council of Barcelona.

In Glasgow, the research team includes Dr. Reuben Reynolds (University of the West of Scotland) who is leading fieldwork for FESTSPACE in Glasgow. The research team includes Prof. David McGillivray (Pl), Prof. Dr. Kristina Lindström (Gothenburg, population 500,000) and Prof. Dr. Bernadette Quinn (Dublin, population 1.3 million). The project looks at the ways in which these events intersect with public space, considering their relationships with other events that coexist in the same urban public space.

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FESTSPACE research in Barcelona will be led by Dr. Alba Colombo who is based at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC). The project focuses on the use of public space for events and leisure, and the potential for enhancing social and economic development. The research team includes Dr. Alba Colombo (Barcelona, population 1.5 million) who is based at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) and the Urban Design Unit of the City Council of Barcelona.

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The Gothenburg FESTSPACE project is based at the University of Gothenburg under the leadership of Dr. Kristina Lindström. The research team includes Dr. Alba Colombo who is based at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) and the Urban Design Unit of the City Council of Barcelona.

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