

Carlos Moreno

INTELLECTUAL PROFILE AND MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Identity & Current Position

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2. Intellectual Biography: From Complex Systems to Urban Civilization

Carlos Moreno's intellectual trajectory is rooted in an unlikely convergence: the mathematical rigour of complex systems and robotics, and the lived experience of inhabiting worlds apart. Born in Tunja, Colombia, and grew up formed in Cali before arriving in France as a political refugee in 1979, Moreno built his academic foundations at Université Paris-Sud, where he specialised in robotics, artificial intelligence, and complex system modelling. This scientific grounding — in the mathematics of interdependence, feedback loops and emergent behaviour — would prove decisive: it gave him the tools to think of cities not as fixed infrastructures but as living systems, governed by rhythms, proximities, and human interactions that conventional urban planning had systematically ignored.

The first theoretical rupture came through a critique that was simultaneously scientific and humanistic. As the Smart City paradigm rose to global prominence in the 2000s, Moreno identified its fundamental flaw: an obsession with technological optimisation that erased the living subject from the urban equation, producing what he termed "dead cities" — technically sophisticated but humanly impoverished. Against this technocentric vision, he proposed the concept of the "living city," grounded not in sensors and algorithms but in the quality of everyday life, social interaction, and human time. This critique was not merely polemical — it was theoretically grounded in complexity science and in Edgar Morin's philosophy of complexity, whose reflections on interconnectedness and humanism deeply resonated with Moreno's intellectual trajectory, as well as in Henri Lefebvre's sociology of everyday life and a broader tradition of humanistic urbanism ranging from Jane Jacobs to Christopher Alexander.

The second rupture — and the one that would achieve global resonance — was the invention of the 15-Minute City, first articulated in 2016 and formalised in subsequent academic work. The insight was deceptively simple and theoretically radical: the dominant model of the 20th-century city had been organized around distance and speed — separating functions, elongating journeys, subordinating human time to the imperatives of mobility. Chronourbanism proposed the inverse:

a city organized around proximity, where the six essential social dimensions of urban life — living, working, commerce, health, education, and culture & leisure — are accessible within 15 minutes on foot or by bicycle. This was not a nostalgic return to the pre-industrial city: it was a new theoretical grammar for rethinking the relationship between urban space, human time, social cohesion and ecological transition in the 21st century.

Today, this framework has expanded into the broader concepts of the x-minute city and x-minute territory, extending the paradigm from dense metropolitan cores to intermediate cities, peri-urban zones and rural territories — and into the Three IAs framework (Artificial, Adaptive and Ancestral Intelligence), which proposes a renewed humanistic vision for urban futures in the age of artificial intelligence. Each of these expansions reflects a consistent intellectual logic: the refusal to subordinate human life to any single technological or economic paradigm, and the insistence that the measure of a city is ultimately the quality of life it affords to all its inhabitants.

What makes this intellectual trajectory singular is the indissociable link between biography and epistemology. The paradigm of proximity did not emerge from a single disciplinary tradition or a single cultural context. It was shaped by a Franco-Colombian intellectual experience that had inhabited, from the inside, both the fragmented urbanism of the Global South and the accelerated metropolises of Europe, both the mathematical culture of French engineering and the social movements of Latin American political thought. It is this double inhabitation — of worlds that rarely speak to each other — that produced a framework capable of speaking to all of them: equally adopted by the mayor of Paris and the urban planners of Ulaanbaatar, by researchers at Oxford and practitioners across Latin America, by the European Union's urban transition programmes and by emerging national strategies in Mongolia, Uzbekistan and beyond. The universal concept of the '15-minute city' emerged at the intersection of several worlds and applies to each of them.

3. Current Academic and Institutional Positions

Carlos Moreno's current academic and institutional engagements embody the three dimensions of scholarly work that operate simultaneously at the frontier of research, at the scale of global governance, and in the immediacy of territorial practice.

Carlos Moreno holds the position of Professor at Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne – IAE Paris-Sorbonne, where he leads interdisciplinary research programmes on chronourbanism, proximity-based urban transitions, and quality of life in contemporary cities.

As Co-Founder and Scientific Director of the ETI Chair ("Entrepreneurship, Territory, Innovation"), he directs a research agenda spanning territorial innovation, societal transitions, and the governance of sustainable proximities — coordinating collaborative projects with academic institutions, municipalities and international organisations across four continents. The ETI Chair was established with the support of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Muhammad Yunus, reflecting shared commitments to human-centred development and social innovation.

As Co-Founder of the Global Observatory of Sustainable Proximities (GOSP), developed in partnership with UN-Habitat and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), he oversees the design and implementation of a comparative research and action infrastructure dedicated to

proximity-based urban transformation on a global scale — connecting researchers, practitioners, and policy makers around a shared empirical and theoretical programme.

Carlos Moreno is President of the Scientific Committee of the Jacques Rougerie Foundation at the Académie des Beaux-Arts – Institut de France, dedicated to innovation, architecture, and the future of living environments.

He is a member of several distinguished academic institutions, including the Académie des technologies (France), the International Academy of Architecture, the American Academy of Housing and Communities, and Sigma Xi, one of the world's leading scientific honour societies.

4. Core Intellectual Contributions & Epistemological Ruptures

Carlos Moreno's work emerges from a rare convergence between complex systems modelling and the sociology of everyday urban life — a disciplinary intersection that has generated theoretical frameworks with an unusually broad international reception. Trained in mathematics, robotics and artificial intelligence, Moreno brought to urban theory an analytical approach grounded in the modelling of interdependence, feedback loops and emergent behaviour. This scientific foundation was progressively placed in dialogue with an ethno-sociological understanding of inhabitation, social interaction and human rhythms. The originality of this body of work lies precisely in this convergence: the articulation of mathematical rigour with a human-centred understanding of urban life capable of producing theoretical frameworks that are simultaneously analytically robust, socially grounded and globally applicable.

A theoretical synthesis: chronourbanism, chronotopia and topophilia

The theoretical foundation of this work rests on the convergence of three intellectual traditions: chronourbanism, drawing on Hägerstrand's time geography and Lefebvre's rhythmanalysis; chronotopia, inspired by Bakhtin's reflections on the relationship between time and place; and topophilia, Yi-Fu Tuan's concept of the affective bond between people and their environment. Moreno's contribution lies in their synthesis into a unified framework capable of addressing the ecological, social and temporal crises of contemporary urban life.

The 15-Minute City: the six social dimensions and the matrix of High Societal Quality of Life

The central contribution is the formalisation of this theoretical synthesis into a rigorous and universally applicable urban model. The 15-Minute City is built on the identification of six essential social dimensions — living, working, commerce, health, education, and culture & leisure — whose proximity-based accessibility constitutes the minimum condition of a dignified urban life. Its theoretical originality lies in redefining the very criteria by which urban well-being is measured: moving away from aggregate indicators toward a contextualised, inhabitant-centred assessment grounded in the actual socio-demographic profile of each urban population — accounting for age structures, household compositions, mobility capacities, cultural practices, and economic conditions.

This contextualisation gave rise to the matrix of Haute Qualité de Vie Sociétale — High Societal Quality of Life — which reconceptualises urban well-being as a dynamic relationship between spatial configuration, social function and the specific needs and rhythms of the populations who

inhabit a given place. The theoretical consequence is decisive: by grounding the model in socio-demographic contextualisation rather than abstract spatial standards, the framework achieves a universality independent of the size and density of places — equally coherent in a dense European metropolis, an intermediate Latin American city, a rapidly urbanising Central Asian capital and a dispersed rural territory. Its universality is not the universality of a technical norm, but of a theoretical framework that takes the full diversity of the human urban experience seriously.

Cities as living communities: the fresco of proximities

This convergence between mathematical rigour and sociological grounding led to a further methodological innovation: the treatment of cities not as systems to be modelled from the outside, but as living communities whose inhabitants are themselves producers of knowledge, desire, critique, formalisation and proposition. The fresco of proximities collects, processes, and integrates inhabitant voice into the analytical framework — combining structured models of public expression with the mathematical processing of quantitative urban data into a genuinely hybrid approach in which formal modelling and lived experience are treated as mutually constitutive rather than competing sources of knowledge. The fresco thus transforms the 15-Minute City from a top-down planning standard into a bottom-up democratic process in which the definition of urban quality of life is co-constructed with communities, treating collective inhabitant intelligence as an irreducible source of urban knowledge that no dataset can replace.

The x-minute city / x-minute territory: extending the paradigm

A further contribution extends this framework beyond the metropolitan core to address the full spectrum of territorial conditions: intermediate cities, peri-urban zones, rural territories, and cross-border regions. The x-minute city and x-minute territory formalise the model's adaptability across scales and densities — translating the matrix of High Societal Quality of Life into governance instruments suited to contexts where proximity must be organised differently, yet in which the same theoretical principles apply. This extension directly connects urban theory to the broader debates of regional science and economic geography, as evidenced by the 2024 co-authored publication with Nobel Laureate Paul Krugman in *Regional Science Policy & Practice*.

The Three IAs: Artificial, Adaptive and Ancestral Intelligence

A further contribution emerges from a direct theoretical convergence with the 2024 co-authored publication with Nobel Laureate Paul Krugman — *"Old Wisdom and the New Economic Geography: Managing Uncertainty in 21st Century Regional and Urban Development"* (*Regional Science Policy & Practice*). The concept of "Old Wisdom" developed in that paper — the accumulated territorial, economic and social knowledge embedded in places and communities over long periods, systematically undervalued by technocentric urban governance — provided the scholarly foundation for what Moreno subsequently formalised as the Three IAs framework for urban regeneration.

Artificial Intelligence designates the computational capacities that contemporary urban systems increasingly mobilise — powerful analytical tools, but insufficient as standalone governance frameworks. Adaptive Intelligence designates the capacity of communities and institutions to learn, self-organise and evolve in response to complex and uncertain conditions. Ancestral Intelligence — developed directly from Krugman's "Old Wisdom" — designates the accumulated knowledge, cultural memory and place-based practice that modern urban development has systematically marginalised, but which constitutes an irreplaceable resource for any genuinely sustainable urban future. The Three IAs constitute a unified framework for urban regeneration: the claim that the

crises of contemporary cities cannot be addressed by technological optimisation alone, nor by community participation alone, nor by the recovery of cultural memory alone, but only by the deliberate integration of all three forms of intelligence. Rooted simultaneously in complexity science, economic geography, social anthropology and the philosophy of place, it is the most synthetic expression of the theoretical convergence that runs through Moreno's entire body of work.

Cross-disciplinary reception and intellectual influence

Taken together, these contributions have displaced the dominant framework of urban analysis — as evidenced by their reception across disciplines, their adoption in international institutional frameworks, and their capacity to generate sustained scholarly debate on every continent. They represent not the application of existing tools to a new empirical domain, but the construction of a new theoretical language — one in which time, proximity, human rhythm, inhabitant voice and place-based wisdom become the primary categories through which the city is understood, evaluated and transformed.

5. Global Impact & Policy Influence

The 15-Minute City paradigm has achieved an unusually rapid and geographically broad institutional reception within contemporary urban and territorial policy. In less than a decade of its first formulation, it has informed national policies, metropolitan strategies, and territorial planning frameworks across five continents. Cities and territories were not looking for a new brand: they were looking for a coherent intellectual framework capable of reconnecting urban governance with human well-being, ecological transition and social cohesion. The breadth of its international adoption offers one of the clearest indications of its theoretical and practical relevance.

From metropolitan strategies to national policies

The influence of this work on public policy operates on multiple scales simultaneously. At the metropolitan level, cities such as Paris, Milan, Melbourne, Edinburgh, Busan and Bogotá have explicitly referenced proximity-based frameworks in their urban strategies and planning documents, applying them to land use, mobility planning, public space design and social infrastructure. At the national level, the progressive integration of proximity-oriented frameworks into public policy in Spain, Italy, Mongolia and Uzbekistan illustrates the capacity of this paradigm to operate across radically different geopolitical, cultural and economic contexts. In Mongolia, the concept has informed territorial reorganisation strategies for Ulaanbaatar, one of the world's most rapidly urbanising capitals. In Uzbekistan, it has been integrated into national urban development frameworks as part of a broader territorial modernisation agenda. These developments reflect the translation of a theoretical framework into planning instruments, governance strategies and legislative debates across highly diverse territorial contexts.

A cross-civilisational resonance: the South-North contribution

What distinguishes this body of work from comparable theoretical contributions in urban studies is its demonstrable resonance across the full spectrum of global territorial conditions — from the dense European metropolis to the sprawling cities of Latin America, from the rapidly urbanising territories of Central Asia to the intermediate cities of North Africa. This is not the universality of a technical standard exported from the Global North: it is the universality of a framework

conceived at the intersection of multiple world experiences, and validated by its capacity to address challenges that are structurally different but humanly convergent. The mayor of Paris and the urban planners of Ulaanbaatar, researchers at Oxford and practitioners in Quito, European Union programme officers and United Nations Habitat specialists have all found in this framework a language capable of articulating their specific territorial challenges within a shared theoretical horizon. This cross-civilisational reach is not accidental — it is, as argued in Section 1, the direct consequence of an intellectual biography formed at the intersection of the Global South and the Global North, and of a theoretical framework that took seriously the diversity of urban conditions rather than universalising from a single metropolitan experience.

European institutional recognition

On the European scale, the integration of the 15-Minute City framework into the European Union's Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) Partnership represents a major form of institutional recognition within the European research and innovation landscape. The 15-Minute City Transition Pathway, developed within the DUT programme, has become one of the key strategic orientations supporting urban transformation projects across EU member states and partner countries — mobilising research institutions, municipalities, and regional governments around a shared framework for proximity-based urban transition. This integration into a major EU research and innovation programme signals that the 15-Minute City has achieved the status of a reference framework not only in academic debate but in the governance of urban transformation on a continental scale.

World Urban Forum: multilateral recognition and institutional leadership

The global institutional reach of this work is further evidenced by its integration into the World Report on Cities and its central positioning at the 12th and 13th World Urban Forums — the biennial flagship events of UN-Habitat and the most authoritative global platforms for urban governance. At both forums, proximity-based urbanism and the 15-Minute City framework were promoted as core approaches to urban well-being, reflecting their transition from academic paradigm to reference framework within the most consequential multilateral urban policy processes. At the 13th World Urban Forum in Baku, Moreno served as Chairman of the official launch session of the WUF Academy — a new global knowledge and capacity-building infrastructure developed under the aegis of UN-Habitat, designed to strengthen urban expertise across cities and territories worldwide. This role reflects his active intellectual leadership in constructing the institutional frameworks through which that debate is organised and transmitted to the next generation of urban practitioners and decision-makers.

United Nations and global urban networks

At the global institutional level, the recognition of this work by UN-Habitat — through the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award (2022) and the co-development of the Global Observatory of Sustainable Proximities (GOSP) — reflects its integration into the most authoritative international frameworks for sustainable urban development. The GOSP, developed in partnership with UN-Habitat and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), institutionalises the proximity paradigm as a global observatory and action framework, extending its reach to cities and territories that lack the research capacity to engage independently with academic literature but can act on a coherent, internationally validated framework. The translation of this body of work from a scholarly framework to an instrument of global urban governance remains relatively uncommon in contemporary urban and social sciences, and it constitutes one of the most consequential dimensions of its societal impact.

The academic impact dimension

The policy influence of this work is inseparable from its academic reception. The 15-Minute City framework has generated a substantial body of secondary literature — including special journal issues, doctoral theses, and research programmes across Europe, Asia, Latin America and North America — that have both extended and critically interrogated its theoretical foundations. This capacity to generate productive scholarly controversy is itself evidence of theoretical depth: a framework that provokes debate, attracts critical engagement and stimulates new research agendas has achieved what few scholarly contributions manage — it has become a structuring reference point around which a global scientific community organises its work. The metrics documented in Section 8 — 6, 391 citations, 97% of which have accumulated since 2021, with an accelerating annual trajectory — provide the quantitative evidence of an influence that continues to grow rather than plateau.

A rare alignment between academic rigour and civic urgency

The breadth and depth of this policy influence — from municipal strategies to national frameworks, from European programmes to United Nations initiatives — are inseparable from the theoretical quality of the work that produced it. It reflects a rare alignment between scholarly rigour and civic urgency: a body of thought that identified a real structural problem in how modern cities are organised, proposed a coherent theoretical framework for addressing it, and proved sufficiently robust to survive translation across languages, cultures, governance systems and territorial conditions. The breadth of this reception suggests a body of work that has achieved an uncommon level of influence simultaneously within scholarly debate and the governance of cities and territories at global scale.

6. Academic Reception & Scholarly Debate

The international academic reception of this body of work is, by any measurable standard, unusually broad in scale, disciplinary diversity, and geographic reach: a reception that is simultaneously cross-disciplinary, geographically distributed and intellectually alive. A framework that generates citation, debate, critical extension and productive disagreement across disciplines and continents has achieved what distinguishes a genuine theoretical contribution from a policy innovation.

A cross-disciplinary scholarly community

The paradigm has generated sustained engagement across urban planning, public health, sustainability science, economic geography, political science, architecture and mobility studies, reflecting its capacity to address structural questions that extend far beyond urban design alone. Publications in journals such as *The Lancet Planetary Health* and *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* illustrate the integration of proximity-based urbanism into broader debates on sustainability, health and social well-being.

High-impact journal reception

The academic reception of this work spans the full spectrum of scholarly publishing — from urban planning and sustainability journals to economics, regional science and public health. The 2021 article in *Smart Cities* — ranked #1 most cited paper in the journal and accumulating 3,033 citations and 217,700 article views — established the framework as an unavoidable reference in contemporary urban studies. Its citation in *Nature Human Behaviour*, in publications of the *Nature* portfolio, in *Regional Science Policy & Practice* alongside Nobel Laureate Paul Krugman, and in

Palgrave's Global Handbook of Sustainability reflects a reception that has progressively moved from specialised urban literature toward the most visible platforms of international social science. The accelerating citation trajectory — approximately 1,700 citations in 2025 alone, with 850 already recorded in the first six months of 2026 — confirms that this is not a framework whose influence peaked at launch, but one whose scholarly resonance continues to deepen as empirical and policy evidence accumulates.

Critical engagement and productive controversy

A theoretical framework achieves scholarly maturity not when it is universally accepted, but when it attracts rigorous critical engagement that forces its refinement and extension. The 15-Minute City has generated precisely this kind of quality of reception. Researchers have interrogated its applicability to low-density and rural contexts, its relationship to gentrification and displacement dynamics, its assumptions regarding pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, its transferability across governance systems, and its capacity to address structural inequalities that proximity alone cannot resolve. This critical literature — published in *Urban Studies*, *Journal of Urban Design*, *Cities*, *Environment and Planning A* and numerous other peer-reviewed sources— has not weakened the paradigm but strengthened it: each critical engagement has produced theoretical refinements, empirical qualifications and contextual adaptations that have extended the framework's analytical reach while subjecting its foundational claims to sustained empirical scrutiny.

The framework has also attracted a distinct category of public controversy — most visibly in the United Kingdom, where the 15-Minute City concept became the object of politically motivated misrepresentation, falsely associated with restrictions on freedom of movement and surveillance agendas. This episode is analytically significant not as evidence of theoretical weakness, but as an indicator of the concept's political salience: a framework that provokes organised resistance has demonstrably entered the space of public deliberation, where it competes with entrenched interests in mobility infrastructure, land use and urban governance. The scholarly response to this controversy — including analyses published in *Urban Studies*, *Cities* and *The Conversation* — has reinforced rather than undermined the theoretical foundations of the paradigm, clarifying its normative commitments to democratic urbanism and distinguishing them from the misreadings they attracted. That a scholarly concept originating in academic urban theory should require this form of public defence is itself a measure of its reach: ideas that remain confined to academic debate do not generate organised political opposition.

Doctoral research and academic programme development

The influence of this framework on the next generation of urban scholars is evident in the growing number of doctoral theses that take the 15-Minute City as their theoretical point of departure — across Europe, Latin America, Asia, and North America. This generational transmission is one of the most reliable indicators of a paradigm's durability: it signals that the framework has achieved sufficient theoretical richness to sustain original doctoral-level inquiry across multiple disciplinary traditions and territorial contexts. At the institutional level, the concepts of proximity-based urbanism and the matrix of High Societal Quality of Life have been integrated into curricula at leading schools of urban planning, architecture and governance — including institutions in France, Italy, Spain, Australia, South Korea and Colombia — further confirming the transition from scholarly debate to foundational academic reference.

The Global Observatory of Sustainable Proximities as a scholarly infrastructure

The creation of the Global Observatory of Sustainable Proximities (GOSP), developed in partnership with UN-Habitat and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), represents the institutionalisation of this scholarly community at global scale. The GOSP constitutes a research and action infrastructure dedicated to the comparative study of proximity-based urban and territorial transformation — connecting academic researchers, urban practitioners, policy makers and civil society organisations around a shared theoretical framework and a common empirical programme. Its development reflects the maturation of a scholarly field: the transition from a body of work produced by a single research team to a widely distributed international community of scholars, practitioners and institutions organised around a common theoretical reference.

A living paradigm

What the academic reception of this body of work ultimately demonstrates is the vitality of a theoretical programme — one that continues to generate new questions, attract new disciplinary perspectives, absorb critical challenges, and extend its analytical reach into new territorial and institutional contexts. The measure of this vitality is not consensus but productive disagreement: a paradigm that remains open to challenge, capable of self-correction, and generative of new scholarly work is a paradigm with a future. This is the mark of a scholarly contribution that has not only described the world as it is, but proposed a language through which it can be reimagined and transformed.

7. Major Publications

Landmark Publications

Two publications have had a particularly significant impact on the international reception of this body of work, each marking a distinct moment in its scholarly and institutional dissemination.

The foundational academic article — Moreno, C., Allam, Z., Chabaud, D., Gall, C., Pratlong, F. (2021). "Introducing the '15-Minute City': Sustainability, Resilience and Place Identity in Future Post-Pandemic Cities." *Smart Cities*, 4(1), 93–111 (MDPI, Impact Factor 5.5, Q1 Urban Studies, Clarivate JCR 2024; CiteScore 14.7, ranked 4th out of 288 titles in Urban Studies, Scopus 2025) — established the 15-Minute City as an unavoidable reference in contemporary urban studies. With 3,033 citations and 217,700 article views, it is ranked #1 most cited paper in *Smart Cities* and has been cited across urban planning, public health, sustainability science, economic geography and political science, reflecting the cross-disciplinary reach of the framework.

The 2024 co-authored contribution with Nobel Laureate Paul Krugman — Nijkamp, P., Kourtit, K., Krugman, P., Moreno, C. (2024). "Old Wisdom and the New Economic Geography: Managing Uncertainty in 21st Century Regional and Urban Development." *Regional Science Policy & Practice* — signals the recognition of this body of work at the highest level of economic geography and regional science, and provides the scholarly foundation for the Three IAs framework developed in subsequent work.

Books (22 books, 15 languages)

- (2027 - 1st July to be published) *The Right to Proximity. A Social Contract for Time, Trust, and Human Connection*. NY : Wiley
- (2026) *La Ville du soin. Territoires : le bien-être à portée de main*. Paris : Éditions de l'Observatoire. (Translations: Spanish, Italian)
- (2026). *El poder de la proximidad. Vivir en la ciudad*. Barcelona : En Debate – Penguin Random House.
- (2024). *The 15-Minute City: A Solution to Saving Our Time and Our Planet*. Hoboken, NJ : John Wiley & Sons. (Translations: Spanish, French, Polish, Japanese, Traditional Chinese, Hungarian, Czech, Portuguese; additional translations in progress: Lithuanian, Simplified Chinese)
- (2024, updated ed.; 1st ed. 2020). *Droit de cité : De la « ville-monde » à la « ville du quart d'heure »*. Paris : Éditions de l'Observatoire. (Translations: Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Romanian, German, Korean, Japanese.)
- (2020). *Vie urbaine et proximité à l'heure du Covid-19*. Paris : Éditions de l'Observatoire. (Translations: English, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese.)
- (Ed.). (2022). *Resilient and Sustainable Cities: Research, Policy and Practice*. Amsterdam : Elsevier. (Co-edited volume).

Selected Academic Contributions (last 5 years)

- Moreno, C., Allam, Z., Chabaud, D., Gall, C., Pratlong, F. (2021). "Introducing the '15-Minute City': Sustainability, Resilience and Place Identity in Future Post-Pandemic Cities." *Smart Cities*, 4(1), 93–111. [2,605 citations — 199,961 article views — #1 most cited in Smart Cities 2021]
- Allam, Z., Nieuwenhuyse, M., Chabaud, D., Moreno, C. (2022). "The 15-Minute City Offers a New Framework for Sustainability, Liveability, and Health." *The Lancet Planetary Health*.
- Allam, Z., Bibri, S. E., Chabaud, D., Moreno, C. (2022). "The Theoretical, Practical, and Technological Foundations of the 15-Minute City Model." *Energies*, 15(16), 6042.
- Allam, Z., Moreno, C., Chabaud, D., Pratlong, F. (2023). "Proximity-Based Planning and the '15-Minute City': A Sustainable Model for the City of the Future." In *The Palgrave Handbook of Global Sustainability*.
- Nijkamp, P., Kourtit, K., Krugman, P., Moreno, C. (2024). "Old Wisdom and the New Economic Geography: Managing Uncertainty in 21st Century Regional and Urban Development." *Regional Science Policy & Practice*. [Co-authored with Nobel Laureate Paul Krugman]
- Moreno, C. (2025). "Regenerative Urbanism and Proximity: Designing Cities for People." *ZARCH*, 25, 14–37.
- Delgado-Ramos, G. C., Blanco, H., Moreno, C., Leone, M. F., González-Guzmán, C. A., Moreno Sánchez, A. R., Tollin, N. (2026). "Systems Approaches to City Research and Innovation: Infrastructure, Resource Efficiency, Public Services, and Health." In *A Global Research and Action Agenda on Cities and Climate Change Science*. Palgrave Macmillan, Singapore.

8. Research Metrics & Impact

Google Scholar, 30 October 2026

Metric	All time	Since 2021
Total Citations	6,391	6,204
h-index	20	19
i10-index	33	30

97% of total citations have been recorded since 2021, reflecting the sustained and accelerating international influence of this body of work across academic research, public policy, and urban governance.

Leading publication: "Introducing the '15-Minute City': Sustainability, Resilience and Place Identity in Future Post-Pandemic Cities" (Moreno, Allam, Chabaud, Gall, Pratlong — *Smart Cities*, MDPI, 2021, Impact Factor 5.5, Q1 Urban Studies, Clarivate JCR 2024; CiteScore 14.7, ranked 4th out of 288 titles in Urban Studies, Scopus 2025): **3,033 Google Scholar citations — 217,700 article views**. Ranked #1 most cited paper in *Smart Cities* (2021). This single article has been cited across disciplines including urban planning, public health, sustainability science, economic geography and political science, reflecting the cross-disciplinary reach of the 15-Minute City framework.

Annual citation trajectory: approximately 1,700 citations recorded in 2025 alone, and more in of the trends in 2026, confirming a sustained upward trend that places this work among the most actively cited bodies of research in contemporary urban and social sciences. As of June 2026, approximately 850 citations have already been recorded in the first six months of the year — a pace consistent with, and likely to exceed, the record levels of 2025. This continued momentum confirms that the international academic influence of this work is not receding but deepening, as the 15-Minute City framework becomes increasingly embedded in global scholarly and policy debates on urban futures.

Full publication record and citation metrics: ORCID: 0000-0003-0207-6626

· *Google Scholar: scholar.google.com/citations?user=rVzi368AAAAJ*

9. International Recognition & Awards

Major International Awards

Carlos Moreno's intellectual and societal contributions have received broad international recognition across academia, sustainability, architecture, public innovation and urban transformation. His work on proximity-based urbanism and the 15-Minute City has been distinguished through the following major international awards:

- **PIDA International Lifetime Award (2026)** - Ischia, Italy
- **Public Value Award for Lifetime Achievement (2025)** - Lisbon
- **Habitat Latam - Cities for Life Award (2025)** - Guadalajara, Mexico
- **Global Leadership Award for Sustainable Development (2024)** — presented at the United Nations headquarters, New York
- **UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award (2022)** — recognising outstanding contributions to sustainable urban development on a global scale

- **European Congress of Local Governments Prize (2022)**
- **FIABCI World Pioneer Award for Building Better Lives (2022)**
- **EMS INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY AWARD (2022)** - Madrid
- **OBEL Award (2021)** — one of the world's leading distinctions in architecture and urban transformation
- **Smart City Expo World Congress Leadership Award (2021)**

French National Recognition

- **Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur**, French Republic (2010)
- **Médaille de la Prospective**, Académie d'Architecture (2019)

Academic Memberships & Elected Positions

Carlos Moreno holds elected membership and fellowship in the following distinguished academic institutions:

- **Académie des technologies** (France) — elected member
- **International Academy of Architecture (IAA)** — member
- **American Academy of Housing and Communities** — Fellow
- **Sigma Xi** — Fellow, one of the world's most prestigious scientific honour societies
- **Honorary doctorate - UBA (2026)** – Universidad de Buenos Aires ARGENTINA

He serves as **President of the Scientific Committee of the Jacques Rougerie Foundation** at the Académie des Beaux-Arts – Institut de France, which is dedicated to innovation, architecture, and the future of living environments.

Institutional Collaborations & Global Networks

Carlos Moreno's international influence is further reflected through sustained collaborations with the world's leading urban governance institutions:

- **UN-Habitat** — co-development of the Global Observatory of Sustainable Proximities (GOSP) and recipient of the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award
- **World Urban Forum (UN-Habitat)** — Chairman of the official launch session of the WUF Academy, 13th World Urban Forum, Baku (2026)
- **United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)** — co-development of the GOSP and active engagement in global urban policy frameworks
- **C40 Cities** — contribution to global climate and urban transition networks
- **European Union — Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) Partnership** — integration of the 15-Minute City Transition Pathway as a key strategic orientation for urban transformation across Europe.

These collaborations reflect a process through which a scholarly framework has progressively informed instruments of global urban governance — a trajectory that remains uncommon in contemporary urban and social sciences.

10. International Lectures, Dissemination & Global Influence

In 2026, Carlos Moreno was invited as the annual distinguished speaker for the Lewis Mumford Lecture at The City College of New York — joining an intellectual lineage that includes Jane Jacobs,

Amartya Sen, and Richard Sennett. This invitation marks the recognition of this body of work within the highest tradition of critical urban thought in the anglophone world and stands as an emblem of an international influence built steadily over two decades of scholarly engagement across every continent.

At the level of research universities, Moreno has delivered keynote and distinguished addresses at institutions including Oxford, Cambridge, Columbia, Bocconi, Buenos Aires, Guadalajara, and Pusan National University, as well as at emerging institutions across the Global South that are developing new approaches to sustainable territorial development. These engagements span urban planning, architecture, governance, economics, public health, and sustainability science — reflecting the cross-disciplinary resonance of the proximity paradigm rather than its confinement to a single scholarly community.

At the level of global governance, this work has been presented and debated at UN-Habitat, the World Urban Forum, United Cities and Local Governments, C40 Cities, the World Economic Forum, and the European Union's urban transition conferences. Few contemporary scholarly frameworks circulate simultaneously at the frontier of academic research and at the highest levels of international policy deliberation. The 15-Minute City paradigm is among them.

The written dissemination of this work extends its reach beyond the circuits of academic publishing. Published in 15 languages — across Europe, Latin America, Asia and beyond — Moreno's books have carried the concepts of the 15-Minute City, the x-minute city and the x-minute territory into university curricula, national policy frameworks, metropolitan strategies, and territorial planning instruments across an exceptional diversity of geopolitical and cultural contexts. This linguistic reach is not incidental: it is the direct expression of a theoretical framework conceived from the outset to address the full diversity of human urban experience, and whose universality has been confirmed — not assumed — by its adoption in contexts as different as a dense European capital, a rapidly urbanising Central Asian city and a dispersed rural territory in Latin America.

This sustained global engagement has contributed to the emergence of new academic and institutional infrastructures dedicated to proximity-based urbanism — including international research chairs, observatories, and policy programmes — of which the Global Observatory of Sustainable Proximities (GOSP), co-developed with UN-Habitat and United Cities and Local Governments, represents the most consequential institutionalisation to date.

Taken together, these dimensions of international engagement reflect a body of work that has proposed a coherent language through which cities can be reimagined, governed, and transformed in the service of social cohesion, human well-being, and ecological sustainability.