

Social Research Call

Title:

ADAPT-EQ: CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND EQUITY IN METROPOLITAN SYSTEMS



Acronym: ADAPT-EQ

Project leader: Carlos Delclós

Host organisation: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Main purpose of the project: ADAPT-EQ investigates how climate risks (especially heatwaves and flooding) are perceived, distributed, and managed by households in the four largest metropolitan areas in Spain. It aims to understand the social determinants of household adaptive capacity and how community action can reduce inequalities and enhance resilience. Its core innovation is a multidimensional indicator of adaptive capacity that integrates social, spatial, and perceptual factors.

Design/methodology/approach: The project uses a mixed-methods design combining a large-scale household survey (2,800 households), spatial analysis, social network analysis, and agent-based modeling. It includes qualitative interviews and participatory co-design workshops in each city to ensure local relevance and stakeholder engagement. Data collection captures both objective conditions and subjective perceptions of climate risk.

Potential results: ADAPT-EQ will produce a novel multidimensional indicator of household adaptive capacity and a new open-access dataset. It will generate transferable insights into how social cohesion, trust, and community action influence resilience. Outputs include academic publications, policy briefs, and tools for local governments.

Social relevance of the research: The project addresses urgent societal challenges by focusing on who can adapt to climate risks and who risks being left behind, particularly during recovery efforts. It highlights the unequal geography of vulnerability in Spanish cities and centers the experiences of socially vulnerable groups. By engaging communities and public institutions, ADAPT-EQ promotes inclusive, just, and sustainable adaptation strategies.

Originality/value of the project: ADAPT-EQ shifts the focus of climate adaptation research to the household level. It introduces an equity-centered framework that integrates material, social, and perceptual dimensions of adaptive capacity. The project's comparative, participatory, and transdisciplinary approach bridges the gap between data-driven analysis and real-world policy to offer scalable insights for climate justice and urban resilience across Southern Europe and beyond.