This presentation focuses on the links between city and novelty. Nine multi-sited ethnographies from the city of Madrid and its hinterland aim at grasping a variety of forms of relationship between emerging cultural practices, on one hand, and underlying metropolitan transformations on the other. These latter are embraced under the image of Cosmopolis, a trope designed to bring together multiple processes which today affect the overall urban context. Emerging practices are explored in several loci: (1) new forms of center-periphery spatial patterns, (2) cultural innovation in corporate life, (3) narratives and the poetics of the intimate sphere, (4) new forms of mediation and experience in popular music, (5) the management and logistics of flows of food, (6) net-city and net-actors, (7) interculturality in multi-ethnic Madrid, (8) hacktivism, free software and digital policies, (9) the art circuit in times of economic crisis.

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