

## Review

# The emergence of the sharing city: A systematic literature review to understand the notion of the sharing city and explore future research paths



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## ABSTRACT

The Sharing City is a concept that has emerged in recent years as a new notion for urban development. The Sharing City shares common discursive ground with the Sharing Economy, which is now in vogue. However, the sharing city adopts a clear human centric focus which differentiates it from other city labels or the more economic, commercial focus of previous literature on the sharing economy. The concept of the sharing city focuses, to a great extent, on how people interact with each other in order to share resources, spaces, infrastructures experiences etc within the city. Sharing city projects emphasize citizen and community participation and promote values such as social justice, well-being and sustainability. But also, by engaging in sharing practices, actors transform the city. This study analyses for first time the academic landscape of the sharing city and its social practices using a systematic literature review methodology. It is based on a systematic search of the literature in the WOS and Scopus databases resulting in the review of 80 peer-reviewed papers. Our systematic literature review shows how previous literature in this field has evolved over time. Also, it focuses on the social practices linked to the sharing city and presents in what contexts sharing in the city is taking place, what actors have led the initiatives, what disciplines have studied the sharing city and what objectives the sharing city sets. Then, gaps and future research lines are discussed. Although the sharing city has been studied mainly by certain specific disciplines, it is a concept with a multidisciplinary nature that invites new approaches and focusses. Also, implications for practitioners are suggested.

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**1. Introduction**

The emerging concept of sharing city has been described as a notion, label (Khan and Zaman, 2018) or banner (Longhurst et al., 2016) that emphasizes a set of collaborative practices around the city and within different fields (e.g. food studies, urban studies, mobility, tourism, etc.). According to Diugosz (2014, p. 2), the sharing city "... Is a liveable city –a place where citizens can share infrastructure, utilise idle (public) resources, gain more access to data, establish and participate in sharing enterprises, advance community interaction, and more". These ideas are framed in the sharing paradigm, a broad concept proposed by McLaren and Agyeman (2015), in which the territory of sharing includes spaces and things (e.g. tools, libraries, bicycles, etc.), services (e.g. child-care, time-banks, health) and experiences or activities (e.g. skills, leisure, etc.) oriented towards the "well-being" of the city's residents. The ultimate purpose of the sharing city project is the long term creation of more fair, democratic and sustainable cities (McLaren and Agyeman, 2015; Richardson, 2015).

Visiting the notion of the *sharing city* is important since various initiatives and sharing city projects can be found all around the world, e.g. Seoul, Milan, Toronto, Copenhagen, Melbourne, etc., with clear implications for urban development (Chan and Zhang, 2020; McLaren and Agyeman, 2015; Palm, Södergren and Bocken, 2019) and political agendas of local administrations (Manzini, 2019; Vith et al., 2019). On one hand, the sharing city label has attracted the interest of local, national and transnational government and non-governmental organizations such as OuiShare. Also, there are international networks and initiatives that focus on the sharing city such as the Sharing Cities Network, Sharing Cities Action, Sharing Cities Sweden and Sharing Cities Alliance. Recently, a project was also funded by the European Union, the Sharing Cities EU funded project. On the other hand, the notion of sharing city has been receiving increasing attention from the academia in line with the "notable surge of interest in the academic community -and beyond-in the notion and practices of sharing" (John, 2017, p. 12). Such interest is also confirmed by the results of this literature review.

Previous reviews of the sharing city have been conducted (Diugosz, 2014; Harmaala, 2015; Longhurst et al., 2016; Khan and Zaman, 2018; Vith et al., 2019), but this is the first systematic literature review that deals with the sharing city concept. Systematic literature reviews scan existing literature using clearly stated search choices and selection criteria and are particularly useful when the topic researched is found across different academic disciplines (Tranfield et al., 2003; Mora et al., 2017; Wilhelm and Ruhlandt, 2018). Research on the sharing city is not only fragmented and scattered, but also we lack both an overall view of how the sharing city has been approached in previous literature and a systematized understanding of the implementation of sharing city projects. With these in mind we have formulated the following research questions in this SLR:

- What disciplines have studied the sharing city and what perspective has been adopted in each?
- What objectives of the sharing city have been examined in previous research?
- What actors participate in sharing city projects in previous literature? To what extent are sharing city projects the result of top-down, bottom-up or mixed approaches according to previous literature?
- What social practices have been linked to the implementation of sharing city projects in previous literature?

Table 1 explains the broader theoretical gaps identified, the specific research questions formulated and the added value of this literature review. In this manuscript we aim to provide more clarity on the sharing city concept and its implementation by shedding light to different aspects related to its theorization and implementation.

Also, similar to other SLR, we provide an overview of previous literature in this field by exploring how the literature on the sharing city has evolved over the years (e.g. total number of papers, main journals/outlets for publication, predominance of empirical versus conceptual papers and qualitative versus quantitative studies, types of data recollection, etc.).

To answer these research questions, we reviewed the scientific production from 1992 to 2019 in the Web of Science from Thomson Reuters (WOS) and Scopus from Elsevier databases that met certain criteria established by the authors (for further details see Methodology). The following section presents the emergence and conceptualization of the sharing city label. The methodology section presents the research design adopted for this systematic literature review. Next, the findings of the analysis of the articles are presented in line with the different research questions formulated. A discussion follows and implications for practitioners and academics. Finally, research gaps and future lines of study are identified at the end of the review.

**2. The sharing city as a new city label**

The sharing city encompasses technological, human and economic aspects. As such, its definition has been built on various and diverse conceptual blocks. First, one of its main frames of reference is the sharing paradigm and the sharing economy (Bernardi and Diamantini, 2018; Labaeye, 2019; McLaren and Agyeman, 2015). According to Bernardi and Diamantini (2018, p. 31), the sharing city concept "... denotes a merging of the sharing economy with urban development", whereas Vith et al. (2019, p. 1023) have approached the sharing city as the "locus of action and central actor in the debates over the nature and organization of the sharing economy". Some authors such as Fuster (2018) and Nikitina et al. (2020) highlight the importance and the role of peer-to-peer economic technology platforms in the development of the sharing city as a new way of creating offline and online communities that enable

**Table 1**  
Defining the Research Questions and the added value of the SLR.

Theoretical gaps	Research questions	Added value
We lack an overall review of how the sharing city has been approached in previous literature.	What disciplines have studied the sharing city and what perspective has been adopted in each?	To provide a more holistic understanding of the sharing city concept given that previous literature is highly fragmented. Such approach paves the path for future multidisciplinary work.
	What objectives of the sharing city have been examined in previous research?	To understand the priorities set in previous research and to evaluate the potential of sharing city projects for the society.
We lack a systematized understanding regarding the implementation of sharing city projects in previous literature.	What actors participate in sharing city projects in previous literature? To what extent are sharing city projects the result of top-down, bottom-up or mixed approaches according to previous literature?	To examine the sharing city as a multi-actor project which requires collaboration and the establishment of networks in the city.
	What social practices have been linked to the implementation of sharing city projects in previous literature?	To fully understand what social practices have been linked to sharing in the city.

various types of sharing (sharing equipment, space, energy, infrastructures, objects etc.). However, other authors such as Sánchez-Vergara et al. (2021) highlight that sharing cities such as Barcelona may be cautious or even hostile towards certain sharing economy platforms and question whether social innovation is truly generated.

Then, some definitions of the sharing city place more focus on sustainability (Cohen and Muñoz, 2016; Boyko et al., 2017) similar to other urban labels such as the smart city (Khan and Zaman, 2018; Snow et al., 2016). In this case, it is pointed out that cities can become more sustainable through sharing, e.g. carbon reduction, reuse of products etc. (Boyko et al., 2017), so the sharing city needs to enable sharing in the path of transformation towards sustainable development.

But, to further differentiate the sharing city from other city labels, other authors emphasize its human centric focus (Bernardi and Diamantini, 2018; McLaren and Agyeman, 2015). For Chan and Zhang (2021), the sharing city is place based, and its configuration regulates practices, behaviours and strategies linked to space as promoters of relationships between communities. The idea of the sharing city goes beyond commercial aspects (which are often the focus of the sharing economy) and emphasizes social aspects. According to McLaren and Agyeman (2017, p. 23), the concept of the sharing city "... must go beyond the 'sharing economy', and explores approaches that are more cultural than commercial, more political than economic, and that are rooted in a broad understanding of the city as a "co-created urban commons". The commons approach is also characterized by solidarity and "commoning" (Chan, 2019, p. 152). Hence, the concept of the sharing city focuses, to a great extent, on how people in the city interact with each other in order to share resources, spaces, experiences etc. (Bernardi and Diamantini, 2018). Furthermore, it seeks to involve everyone in the city and to allow for the emergence of networks that not only fight against social isolation but also reduce social inequalities (McLaren and Agyeman, 2017). Overall, the sharing city discourse has been framed in a context of togetherness and socio-spatial justice (Jarvis, 2019; McLaren and Agyeman, 2015).

For other authors (Bakıcı et al., 2013; Camboim et al., 2019; Capdevila and Zarlenga, 2015; Snow et al., 2016), community empowerment is one of the strongest points of this notion of the city. Different authors believe that the sharing city cannot exist without citizen involvement (Caramaschi, 2017; Khan and Zaman, 2018). The ideas of consensus and participation of local actors are emphasized and it is highlighted that the sharing city can only be co-created (Khan and Zaman 2018). In the sharing city, the inclusion of the experiences of those who inhabit it is an essential part of its representation and the communities are the strength necessary for achieving the desired city. As Franqueira (2010) puts it, the

sharing city becomes a "social laboratory" where citizens, companies, governments and other institutions can collaborate together to achieve common goals for the city.

Our understanding of the sharing city is that of an ambitious project that aims to improve the city in various fields, e.g. unsustainable overconsumption, social isolation, spatial inequalities, scarcity of resources and spaces, environmental degradation, limited citizen involvement etc. (McLaren and Agyeman, 2015; Sharp, 2020; Voytenko et al., 2021). The sharing city is supposed to achieve the following goals which further justifies its momentum and attractiveness for administration and other social actors: i) the revival of the community in the city, ii) citizen empowerment, iii) solidarity and social justice, iv) sustainability and efficiency, v) social innovation through new economic arrangements. Moreover, the sharing city invites for the collaboration of different social actors to achieve the sharing city goals, i.e. the sharing city is co-created. While all these principles are important, the first three truly differentiate the sharing city from other city labels and projects.

However, it is also worth mentioning that the implementation of sharing city projects is highly "context-specific" (McLaren and Agyeman, 2015). The sharing city does not follow a rigid and pre-determined pattern and it is affected by local culture in terms of not only what is being shared but also in terms of what actors are involved in the project (Shareable, 2018). For instance, in Copenhagen or Amsterdam the cycling culture is essential for local culture so bike sharing schemes fostered by the city hall are central for urban mobility (Gössling, 2013). But in a city like Berlin, communities and non-public organizations have much more importance as they lead sharing initiatives e.g. food sharing networks (see *food-sharing.de*). In other cases, companies are actively involved and benefit from sharing initiatives like the case of Sydney where collaborative platforms are used by city residents to increase the visibility of local shops (see *The Sharing Map Sydney*).

### 3. Methodology

To examine the academic literature on the "sharing city", we applied the systematic literature review (SLR) method, which has already been used in various studies on the sharing economy (Arcidiacono et al., 2018; Dillahunt et al., 2017; Jin et al., 2018; Ryu et al., 2019; ter Huurne et al., 2017). This work has employed the SLR method for two reasons. Although we acknowledge that previous work has included reviews of the sharing city concept (e.g. Vith et al., 2019), no systematic literature review has been conducted previously in the field of the sharing city. Literature in this field is scattered across disciplines and SLR are particularly useful in this sense (see Mora et al., 2017). The second motive is because through a SLR a more objective review can be done when compared

to “traditional” literature reviews (see Williams et al., 2020). In traditional literature reviews the criteria on how to establish the inclusion/exclusion of papers is not clearly defined. This leads to a subjective selection of articles early on in the identification process of documents. Instead, as suggested by other authors that have conducted SLR, this methodology provides a transparent and reproducible selection process and analysis on a specific topic (Cook et al., 1997; Davis et al., 1995; Merli et al., 2018; Moustaghfir 2008; Williams et al., 2020). So, this is the first SLR for the specific study of “sharing cities” and “collaborative cities”.

One of the advantages of SLR is that they document all procedures carried out so they can be replicated by other researchers using previously planned methods (Cook et al., 1997; Ginieis et al., 2012). Results of multiple primary studies are synthesized with strategies that limit bias and random error (Cook et al., 1995). These strategies include an exhaustive search of all potentially relevant articles and the use of explicit and reproducible criteria in the selection of documents for review. Furthermore, different authors (Cook et al., 1997; Merli et al., 2018; Williams et al., 2020) argue for the usefulness of SLR, because this methodology provides a transparent and reproducible selection process and analysis on a specific topic and can help reducing the subjectivity bias that exists on the part of the researcher in collecting the information. We implemented the guidelines proposed by Mara et al. (2020), Moustaghfir (2008), Okwir et al. (2018) and Tranfield et al. (2003). In Fig. 1 we present the five steps followed to carry out the SLR, which are detailed in the following sections.

Step 1. To apply the SLR method, first keywords need to be defined for the search. Tranfield et al. (2003) suggest that more than one researcher needs to participate in the decisions related to the selection of keywords and their combinations should generate effective search strings. In this case, all authors participated in these decisions. Regarding the keyword selection, initially, the literature review begun with the keywords “sharing city” and “sharing cities”, which allowed us to identify 429 papers. To extend the number of papers, we went through them and observed that authors used a greater variety of keywords to refer to “sharing city/ies”. So, more

keywords were added, in concrete “share city”, “share cities”, “shareable city” and “shareable cities”. Also, we noticed that the keywords “collaborative city” and “collaborative cities” were repetitively found especially in early works so these were also incorporated as keywords. Finally, in recent years the term of “urban sharing” has emerged, which holds relevance with research in the field of “sharing city/ies”, so it was also incorporated as keyword for this SLR. In total, 9 keywords were finally employed. As a result, the keywords employed were the following:

1. “sharing city” OR “sharing cities”
2. “shareable city” OR “shareable cities”
3. “share city” OR “share cities”
4. “collaborative city” OR “collaborative cities”
5. “urban sharing”

We performed the search in the Web of Science (WOS) database of Thomson Reuters and Scopus from Elsevier. We should mention that when searching in WOS, the option of “All Databases” was selected. This means that the search was carried out at the same time in various databases (Web of Science Core Collection; MEDLINE; SciELO Citation Index; Current Contents Connect; Derwent Innovations Index; KCI-Korean Journal Database and Russian Science Citation Index). These databases provide a wide coverage of areas within this discipline and offer different search, navigation and filtering options (Ginieis et al., 2012; López-Illescas et al., 2008; Okwir et al., 2018).

The initial search was performed searching for the 9 keywords in the entire text (ALL), both in WOS (“Topic”) and Scopus (“All fields”), to ensure that we compiled all the publications that contained any of the previously selected keywords in the text. Fig. 1 shows that 661 results were finally produced, which were further filtered in the subsequent stages by applying the exclusion criteria established by the research protocol (Jones and Gatrell, 2014).

Step 2. Duplicate publications were eliminated and 634 publications were obtained until 2019 (Table 2). We also realised that this concept is relatively new in the academic literature as the first

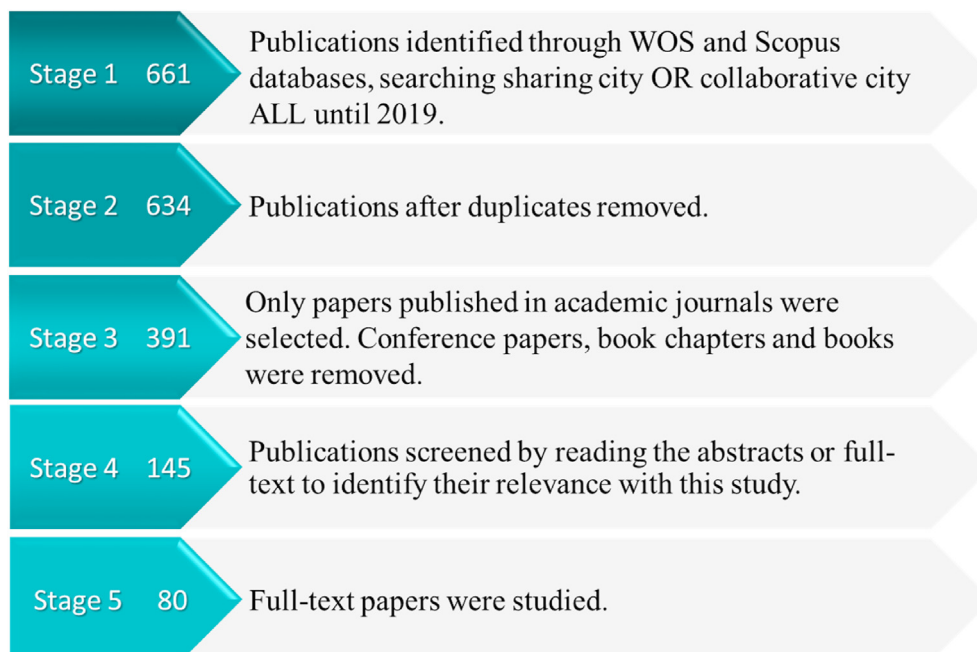


Fig. 1. Flow diagram of the article selection process.

studies that study specifically “sharing cities” begun in 2003. In Table 2 we observe that until 2009, only 43 articles had been published. Then, during the period 2010–2015, on average, approximately 14 documents related to sharing cities or collaborative cities were published annually. Likewise, it is necessary to note that in the last four years (2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019) 48, 96, 146 and 214 studies have been published respectively. This evidences the growing importance that this topic has acquired in academic research. Table 2 shows the number of publications in chronological order.

In Table 2 we can see, as already mentioned, that until 2010 the keywords “collaborative city” or “collaborative cities” were much more used (38 documents) when compared to the keywords “sharing city” or “sharing cities” (19 documents). Also, the keyword “urban sharing”, even if it is not yet a widely used keyword, it is becoming more relevant and used by recently published papers in the last three years (2017–2019, 18 papers found).

In addition, it is observed in Fig. 2, that the publications until 2009 represent 7% and that, since 2017, the publications have increased considerably from 15% (2017), 23% (2018) to 34% (2019). This is one of the fundamental reasons why this study adopted an SLR approach.

Step 3. The publications were further filtered to include only peer-reviewed journal articles until 2019, which further reduced the number to 391 papers from journals indexed in the WOS and Scopus databases. Sharing cities have also been the subject of theoretical and methodological reflection in other sources, such as reports (Davidson and Infranca, 2016; Viable Cities, 2017; World Economic Forum, 2017), conference papers and book reviews (Berg, 2017; Martin, 2018; McBride, 2016), as well as books, such as those published by Shareable (2018) and by Fuster (2018). Shareable (2018) records successful initiatives that have been developed around the world, organized into categories such as finances, food, mobility, work, land, waste, etc. Fuster (2018) studied the collaborative platforms and management models in Europe and especially in Spain. However, only articles that have gone through a double review process were included in this literature review.

Table 3 shows the number of publications per journal in those journals that have published most about sharing cities. It is observed that the journal that has published the most articles in the field is the Journal of Cleaner Production with 33 papers. Following this are the journals Sustainability (25 articles), Technological Forecasting and Social Change (10 articles), Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions, Geoforum and International Journal of Sustainable Energy Planning and Management with 7 articles each (Table 3).

Step 4. The articles were selected after reading the title and the abstract to identify the aspects related to the implementation of sharing cities and their different social and urban practices. When the abstract was not clear enough, the entire article was read in order to assess its relevance and fit to the scope of the study. In concrete, we checked the research objectives, the relevance of the findings and the context of study of these papers. A total of 145

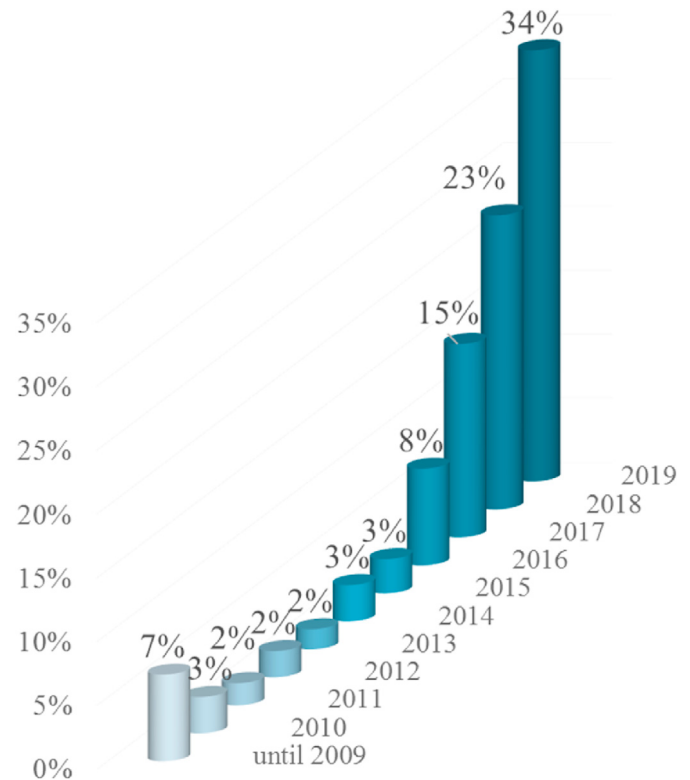


Fig. 2. Evolution of publications on sharing city until 2019.

articles resulted from this process. Similar steps have been followed in other SLR (Bonatto et al., 2015; Mara et al., 2020; Tasca et al., 2010).

Step 5. In the last stage, the information collected was synthesized and we evaluated its inclusion or exclusion according to the objectives established in our study. A final sample of 80 articles resulted from this analysis (Table 8 in Appendix). The following inclusion and exclusion criteria were adopted:

### 3.1. Criteria for including articles

- a. Academic papers that had gone through a double review process.
- b. Empirical and conceptual papers that analysed implementation initiatives (*top down*, *bottom up*, mixed focus) and theoretical approaches to the sharing city.
- c. Papers that treat different social practices of sharing identified in groups and communities (e.g. street food, use of green space, public art, activism, etc.), which made it possible to analyse the human dynamics of sharing. The human dynamics of sharing refer to the interactions between the different actors of the sharing city, e.g. local government and companies, companies

Table 2  
Keyword analysis and articles until 2019.

Keyword	until 2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
sharing city/ies	15	4	6	8	4	10	13	34	71	108	152	425
collaborative city/ies	24	14	5	2	4	7	1	10	19	22	53	161
urban sharing	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	2	8	7	18
share city/ies	4	–	–	2	–	1	1	4	1	1	2	16
shareable city/ies	–	–	–	1	1	–	2	–	3	7	–	14
Total	43	18	11	13	10	18	17	48	96	146	214	634
%	7	3	2	2	2	3	3	8	15	23	34	100

**Table 3**  
Evolution of the number of publications in journals WOS and Scopus.

Journal	until 2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Journal of Cleaner Production	–	–	–	3	4	14	12	33
Sustainability	–	–	1	2	2	7	13	25
Technological Forecasting and Social Change	–	–	–	1	3	2	4	10
Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions	–	–	–	–	6	1	–	7
Geoforum	–	–	1	–	1	1	4	7
International Journal of Sustainable Energy Planning and Management	–	–	–	–	–	–	7	7
Local Environment	–	–	–	–	1	2	2	5
Urban Policy and Research	–	–	–	–	–	5	–	5
IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems	–	2	2	–	–	–	–	4
Transportation	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	4
Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	3
Cities	1	–	–	–	–	2	–	3
Energies	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	3
Government Information Quarterly	–	1	–	–	–	1	1	3
IEEE Intelligent Transportation Systems Magazine	–	–	1	1	–	1	–	3
International Journal of Sustainable Development and Planning	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	3
Journal of Business Ethics	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	3
Journal of Developing Societies	1	–	–	–	1	1	–	3
Others journals	38	8	3	25	40	56	90	260
Total	40	11	8	32	63	94	143	391
%	10	3	2	8	16	24	37	100

and citizens, local government and citizens, communities of citizens and so on. These practices are periodical and involve different everyday activities (Barabási, 2005). According to Cellucci and Di Sivo (2017, p. 391) citizens, in particular “can participate in a multidisciplinary network to implement a collective creation process, changing the space they live in to adapt it to their needs”, which emphasizes how these actors can produce and transform the city.

### 3.2. Criteria for excluding articles

- Sources such as books, conference papers, book chapters and interviews were excluded.
- Papers where social practices related to initiatives and the overall project of the sharing city is not identified/discussed/studied.
- Papers that do not mention at all the sharing city or collaborative city within the paper although it is included as a keyword (e.g. papers that focus instead on the hackable city or on the technocentricity of smart cities, etc.).
- Papers that mainly focus on how sharing platforms work from a technical perspective (e.g. analysis of ridesharing platforms in Asia, P2P economic networks, sharing platforms related to Green entrepreneurship, etc.) but there is no reference to the human dynamics of sharing. Articles from computer science and systems engineering were not included.

## 4. Findings

In this section we present the results of this review. In the first part we carry out a descriptive analysis of the literature in this field in terms of the types of studies, the methodologies and research techniques employed, the scope of previous research, research subjects etc. Then, we have structured this section according to the research questions set. First, we discuss the sharing social practices across different contexts and outline what is being shared in the city in previous literature. Second, we link previous literature with the objectives of the sharing city. Third, we discuss the implementation approaches of the sharing city by categorizing them in top-down, bottom-up and mixed approaches. Fourth, we explain what disciplines have principally dealt with the sharing city. We

highlight how heterogeneous previous research is and that the sharing city label is interpreted in different forms, depending on the disciplines that have studied it and the implementation strategies, either empirically employed or only suggested in theory.

### 4.1. Organizing the literature on the sharing city

Following the inclusion criteria described above (Step 5), the 80 articles analysed were classified according to the different types of study (e.g. literature review, empirical, case study, prototype, etc.), methodologies and research techniques used, as well as the types of approaches used (top down, bottom up or mixed, see 4.2). This indicates how the authors approached the idea of the sharing city, and the actors who have participated in its implementation (see Table 2). During the first decade, publications were based on the transforming power of communities (Collins, 2004; Dodge, 2009; Franqueira, 2010; Pastor Jr. et al., 2003; Vestbro and Horelli 2012) and how innovation could shape social changes (Cohen et al., 2016).

Since 2017, the number of publications in the sharing city field has significantly increased, especially analyses of consumer practices with a socio-economic and environmental viewpoint. For example, Agyeman et al. (2016) studied environmental justice and sustainability of everyday practices and activisms, focusing on food, energy movements, and energy and climate justice. Barnes and Mattson (2016) analysed the drivers and inhibitors of collaborative consumption, while Cohen and Muñoz (2016) evaluated different types of sharing activities in the city (food, goods, mobility, spaces, etc.) and how they contribute to a transformation of the economy. Topics such as urban design and management have also been documented (Cohen and Muñoz, 2016; Forlano, 2016; Mateo-Babiano et al., 2016; Morandi et al., 2016).

Empirical studies (43 papers) are aimed at understanding the reality and varied meanings of the phenomenon predominate in the literature (Creswell, 2009). The data obtained indicate that the conceptual basis of the sharing city originates in the implementation, that is, starting from the development and dynamics in each of the cities or experimental places (Bernardi and Diamantini, 2018; Boyko et al., 2017; Cohen et al., 2016; Harmaala, 2015; Jarvis, 2019; Khan and Zaman, 2018; Labaeye, 2019; Morandi et al., 2016; Sharp, 2018). Fig. 3 shows the empirical studies on the implementation of the sharing city, as well as those studies that seek to theoretically clarify the emerging and multifocal nature of this concept. While

social practices are related to implementation, the study of sharing narratives is associated with a theoretical reflection on the meanings of the sharing city and how it has been constructed by different actors. Other studies show the mixed approach through the interaction between the two perspectives.

Qualitative studies predominated in the scientific production, representing 76% of the research carried out, followed by quantitative methods (15%), and finally mixed methods (9%). In order of use, content analysis, interviews, and observation were the most widely used techniques. Likewise, in many studies the data collection methods were mixed, e.g. combined interviews and observations or vignette surveys, among others (e.g. Bernardi, 2018; Bernardi and Diamantini, 2018; Edwards and Davies, 2018; Hult and Bradley, 2017; Lan et al., 2017; Ma et al., 2018; Richardson, 2015; Rossitto and Lampinen, 2018; Zvolaska et al., 2019a). Qualitative content analysis techniques are the most used in the different research studies. In general, diverse approaches have been used to explore the concept of the sharing city, and interpretive tools have been used to go deeper into its meanings. This provides a broad approach to the study object, and facilitates various readings, especially symbolic readings (Krippendorff, 1997). Some examples would be the works elaborated by Longhurst et al. (2016), Brown and Vergragt (2016) and Caramaschi (2017) to study positive changes and dynamics in the community; or the framing analyses proposed by Sharp (2018) and Stabrowski (2017) based on media content.

The results of this research show that stakeholder participation reinforces the social construction of the discourse of sharing cities. The research subjects explored in articles were users and residents (25 articles), organizations (e.g. Ashoka, Shareable, Global Eco-village Network, OuiShare, Foodsharing.de, The Food Project Boston, Lande), governments (19 papers), and experts (1 article - Barnes and Mattson, 2016). Eight articles refer to the study of digital platforms, and the effects and consequences of AirBnb have been the most analysed (Ferreri and Sanyal, 2018; Gurran et al., 2018; Sharp, 2018; Stabrowski, 2017). There are also community-based projects, such as foodsharing.de (Morrow, 2019), Share Sydney's Map (Santala and McGuirk, 2019), and Community Engagement Playbook (Le Dantec, 2017).

#### 4.2. Sharing practices in the sharing city

According to Reckwitz (2002, p. 249) social practices are a "routinized type of behaviour which consists of several elements, interconnected to one other: forms of bodily activities, forms of mental activities, 'things' and their use, a background knowledge in the form of understanding, know-how, states of emotion and motivational knowledge". Furthermore "... a practice represents a pattern which can be filled out by a multitude of single and often unique actions reproducing the practice" (p. 250). In the sharing literature these practices follow a social logic and are guided by symbolic values such as mutuality, openness, empathy and an ethic of care (John, 2013). However, according to Chan and Zhang (2021) sharing practices in the city have been often appropriated by the sharing economy.

Our results show that sharing practices in the sharing city literature take place in different areas; food, mobility, objects, governance, spaces and ideas (see Table 4). Spaces refer to shared spaces, and include the shared use of public and private space in the city such as coworking spaces, hackerspaces, fablabs and cohousing (Chan and Zhang, 2021; Lehavi, 2018; Morandi et al., 2016; Rossitto and Lampinen, 2016; Vestbro and Horelli, 2012). Another example would be Finnish public school spaces that are open as sports and music clubs in the evenings, so that the schools have another use at night (see Harmaala, 2015). Regarding food, the literature mainly focuses on projects of community gardening, practices regarding cooking, eating and redistribution of surplus food, make use of waste food etc. (Caramaschi, 2017; Davies and Evans, 2019; Davies et al., 2017a; Davies et al., 2017b; Edward and Davies, 2018; Jehlička and Daněk, 2017; Loh and Agyeman, 2019; Miralles et al., 2017; Morrow, 2019; Scharf et al., 2019). The articles on mobility emphasize bike sharing (Birdsall, 2014; Lan et al., 2017; Ma et al., 2018; Mateo-Babiano et al., 2016; Mugion et al., 2018; Nikitas, 2018; Yuana et al., 2019) and car-sharing (Dowling et al., 2018; Joo, 2017; Mugion et al., 2018; Winslow and Mont, 2019). Sharing of objects varies from book and tool libraries where the property of the objects shared does not belong to any particular individual to residents swapping their clothes, household items, etc. Regarding city governance, it refers to encouraging and coordinating different stakeholders to achieve and co-create the sharing city, being one of

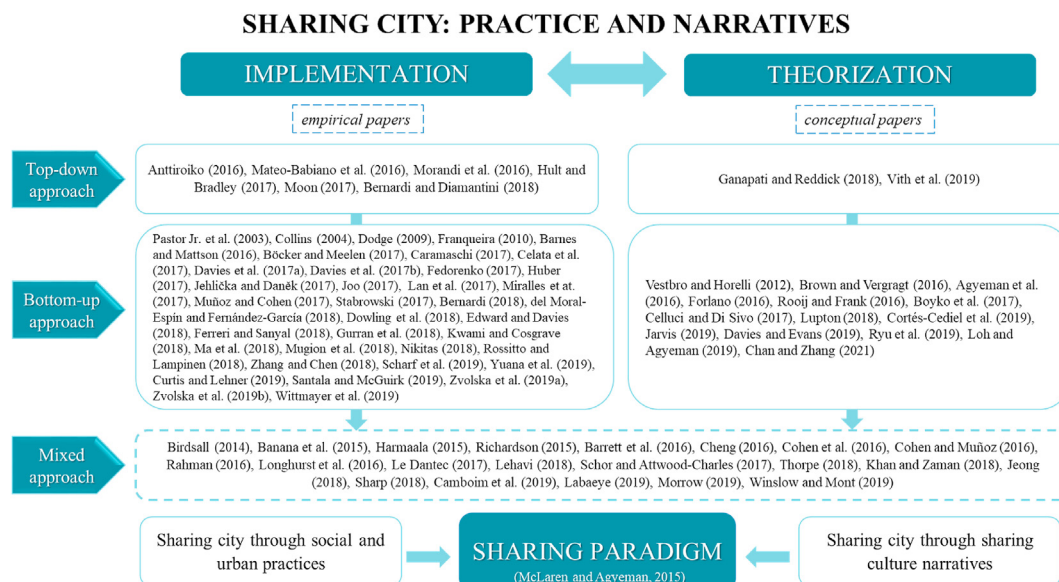


Fig. 3. Sharing city: Practice and narratives.

**Table 4**  
What is being shared in the city?

Typology	Category
Food	Food sharing systems, urban gardening etc. e.g. food desert transformation (Caramaschi, 2017).
Mobility	Bike sharing, e.g. Divvy Bike-sharing program, Chicago (Birdsall, 2014). Car sharing, e.g. GoGet, Sydney (Dowling et al., 2018).
Objects	Books, e.g. Lancaster County Council; Clothes, e.g. Clothes swap; household items, e.g. borrowclub. (Boyko et al., 2017).
Spaces	Tools, e.g. Tool pool supported by Malmö Municipality (Zvolaska et al., 2019a). Coworking, e.g. the case of WeWork (Lehavi, 2018). Makerspace, e.g. STPLN, Malmö (Hult and Bradley, 2017). Fab labs, e.g. Fab labs in Milan (Morandi et al., 2016). Cohousing, e.g. Scandinavian cases (Vestbro and Horelli, 2012). Public space e.g. urban changes produced by international students, Auckland city (Collins, 2004)
City Co-Governance	Establishing mechanisms of collective decision making in the city, e.g. mechanism of sociocracy in decision taking in ecovillages (Wittmayer et al., 2019). Creation of structures and networks for co-governance, e.g. Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (Dodge, 2009). Co-created policy making in specific fields led by local governments, e.g. launch of "Sharing City, Seoul" (Bernardi and Diamantini, 2018).
Ideas and knowledge	Co-production in local communities, e.g. Share Map, Sydney (Santala and McGuirk, 2019). Discussions and exchange of ideas among actors regarding urban sharing, e.g. co-design workshops in the UK to identify the current state of sharing and how to promote it to enhance sustainability (Boyko et al., 2017).

its most essential elements. This involves policy making (Morandi et al., 2016; Barrett et al., 2016; Barnes and Mattson, 2016; Muñoz and Cohen, 2017; Bernardi and Diamantini, 2018), creation of structures and networks for co-governance (Dodge, 2009; Banana et al., 2015; Cohen et al., 2016; Cohen and Muñoz, 2016; Bernardi, 2018; Jeong, 2018) or even different stakeholders defining specific norms and procedures about how decision making should take place in the city (Rahman, 2016; Ferreri and Sanyal, 2018; Gurran et al., 2018). Finally, sharing of ideas and knowledge among different actors also takes place in the city through workshops, competitions, public hearings etc. (Bernardi and Diamantini, 2018) either to define broader issues such as what sharing is, the type of sharing that takes place in the city and how to encourage it in order to construct the sharing city or in order to produce specific outcomes such as the *Share Map* in Sydney (Santala and McGuirk, 2019). The two latter categories of sharing practices, city co-governance, ideas and knowledge emphasize a very important aspect of the sharing city projects, that of citizen empowerment and active participation in city matters.

Table 4 shows that sharing practices in the sharing city involve tangible objects (e.g. spaces, objects, food, etc.) or intangibles like ideas and knowledge (Katrini, 2018; McLaren and Agyeman, 2015; 2017; Ryu et al., 2019). Certainly, such distinction may be diffuse since for instance in urban gardening and fab labs spaces and objects may be shared, but also knowledge and ideas can be shared as well. A good example of intangible sharing would be the case of *The Friendship Center* in Lancaster (UK) where socially isolated elders can interact and share time, knowledge and hobbies with others (Boyko et al., 2017).

Some of these areas, e.g. mobility, books, food and spaces, have been studied in the sharing economy literature (for instance Miralles et al., 2017). But, a difference between the sharing city and the sharing economy is that in the sharing economy we talk about social practices that take place among users (providers or consumers), while in the sharing city we talk about citizens. In the sharing city, more actors are involved (beyond those participating in the exchange), particularly the government emerges as an actor of great importance as our findings show. Furthermore, the sharing city is, and needs to be, the result of collaboration among different stakeholders. That is why sharing the governance of the city is essential in the sharing city. As Sharp (2020, p. 263) highlights, "sharing cities are a new urban imaginary of the sharing economy grounded in grassroots innovation, municipal provisioning of sharing infrastructure (...) encourage urban experimentation that brings civil society, local government and market actors together to

co-produce and co-govern the city as commons".

#### 4.3. The objectives of the sharing city

As previously mentioned, the sharing city aims to achieve various objectives that could be beneficial for the city and involved actors. In Table 5 we include the following five objectives of the sharing city: the revival of the community in the city, fostering citizen empowerment, reducing inequalities in the city, creating a sustainable city and generating social innovation through new economic arrangements in the city. For the achievement of these broad and ambitious goals, different actors such as governments, companies and producers, but above all, individuals and communities need to be brought together (Zhang and Chen, 2018).

In some cases, there is one predominant objective discussed in a study, for instance how to create a more sustainable city through the use of public transport (Mugion et al., 2018) or urban food systems (Scharf et al., 2019). But in most cases, different objectives are set at the same time. For example, Jehlička and Daněk (2017) discuss both the economic and environmental significance of home grown shared food in an urban setting. Also, sharing cities could both foster relationships among different actors and encourage the emergence of alternative food systems (Caramaschi, 2017; Davies et al., 2017a; Davies et al., 2017b; Edwards and Davies, 2018; Miralles et al., 2017). Then, coworking spaces such as the self-organizing network *Hoffice* (Rossitto and Lampinen 2018) can be examples of both community creation and social innovation through new types of production and work. The authors explain how such models encourage trust and openness on one hand and participatory efforts to facilitate individual work on the other by placing emphasis both on new technologies, work flexibility and togetherness. Similarly, Cohen and Muñoz (2016) point out that coworking spaces allow for professional and social interaction, while representing an opportunity for economic development and investment. Using the case of the *Urban Station*, the authors point out that coworking spaces also alleviate congestion in cities. Furthermore, Akhavan et al. (2019) further explain how a sharing initiative such as coworking spaces can have an explicit impact on the city through the emergence of social streets and the revitalization of public space.

Besides the human centric focus of the sharing city, another objective that differentiates the sharing city from other city projects and labels is that of citizen empowerment and participation (Bernardi and Diamantini, 2018). This is emphasized in the implementation of different city projects like the one in Seoul where the



**Table 5**  
Linking reviewed studies with the objectives of sharing cities.

Objectives	How they translate in previous literature	Examples of studies where these objectives are discussed/promoted
Objective 1: The revival of the community in the city	Social engagement and trust.	Celata et al., 2016; Morrow (2019); Rossito and Lampinen (2018); Schor and Attwood (2017); Thorpe (2018).
	Urban transformation to facilitate the emergence of communities.	Banana et al. (2015); Celluci and Di Sivo (2017); Collins (2004); Lehavi (2018); Loh and Agyeman (2019); Santala and McGuirk (2019), Sharp (2018).
Objective 2: Fostering Citizen Empowerment	Community-based efforts.	Banana et al. (2015); Pastor Jr. et al. (2003); Santala and McGuirk (2019).
	Social movements and co-creation.	Agyeman et al. (2016); Dowling et al. (2018); Rooij and Frank (2016); Wittmayer et al. (2019).
	Promoting a cultural shift in the city to include the citizen in matters related to the city.	Barnes and Mattson (2016); Böcker and Meleen (2017); Brown and Vergragt (2016); Jeong (2018); Longhurst et al. (2016).
Objective 3: Reducing inequalities in the city	Theoretical papers that define the sharing city prioritizing the role of citizens and the importance of empowering them.	Cheng (2016); Jarvis (2019); Jeong (2018); Khan and Zaman (2018); Ryu et al. (2019).
	Creating platforms and other structures where citizens can participate in city matters.	Anttiroiko (2016); Edward and Davies (2018); Ferreri and Sanyal (2018); Gurrán et al. (2018); Stabrowski (2017), Yuana et al. (2019).
Objective 4: Creating a sustainable city	Social justice and equality.	Caramaschi (2017); Hult and Bradley (2017); Morrow (2019).
	Educating the citizen in adopting more sustainable habits.	Bernardi (2018); Boyko et al. (2017); Forlano (2016); Harmaala (2015); Hult and Bradley (2017); Le Dantec (2017); Lupton (2018).
Objective 5: Generating Social Innovation through new economic arrangements in the city	Governance strategies and sharing agendas in relation to sustainability.	Barrett et al. (2016); Bernardi and Diamantini (2018); Curtis and Lehner (2019); Fedorenko (2017); Ganapati and Reddick (2018); Rahman (2016); Scharf et al. (2019); Vith et al. (2019).
	Sustainable urban design and other interventions.	Birdsall (2014); Kwami and Cosgrave (2018); Mateo-Babiano et al. (2016); Morandi et al. (2016); Zhang and Chen (2018).
	Urban entrepreneurship in relation to sharing.	Cohen et al. (2016); del Moral and Fernández (2018); Labaeye (2019); Wittmayer et al. (2019); Zvolaska et al. (2019a), 2019b.
	Collaborative consumption practices.	Cheng (2016); Huber (2017); Davies et al. (2017a); Davies et al. (2017b); Davies and Evans (2019); Joo (2017); Richardson (2015).
	Places as social and economic connectors.	Caramaschi (2017); Chan and Zhang (2021); Cohen et al. (2016); Franqueira (2010).
Sharing Business Models.	Measuring service quality of sharing initiatives in the city.	Camboim et al. (2019); Mugion et al. (2018).
		Lan et al. (2017); Muñoz and Cohen (2017).

master plan is “citizen –and people- oriented” (SMG, 2011) and plans by goals are established together with citizens (Bernardi and Diamantini 2018). The main idea is that of inclusivity and democracy since anyone in the city could and should participate in the governance of the city (Richardson 2015). This is also related to the third objective of reducing inequalities in the sharing city. The objective of social justice is often implicit in previous literature but it is present (McLaren and Agyeman, 2015). For instance, Morrow (2019) studies public fridges in Germany with the double objective of minimizing food waste and granting access to food for whomever needs it. Similarly, *Bike Kitchen* is a DIY workshop where anyone can ask for help to repair bicycles, and loan tools and spare parts, all for free (Hult and Bradley 2017). The initiatives of New York City Green Carts, Get Healthy Philly, Stockbox Grocers, Food Share described in Caramaschi (2017) also aim to revitalize low-income neighbourhoods.

In any case, a common ground among all these objectives is their linkage to the concept of co-creation, from shared housing (Chan and Zhang, 2021), coworking spaces (Lehavi, 2018; Morandi et al., 2016), hackerspaces (Chan and Zhang, 2021) and community gardens (Cohen and Muñoz, 2016; Scharf et al., 2019) to policy making (Santala and McGuirk 2019; Bernardi and Diamantini 2018). Citizens of sharing cities carry out a series of co-creation practices in the aforementioned spaces, giving them meaning and certain symbolic qualities, metaphors and feelings (Blokland, 2017; John, 2017). Vestbro and Horelli (2012) indicate that cohousing is a revival of past models of community, and that its aim continues to be collaboration between residents. To achieve this, it is essential to pay attention to design factors, as well as spatial quality, access and interior communication.

In general, the sharing city is presented as an urban project that

can have a positive impact upon the city and previous literature narrates it in positive terms in relation to the five objectives defined here.

4.4. Implementation approaches of the sharing city label: top-down, bottom-up and hybrid approaches

In terms of management of the sharing city, initiatives can be proposed and executed in various ways. When the initiative is designed and implemented by the public administration, we are referring to a top-down approach (Capdevila and Zarlenga, 2015). Other types of initiatives originated by communities, companies and civil society, are characterized as bottom-up approaches (Capdevila and Zarlenga, 2015; Forlano, 2016; Harmaala, 2015). We can also find mixed approaches, because as Capdevila and Zarlenga (2015, p. 266) state “top-down and bottom-up initiatives are not opposed forces but, on the contrary, can have a synergistic effect on the innovation capacity of the city”.

In these works, they explore the two-way force between dialogues and agreements between movements, independent organizations and institutional actors. A total of 21 of the articles in the literature (26,2%) are about the mixed approach (Barrett et al., 2016; Lehavi, 2018; 2018; Morrow, 2019). However, 51 papers are about the bottom-up approach, which shows that it is the predominant approach in the scientific literature (63,7%), and the aim is to study the role of communities and enterprises to rethink the urban (Caramaschi, 2017; Celata et al., 2017; Davies et al., 2017; Franqueira, 2010; Jarvis, 2019; Lan et al., 2017; Loh and Agyeman, 2019; Rossito and Lampinen, 2018). Furthermore, for Dodge (2009), the opinion of civil society is an important factor in decision-making in urban management processes. The study of the

Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice evidences that the actors use institutional channels to communicate and influence municipal administration, and negotiate it to mediate with the power. The study analysed coercive and non-coercive communication to bring environmental justice to the state of New Mexico (USA), using tools such as storytelling, testimonies and reports.

Organizations such as Sharing Cities Network *tell stories* about the sharing urban practices (Sharp, 2018, p. 1) and contribute to the dissemination of sharing values and urban activism (see [www.shareable.net](http://www.shareable.net) and #MapJam 3.0). Sharp (2018) highlights that sharing city discourses represent a form of social change and impact urban governance, but above all these narratives are an opportunity to promote urban transformation. McLaren and Agyeman (2015, p. 278) affirm that communication management is fundamental in the sharing paradigm, especially with regard to social capital, reputation and relationships. Although there are no specific studies on the role of brand building of sharing cities, relevant works such as Harmaala (2015), Khan and Zaman (2018) and Wittmayer et al. (2019) reveal the importance of using place branding tools in the perception of the sharing city.

The top-down approach has been the least studied in the literature. Even though the design of public policies and management strengthens the economic and social scope of the sharing city project (Bernardi, 2018; Birdsall, 2014; Gurrán et al., 2018), only 11 articles (14%) study the role of the municipal administration within the sharing city (Bernardi, 2018; Ganapati and Reddick, 2018; Hult and Bradley, 2017; Mateo-Babiano et al., 2016). The most studied mixed approach case in the literature is Seoul (Bernardi and Diamantini, 2018; Fedorenko, 2017; Moon, 2017).

The top down approach is part of several institutional agendas. For example, Malmö (Sweden) is considered one of the most successful sharing city cases in Europe (see [www.sharingcities.se](http://www.sharingcities.se)). Hult and Bradley (2017) study how the local authorities promote the use of shared infrastructures through workshops and consultation with citizens. Two examples of this are STPLN, a multipurpose maker space, and Garaget, a place to hang out, have a coffee, borrow things and go to cultural events. Malmö seeks to promote a sharing society, in which environmental awareness and social justice are the basis for ethical behaviour by means of citizen communication.

#### 4.5. Sharing city: a topic of interest across disciplines

The notion or label Sharing City has been studied in different academic disciplines. We have classified the articles according to the disciplines in which they have been published. It is not a matter of establishing exclusive categories, but rather of grouping the studies based on the area of knowledge from which they originate. Of the 80 articles that we have included in this review, more than half have been published in the management area (see Table 6), adopting focusses such as food consumption and production, innovation, business models etc. From urban planning, 17 articles have been published with perspectives such as mobility, public space, and space planning. The discipline that has a lower number of articles is architecture, with five articles, focused on design theory and methodology and social design.

Table 7 shows, within the final dataset of this SLR, what journals have published most research in the field of sharing cities and also indicates the category and the impact index they have in WOS and Scopus databases. In our dataset, the journals that have published most articles about this topic are: Journal of Cleaner Production and Sustainability with 7 articles, Geoforum with 6 publications; Urban Policy and Research with 3 documents; Development and Society, and Cambridge Journal of Regions with 2 papers each. As evidenced

in Table 7 the theoretical scope of the sharing city includes social, economic, environmental, political and urban aspects.

In the articles analysed in this review, the study field with the most contributions is management, identified in sectoral applications in environment, technology, tourism, public policy, business, food, etc. (Anttiroiko, 2016; Bernardi, 2018; Cheng, 2016; Celata et al., 2017; Mateo-Babiano et al., 2016; Miralles et al., 2017; Muñoz and Cohen, 2017). The topics are diverse, and mainly analyse the *implementation* of sharing initiatives, for instance in mobility and alternatives of shared transport—one of the topics of greater interest in existing literature—such as bike-sharing programs (e.g. Birdsall, 2014; Lan et al., 2017). Previous literature is concerned with quality evaluations and how such systems can contribute towards more sustainable mobility systems and cities (Mugion et al., 2018). The experience of sharing transport (cars, bikes, etc.) is not only a sustainable social practice but also could permit establishing human relations and its organization requires planning to ensure wellbeing (Dowling et al., 2018). Regarding the management of shared mobility schemes, not only the medium of transport is taken into consideration but also how to adjust platforms and sharing infrastructures to minimize traffic and optimize the use of vehicles. Another popular case in management is food-sharing. Social practices about this involve cooking, eating, access and distribution of food, and certainly, policies for a food sharing ecosystem (Davies and Evans, 2019). According to Caramaschi (2017, p. 744) “adding food to the core elements of the planning and design processes improves the liveability of our cities and will deliver a more sustainable city”. This is evidenced in studies like the one by Miralles et al. (2017) where alternative food networks in the city are studied to determine how resources are shared and where (e.g. community gardens), the level of social participation and the organization of the initiatives. These studies can be useful for policy-making and the development of new food ventures. In a similar vein, Edward and Davies (2019) explain how food –sharing takes place in Melbourne, through the mapping of initiatives and projects such as 3000 Acres (a space to grow vegetables), Open Table (spaces to reduce food waste and to encourage community interaction), Food Justice Truck (foodbank), RipeNear.Me (a startup that connects urban food production with consumers). These sharing practices not only aim for greater food security, but also to recover the city and the use of public spaces.

The literature on the sharing city in the field of management is broad. Governance is one of the topics studied. Bernardi and Diamantini (2018) have examined the cases of the sharing cities Seoul and Milan from a technological, economic and human dimension ensuring that a participatory and co-management focus among actors is necessary to foster urban sharing. In a similar line, Camboim et al. (2019) claim that city governance models need to be oriented towards a social innovation perspective to integrate technological, environmental and social activities. However, the scope of management research in this field is wide and include how to manage and implement sustainable infrastructures, community relations and technological development.

Design is also a key disciplinary area in sharing cities and their practices (Forlano, 2016; Franqueira, 2010; Le Dantec, 2017; Lupton, 2018; Zhang and Chen, 2018). Concepts such as social design, place-making and co-design rethink the collaborative use of space for sharing among governments, residents, entrepreneurs and tourists. The sharing city space is considered as a channel through which participation and creation are encouraged (Hoyne, 2015; Manzini, 2019). The physical space conditions the practices and initiatives that can be carried out, and conversely “... sharing practices are likely to affect urban spaces” (Chan and Zhang, 2021, p. 158.) An example of how transformations in urban space are linked to social practices is the example of *Peace of Land* (Berlin) (Scharf et al.,

**Table 6**  
Sharing city as a multidisciplinary topic.

Discipline	Perspective adopted	Focus	Sources
Management	Sharing Places in the sharing city	Co-working spaces: shared offices.	Lehavi (2018); Morandi et al. (2016); Rossitto and Lampinen, 2016.
		Co-housing spaces: shared households.	Huber, 2017; Chan and Zhang (2021); Lehavi (2018); Vestbro and Horelli (2012).
	Sharing Food in the sharing city	Structures and initiatives to access and share food.	Agyeman et al. (2016); Caramaschi (2017); Davies and Evans (2019); Davies et al. (2017a); Davies et al. (2017b); Edward and Davies (2018); Jehlička and Daněk (2017); Loh and Agyeman (2019); Miralles et al. (2017); Morrow (2019); Scharf et al. (2019). Cohen et al. (2016); Muñoz and Cohen (2017).
	Sharing Platforms Economy and the sharing city	Typologies of new Business Models of Sharing Platforms. The potential and criticisms of sharing platforms.	Anttiroiko et al. (2016); Barnes and Mattson (2016); Celata et al. (2017); Cheng (2016); Ferreri and Sanyal (2018); Ganapati and Reddick (2018); Rahman, 2016. Bernardi and Diamantini (2018); Böcker and Meelen (2017); del Moral-Espin and Fernández (2018); Fedorenko (2017); Moon (2017).
	Governance of sharing initiatives: the participation and collaboration between different actors in sharing city projects	Top-down governance: governments and public administration as the main actor.  Public and private sector cooperation: strategic relationships and networks between private companies and public administration to foster urban sharing.	Banana et al. (2015); Barret et al. (2016); Bernardi (2018); Brown and Vergragt (2016); Cohen and Muñoz (2016); Cortés-Cediel et al. (2019); Dodge (2009); Camboim et al. (2019); Harmaala (2015); Pastor Jr. et al., 2003; Schor and Attwood-Charles (2017); Thorpe (2018); Vith et al. (2019).
	The sharing city from the consumer/user's perspective Branding of sharing city initiatives	Bottom-up governance: the civil society as the main actor. Motivations and preferences of different social actors to participate in the sharing city. Discourses and frames of interpretations used to brand and position sharing city projects.	Boyko et al. (2017); Jeong (2018); Zvolaska et al. (2019a), 2019b. Jarvis (2019); Ryu et al., 2018; Santala and McGuirk (2019). Curtis and Lehner (2019); Jeong (2018); Khan and Zaman (2018); Labaeye (2019); Lehavi (2018); Longhurst et al. (2016); Richardson (2015); Sharp (2018); Stabrowski (2017); Wittmayer et al. (2019). Chan and Zhang (2021).
Architecture	Design Theory and Methodology	Differences of Shared Spaces: Explains the types of spaces that are shared, the particularities of each while categorizing them according to the use and relationships that occur within them (e.g. co-working space vs. hackerspace). Social design: Highlights aspects such as the designer's social role as the promoter of relationships in the shared environment and citizens' commitment in the production of shared spaces.	Franqueira (2010); Forlano (2016); Le Dantec (2017); Lupton (2018).
Urban planning	Mobility planning for sharing in the city and launch of sharing schemes for urban transport and city support for shared mobility infrastructures	Bike-sharing schemes.	Birdsall (2014); Mateo-Babiano et al. (2016); Lan et al. (2017); Ma et al. (2018); Nikitas (2018); Winslow and Molt (2019); Yuana et al. (2019).
		Car-sharing schemes.	Joo (2017); Dowling et al. (2018); Mugion et al. (2018).
	Use of public space for sharing in the city	Transformation of public space for collective use.	Celluci and Di Sivo (2017); Collins (2004); Hult and Bradley (2017).
	Space planning for sharing in the city	Management and regulation of physical space from a sharing and urban co-creation perspective.	Gurran et al. (2018); Kwami and Cosgrave (2018); Rooij and Frank (2016); Zhang and Chen (2018).

2019), a community gardens initiative managed by the actual community. Those interested implement their own projects, educational activities and permaculture. Here, both the established social practices and space design serve to promote knowledge and learning and are the main focus of the study. Birdsall (2014) studies another case, and explains that in Chicago, urban design has changed thanks to the bike-sharing boom, and the policies of the Chicago Transport Department to prioritize bicycle-friendly culture through street reforms and bicycle routes.

## 5. Discussion

More than often, the sharing city is described from a commons based approach (Caramaschi, 2017; Chan and Zhang, 2020; Khan and Zaman, 2018) that generates, sharing practices with routines, habits and rituals of collaboration among the city actors (Davies, 2019), although previous literature does not fully explore in what social practices the sharing city is articulated. So, in terms of the implementation of sharing city projects, in this review we have

analysed the literature on sharing cities in relation to the actors involved and their social practices and have highlighted the importance of the human dynamics of sharing. In the exploration, we identified four emerging points of scientific production: the diversity of the concept of sharing city, the importance of the concept of community, the relationship between space and the sharing economy and the future outlook.

### 5.1. Understanding the diversity of the sharing city

The sharing city concept is complex because it is a *suitable costume* to bring together a variety of initiatives and practices. In this sense, from the point of view of management, the sharing city can be associated, for example, with the platform economy (Jehlička and Daněk, 2017; Yuana et al., 2019); in architecture and urban design the sharing city could be a place where sharing activities take place (Chan and Zhang, 2021; Le Dantec, 2017) and where communication, innovation, creativity and social change are boosted (Bernardi and Diamantini, 2018; Harmaala, 2015).

**Table 7**  
Journals with most publications in our dataset.

Journal	WOS category	JIF 2019 Rank (WOS)	Scopus category	SJR 2019 Rank (Scopus)	Authors	No of publications
Journal of Cleaner Production	Science (Environmental Science; Engineering, Environmental; Green and Sustainable Science and Technology)	7.246	Environmental Science (General Environmental Science); Business, Management and Accounting (Strategy and Management); Engineering (Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering); Energy (Renewable Energy, Sustainability and the Environment)	1.886	Bernardi and Diamantini (2018); Brown and Vergragt (2016); Cohen and Muñoz (2016); Ma et al. (2018); Mugion et al. (2018); Yuana et al. (2019); Zvolaska et al. (2019a).	7
Sustainability	Social Science (Environmental Studies) and Science (Green and Sustainable Science and Technology and Environmental Science)	2.576	Social Sciences (Geography, Planning and Development); Environmental Science (Management, Monitoring, Policy and Law); Energy (Renewable Energy, Sustainability and the Environment)	0.581	Barrett et al. (2016); Caramaschi (2017); Curtis and Lehner (2019); Labaeye (2019); Lan et al. (2017); Scharf et al. (2019); Winslow and Molt (2019).	7
Geoforum	Social Sciences (Geography)	3.098	Social Sciences (Sociology and Political Science)	1.616	Davies and Evans (2019); Davies et al. (2017); Dowling et al. (2018); Loh and Agyeman (2019); Morrow (2019); Richardson (2015).	6
Urban Policy and Research	Social Science (Environmental Studies; Geography; Regional and Urban Planning; Urban Studies)	2.000	Social Sciences (Geography, Planning and Development; Urban Studies)	0.784	Edwards and Davies (2018); Gurran et al. (2018); Sharp (2018).	3
Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society	Social Science (Development Studies; Economics; Geography)	4.483	Social Sciences (Geography, Planning and Development; Sociology and Political Science); Economics, Econometrics and Finance (Economics and Econometrics)	2.217	Celata et al. (2017); Stabrowski (2017).	2
Development and Society <sup>a</sup>		—	Social Sciences (General Social Sciences)	0.145	Fedorenko (2017); Jeong (2018).	2

<sup>a</sup> Continued as Journal of Asian Sociology since 2019.

The research on the sharing city is diverse and this can be seen in its orientation: 46% of the papers in this review combine profit and non-profit initiatives, 32% just profit and 22% just non-profit, but all of them insist on the importance of how sharing promotes social cohesion in the city. Ryu et al. (2019) point out that the literature on the sharing economy has focused predominantly on sharing practices with monetary compensations. In spite of the sharing city and the sharing economy being two interconnected fields, there seems to be more emphasis on the social aspect of sharing and community development.

However, in the area of management we identified 58 items that reduce the sharing city to different scales, focussed on, for example, coworking spaces, tourist accommodation, communal gardens and something more intangible and ephemeral such as an event that promotes urban sharing (e.g. The Melbourne ShareFest, 2014 – Sharp, 2018 or OuiShare Fest Paris, 2015 – Richardson, 2015), but not on the infrastructure or planning areas. From a management focus, the sharing city seems to be built through performances of the sharing economy. Our results indicate that management is the area with the largest number of articles, although there are other areas such as urban planning and architecture that also have various studies on the sharing city. We classified 17 articles in urban planning and 5 in architecture in this review. These articles deal with spaces for sharing on a larger scale (e.g. public spaces, buildings), and address areas such as mobility, the environment and urban regeneration, with a clear influence of social design on planning processes (Hoyne, 2018; LeDantec, 2018). Furthermore, according to Boyko et al. (2017, p. 14) “as many examples of sharing depend on physical space and assets, both urban planners and designers need to think more carefully about how to design new and existing developments and infrastructures -and the important spaces in between-to inspire sharing”.

In other words, the sharing city is interpreted through the lenses

of each discipline, and this means that there is no consensus on the theoretical definition of this concept. In this regard, the visions of each approach are isolated. Our study shows that the sharing city must be understood through different lenses, paying more attention to how different actors relate to each other in the city. As Davies (2019, p. 69) states, “the multifaceted and multifunctional nature of sharing (...) means that sharing initiatives frequently interact with a range of other organizations from public, private and civil society sectors”. It is necessary to identify the different stakeholders involved in the process. The literature has been mainly interested in studying communities (citizens, sharing initiatives, students, service users, entrepreneurs) and administrations (councils or local governments). According to Govers (2018, p. 68), “communities are constructed by government, private sector and civil society at large”. In addition, during the year 2019, conceptual articles increased by 46%, based on the relationship between various actors involved in sharing activities (Curtis and Lehner, 2019; Loh and Agyeman, 2019). However, other stakeholders, such as the media, social entrepreneurs, urban managers, as well as private companies (e.g. banks, industries), even when involved in sharing city projects, have not been explored. In addition, since the sharing city is a fundamentally social and economic proposal that addresses the urban, it requires interdisciplinary visions that allow its ideas to be defined more concretely, especially in its own theoretical terms.

### 5.2. The importance of the community concept

Santala and McGuirk (2019, p. 444) state that “sharing city is based on pragmatic, community-based solutions that are implemented to address common needs”. This notion is oriented towards a comprehensive vision of the community and the relationships that occur within it through exchanges (Labaeye, 2019; McLaren and

Agyeman, 2015), as well as ideologies, beliefs and values (Laamanen and Wahlen, 2019). For example, organizations like *Shareable*, *RIPES* or *Ashoka* bring together a network of enthusiasts in sharing communities to promote alternatives for change from social entrepreneurship (Wittmayer et al., 2019). *Impact Hub* combines business incubators and coworking spaces to empower communities of social innovators (Longhurst et al., 2016). Others like *LetsPlayPlanet* (co-created local trips) or *Zipbob* (an online social dining platform) promote relationships between members to create a change in sustainable tourism (Bernardi, 2018). Therefore, the consolidation of the sharing city not only comes through greater social cohesion among citizens, but also the cohesion of their promoter networks.

### 5.3. The central role of space and its relationship with the sharing economy

First, the study and importance of space is central when we research the sharing city and its purpose. The final concept is the idea of exchange, mainly economic and social (Harmaala, 2015, p. 319), and it is conceived as a channel of collaboration (e.g. between users and platforms, or producers and consumers, etc.), in which interactions occur. For Kramvig (2019, p. xix) “a place can be described as a bounded geographic space, a multiple figure of materialities, politics and investments”. For authors such as Collins (2004), Forlano (2016), Franqueira (2010) and Le Dantec (2017), the space for sharing exists and is modelled and transformed by individuals, and has a social base. Others like Boyko et al. (2018), Miralles et al. (2017), Zhang and Chen (2018) highlight its inscrutable relationship with the sharing economy, and this has helped to build their imaginary. Sharing “... needs to be thought of as a practice woven through, rather than separate from, the socio-material relations of the city” (Dowling et al., 2019, p. 16).

Secondly, the sharing city and sharing economy present similarities in terms of where sharing takes place and much of the sharing city literature is focused on the sharing economy. These two areas are theoretically linked (Harmaala, 2015). In the sharing economy, the urban space is an enabling environment for economic, social and environmental change (McLaren and Agyeman, 2017; Santala and McGuirk, 2019). In this sense, “cities are only getting started in understanding the sharing economy, what it means for their city, and what kind of policy can be used to support those services that lead to positive benefits while limiting negative externalities” (Cohen and Muñoz, 2016, p. 9). However, the sharing city notion focuses much more on the citizen and on the idea of community empowerment and co-governance. Furthermore, much of the critique about sharing economy platforms (e.g. Martin 2016) raises doubts regarding their positive social, environmental and economic impact on the city and their fit with the objectives of the sharing city, e.g. social justice and the gentrification phenomenon linked to sharing accommodation platforms.

## 6. Conclusions and implications

Studies on the sharing city show that it is in an experimental phase and in the process of being defined. It is a notion *adapted* to particular visions of what *should be*. Based on the results of this SLR, the sharing city is a term under construction that encompasses different interpretations and different implementations. How the sharing city is put into action depends on the urban context and its particularities but also by its promoters and their governance of the city project (Bernardi and Diamantini, 2018). For instance, the example of Seoul (Fedorenko, 2017; Moon, 2017) is narrated on different terms than the one of Malmö (Hult and Bradley, 2017) or Sydney (Santala and McGuirk, 2019).

A broader consensus is necessary for it to become a sustainable

and viable concept over time. The literature has documented a part of these processes, and alerts to the need for a theoretical framework for greater clarity and recognition (Chan and Zhang, 2021). Other cities have on their future agendas the resolution of economic, environmental and welfare challenges (Khan and Zaman, 2018), and these are also goals of the sharing city and its administration. In this order, urban identity and differentiation are aspects that this notion of city must explore with clear implications for policy makers. For example, viewing the sharing city as a desirable city brand has direct repercussions on future local government policies. For Khan and Zaman (2018, p. 223), “city branding notions and labels help to train the spot light on particular priority urban planning issues, offering ways to deal with them effectively”. For example, the referent most quoted in the literature is Seoul (Bernardi, 2018; Bernardi and Diamantini, 2018; Fedorenko, 2017; Moon, 2017), seen as a viable model and organization of a sharing city, which not only benefits the positive reputation of the city, but also those who propose and promote it (e.g. government, private enterprises, social enterprises, etc.).

Our results can be of interest both to academics and practitioners. For academics, a more in-depth understanding of the sharing city is provided, gaps are identified and future research lines are suggested.

Moreover, in this SLR, we have evidenced that sharing in the city takes different forms and shapes. We agree with McLaren and Agyeman (2015, p. 322), in that sharing “... offers a new strategy and direction for cities”. So, for local governments/policy makers the carried out study of the social practices related to the sharing city or the establishment of different objectives in relation to the sharing city can serve as a broader inspiration or as a guide for the implementation of sharing city projects in terms of urban development and transformation that serves the particular interests and necessities of each context.

Understanding the concept of the sharing city is crucial for policy makers who wish to define urban regeneration policies. We have found that the sharing city has rightfully attracted the interest of different disciplines and demands a multidisciplinary approach. In practical terms this means that cities that wish to embark upon sharing city projects need to assemble multidisciplinary teams. For instance, city design and infrastructures are important not only because they facilitate sharing practices but also because they enable the emergence of new ones (Chan and Zhang, 2020; 2021; Katrini, 2018). Furthermore, in this SLR we have established specific objectives in relation to the sharing city which allows seeing how it could fit with other city projects that local governments may wish to implement or have already implemented such as the smart city, the eco city, the resilient city, etc., especially since certain cities are interested in more than one city labels at the same time (de Jong et al., 2015). The goals of the sharing city, their monitoring and accomplishment carried out by local governments could be also used to evaluate their performance against broader Sustainable Development Goals (Winans et al., 2021). In addition, setting clear objectives in relation to the sharing city can be useful in the aforementioned branding of the city.

Finally, there are also managerial implications for firms who need to understand what sharing cities stand for, what purposes and goals they serve and what social practices they involve. Firms are another agent of the city who can attempt to achieve the sharing city's goals in collaboration with citizens, local governments and other institutions. Our findings suggest that sharing practices could take place along very diverse contexts, e.g. food, waste management and mobility, so firms can define what their impact and contribution (social and environmental) are to the sharing city project either through their main economic activity or through their CSR practices.

In practice, the “sharing city label” is aspirational, but it materializes in specific actions and transformations in the city. For example, recovering public spaces for co-production among city residents and urban leisure such as *Garaget* and *STPNL*, in Malmö (Hult and Bradley, 2017), or *Cycle Atlanta* (Le Dantec, 2017), a project of collaboration among cyclists and urban planners to improve mobility using existing routes, to revitalize city infrastructures and to optimize transport connections. In all these initiatives, there are different dimensions from urban development, city sustainable growth to the social aspects and the human dynamics of sharing.

Moreover, the effectiveness of a concept such as the sharing city should look critically towards the long term. Its scope and implications are in an experimental phase, so evaluating its urban and social impacts would be premature at this point. We believe that this work makes the following contributions: to understand how and who has studied the sharing city, to define it in terms of the social practices involved, to categorize the type of interventions carried out and to delineate its objectives and how it can positively impact on the city. Overall, exploring in depth the sharing city concept and what it may involve offers a fuller understanding and a basis for discussion for practitioners and academics of a previously fuzzy concept. Moreover, the sharing city project overlaps with other city projects such as the smart city (Cortés-Cediel et al., 2019; Khan and Zaman, 2018), for instance in sustainability related goals, so certain initiatives and social practices could serve for both projects. The greatest challenge is to verify that the sharing city is not a buzzword and that its actions effectively constitute an improvement in the quality of urban life and sustainability.

## 7. Research gaps and future research

Considering the current sharing city studies and based on the findings of the review, in this section we identify the main gaps in the literature on the sharing city and propose future lines of research. First, more empirical studies are needed on how sharing activity is carried out in the physical space. For Davies and Evans (2019, p. 157) “the concept of place emerges as a key factor in the performance of sharing”. Within this experience, space conditions certain practices that may or may not favour collaboration. Cases such as *Hoffice* (Rossito and Lampinen, 2018), in which the privacy and organization of the domestic space is adapted for work use, or that of the chain of coworking spaces *WeWork*, which modifies industrial buildings to convert them into work spaces (Lehavi, 2018), demonstrate that space reconfigures the sharing practice. According to Zhang and Chan (2020, p. 5) “the spatial dimension of sharing has yet to be recognized as an essential variable in elucidating the phenomenon of sharing”. This idea has already been emphasized by Le Dantec (2017) who suggested studying the relationships established between the physical place and the sharing activity; similarly, to Lupton (2018), who not only reaffirms this, but also points out that social approaches are necessary to create design methods. In relation to this, there is also little literature on urban planning and the sharing city. As a result, sometimes the city that aims to be a sharing city is not properly conditioned to undertake this project. Furthermore, in sharing cities the physical space is often transformed into a shareable resource (Zhang and Chan, 2020, p.5) which has received little attention in previous literature. Future research can answer questions such as how space is shared, by whom and how space transformations in the city evolve over time. In turn, such space transformations in the city could be examined in multidisciplinary studies in relation to place identity and cultural identity. Then, further studies, rather than focus on isolated initiatives, should research how to implement the sharing city from a strategic perspective that takes into account the

implications for designing the space and also urban planning.

Second, considering the little attention that top down approaches have received in the literature, and knowing the experiences in various cities around the world, the sharing city is an important topic for research in political marketing and its relationships with political goals (e.g. government campaigns, public policy planning, political brands etc.). Although there has been research about the community and the citizen in the context of the sharing city, there are limited insights into the strategic environment of the sharing city and what communication and marketing tools governments and administrations use to gain public opinion. In particular, we suggest exploring how sharing city projects allows to construct a shared identity and certain city brand positioning. So, the sharing city can be alternatively studied through other theoretical lenses such as place branding and place management and how value is created in the sharing city and for whom (Cohen et al., 2016).

Other potential avenues for future research could be to examine city governance from different theoretical lenses such as an institutional theory perspective (Sharp, 2018), or a network theory perspective (Pflieger and Rozenblat, 2010). The latter seems an interesting path for research especially since new networks and alliances are currently formed between city governments on how to deal with the governance of sharing city projects. For example, Sharing Cities Alliance claims to have started “a global movement of collaboration, co-creation and knowledge sharing between cities”. Furthermore, researchers have paid relatively little attention to sharing city governance effects. Certainly some examples can be found (see for instance Bernardi and Diamantini, 2018; Vith et al., 2019; Zvolkska et al., 2019a, 2019b), but more research could take place especially when we compare it to governance effects and other popularized city labels such as the smart city, which has been studied in depth.

Third, it is assumed that the foundation of the sharing city is the citizen, who is at the center of everything, and the search for fairer structures and well-being for the user; however, there are no studies that address the behaviour of the sharing city user as a consumer. It is necessary to analyse their interactions, perceptions and attitudes towards collaborative urban structures, their willingness to participate in the community and practice local activism. In other words, beyond the bottom-up initiatives that can be observed in different cities of the world, it would be interesting to understand how residents themselves understand the sharing city, and get to know their attitudes towards participating in new structures and spaces that promote sharing and collaboration. It would be interesting to assess whether these opinions change according to the typology of the initiative (e.g. whether it is bottom-up or top-down) or according to the ideological political affinity between the resident and the government that promotes the sharing city in the cases of top-down approaches. At least in principle, interpretive tools used in anthropology, marketing or semiotics could contribute to this approach.

The sharing city is a broad phenomenon with multiple nuances, which makes it very complex. Human beings are used to sharing in the city, often without being aware of it. Therefore, it is necessary to resize concepts and consider the overlaps that may arise with other city labels. Aspects such as citizen participation or collaborative policy making are not exclusive to the sharing city, and although technological platforms are channels that facilitate communication, cooperation and convening, a city in which sharing is the basis of relationships can also take shape without them. Also, past experiences of the sharing city are narrated in positive terms in previous literature, but there are also critiques and disagreement regarding the management of these initiatives (Morrow, 2019; Ryu et al., 2019). Future research can adopt a more critical perspective regarding the expectations versus reality of sharing city projects.

**Declaration of competing interest**

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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**Appendix**

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**Table 8**  
Articles included in the study (Appendix).

Author	Research question/aim	Approach	Sample
Pastor Jr. et al. (2003)	To examine the collaborative effort that takes place between different actors at the political and economic terrain	Empirical	30 Community partners.
Collins (2004)	How have the embodied and linguistic collaborative practices changed Auckland?	Empirical	International students.
Dodge (2009)	How civil society organizations transmit ideas to decision makers in order to participate in social debates?	Empirical	18 members of society organizations.
Franqueira (2010)	To present a collaborative urban regeneration project of an old milk factory in Milan and to identify the necessary infrastructures and policy tools to bring such projects to fruition.	Empirical	Multidisciplinary teams.
Vestbro and Horelli (2012)	To describe the driving forces behind cohousing design and the role of gender.	Conceptual	Experiences of cohousing.
Birdsall (2014)	Is the implementation of bike sharing programs in cities an eco-friendly solution to the “first mile/last mile” problem?	Conceptual	Bike sharing programs.
Harmaala (2015)	How can a city promote collaborative lifestyles and adopt sharing initiatives?	Conceptual	Sharing initiatives and collaborative lifestyles.
Banana et al. (2015)	How have communities in Chinhoyi (Zimbabwe) used community-led mapping?	Empirical	11 local settlements.
Richardson (2015)	How does the sharing economy construct and deconstruct economic activities?	Empirical	Festival “OuiShare Fest” (Paris).
Anttiroiko (2016)	(i) To examine the strategic orientation of cities towards platformization. (ii) To explore the role of participatory innovation platforms in connecting democratic participation with business development and identify the forms of citizen participation in these platforms. (iii) To further delve into the social implications of the utilization of platforms in business–citizen interaction.	Empirical	Policy documents from Finnish cities and project managers involved in local economic development.
Barnes and Mattsson (2016)	What are the key factors that facilitate and/or limit the future development of collaborative consumption?	Empirical	25 experts involved in sharing communities.
Barrett et al. (2016)	What ethical frameworks can be used to guide city shaping and how can these be utilized to enhance urban life for all citizens?	Conceptual	Examples of ethical city initiatives.
Cheng (2016)	Which are the theoretical foundations and main themes in the sharing economy and what is their relevance to the tourism and hospitality field?	Conceptual	66 papers of sharing economy in tourism.
Cohen et al. (2016)	To describe the increasing role of cities as a driver for innovation and entrepreneurship.	Conceptual	6 papers of innovation and entrepreneurship.
Cohen and Muñoz (2016)	How does the sharing economy interact with sustainable consumption and production systems (SCP)?	Empirical	18 sharing activities.
Forlano (2016)	What is the role of designers in collaborative city-making?	Conceptual	Examples from design, social science, and information.
Mateo-Babiano et al. (2016)	To examine the dynamics of Public bicycle-sharing programs (PBSP) and explore its relationship with cycling infrastructure, land-use and topography.	Empirical	Two datasets of mobility in Brisbane.
Morandi et al. (2016)	To explore the integration of physical spaces and ICTs, through the phenomenon of co-working spaces and fab-labs.	Empirical	Co-working spaces and fab-labs in Milan and Turin.
Rahman (2016)	To explore the relationship between the on-demand economy and the broader challenges of 21st century capitalism	Conceptual	Regulations and sharing platforms experiences.
Rooij and Frank (2016)	To explain the challenges of spatial planning education for co-creation contexts.	Conceptual	Curriculum developments and pedagogical research of planning educators.
Brown and Vergragt (2016)	To present a future scenario of a cultural transition beyond mass consumerism and materialism in the US taking into account the role of the city, urban living and the sharing economy.	Conceptual	Individual lifestyle choices in USA cases.
Longhurst et al. (2016)	To analyse four counter-narratives of urban economic development, while identifying key aspects of the dominant neoliberal discourse.	Conceptual	Four counter-narratives of urban economic development.
Agyeman et al. (2016)	To examine some of the key theories and debates on Environmental Justice and how they are being illustrated through different movements and informed by urban planning, food and climate concerns.	Conceptual	Key theories, scholars, case examples, debates, methods, and (multiple) interpretations.

(continued on next page)

Table 8 (continued)

Author	Research question/aim	Approach	Sample
Boyko et al. (2017)	How sharing could be utilized in different domains to enhance the sustainability of a city?	Empirical	Local residents of the city of Lancaster and Moseley (Birmingham, UK).
Caramaschi (2017)	To explore the potential of mobile food vending in order to facilitate access to nutritious food for vulnerable groups.	Conceptual	Mobile food vending initiatives at NYC, Philadelphia, Seattle and Toronto.
Celluci and Di Sivo (2017)	To identify paradigms to guide regeneration processes based in creative human skills	Conceptual	Examples of urban regeneration that used collaborative approaches
Davies et al. (2017a)	To analyse food sharing initiatives in 100 cities in six continents.	Empirical	4000 ICT-mediated urban food sharing activities operating across 100 cities in six continents.
Davies et al. (2017b)	To understand urban food sharing landscape in emergent ICT-mediated practices.	Conceptual	Food sharing initiatives.
Fedorenko (2017)	What is the role of Sharing City Seoul into the global imaginary of sharing economy?	Empirical	OuiShare Fest 2016 (Paris) and Seoul Sharing Fest (2016).
Le Dantec (2017)	To analyse the theoretical and practical implications of social design.	Conceptual	Examples of sharing initiatives and community leaderships.
Miralles et al. (2017)	Understand which resources are shared in a heterogeneous set of sharing economy initiatives in the context of food and agriculture and how they are being shared.	Empirical	39 initiatives of Alternative Food Networks.
Hult and Bradley (2017)	How can local authorities develop infrastructures for collaborative consumption?	Empirical	Key officials of City of Malmö, Sweden/Physical spaces: STPLN -multi-purpose maker space- and Garaget -an urban living room-.
Joo (2017)	To analyse motives for participating in the sharing economy, using samples from a car sharing service.	Empirical	292 Socar users in South Korea.
Lan et al. (2017)	To understand why people engage in co-creation that could benefit social and environmental sustainability in the sharing economy.	Empirical	Mobike -free-floating bike sharing system- users.
Moon (2017)	To assess the government's role in the Seoul Sharing City Initiative (SCI).	Empirical	Nanum Car-sharing Program, Public Parking Lot-sharing Program, Public Facility and Good-sharing Programs, Public Data-sharing Program
Muñoz and Cohen (2017)	To understand the inner complexity of the sharing economy and the diversity of business model types.	Empirical	36 business models of sharing economy firms.
Böcker and Meelen (2017)	To provide a more comprehensive understanding of the motivations for participation in the sharing economy.	Empirical	1330 respondents in Amsterdam.
Celata et al. (2017)	What is the role of sociality and belonging within the particular exchange model that the sharing economy embodies?	Conceptual	Accommodation sharing platforms.
Huber (2017)	To develop and illustrate a theoretical framework, which can explain why CC practices differ strongly in their dynamics.	Empirical	Cases of P2P accommodation and cohousing.
Jehlička and Daněk (2017)	Is sharing of home-grown food an economic and environmental significant practice?	Empirical	2058 respondents from a large-scale survey, four focus groups.
Schor and Attwood-Charles (2017)	To examine the entity known as the sharing economy and evaluate whether this is an accurate term for the kind of exchanges taking place and whether it constitutes a coherent analytic category?	Conceptual	Examples of platform economy, particularly the Airbnb case.
Stabrowski (2017)	Is Airbnb producing new social relations of domestic property?	Empirical	Discursive practices in a home-sharing platform.
Dowling et al. (2018)	To explicate the material entanglements that constitute car sharing practices.	Empirical	35 Sydney residents that use car sharing services.
Kwami and Cosgrave (2018)	To analyse the lessons learned from the TEC program (The transforming engineering of cities programme) and how they can inform and equip in better approaching challenges and crafting urban futures.	Conceptual	White papers.
Rossitto and Lampinen (2018)	To analyse the self-organizing network Hoffice where users co-create temporary workplaces.	Empirical	Hoffice network -workplace- participants, spaces in Stockholm, Sweden. Hoffice Facebook group
Zhang and Chen (2018)	To what extent is the sharing economy truly inclusive? What are exactly the drawbacks and potential risks?	Conceptual	Neighbourhood prototypes.
Bernardi and Diamantini (2018)	How should city authorities govern the sharing economy to build a real sharing city?	Empirical	Public sources, sharing initiatives at Milan, key stakeholders, and local and international experts.
Ferreri and Sanyal (2018)	To focus on the under-examined impact of the sharing economy on urban governance, and particularly on planning.	Empirical	Airbnb case in London.
Gurran et al. (2018)	To compare the geography of Airbnb listings and implications for specific types of externalities that arose in Sydney and in Northern NSW.	Empirical	Home-sharing practices.
Khan and Zaman (2018)	To analyse the desired characteristics of cities classified under different labels to identify fundamental commonalities and differences among them through a systematic literature review.	Conceptual	Popular city labels used to refer desirables futures.
Lupton (2018)	To explain key terms in design and the various approaches to social design research.	Conceptual	Design methods.
Ma et al. (2018)	What are the key challenges for effective collaborative governance towards social and environmental sustainability emerging during the sharing economy scale-up process? How can collaborative governance be improved in specific sharing economy context in cities?	Empirical	30 actors of sharing mobility sector.
Mugion et al. (2018)	To focus on the concept of service quality and its dimensions and understand how it could encourage sustainable mobility in cities while reducing the private car usage.	Empirical	Users of public transport in Rome (interviews and questionnaires.), Webpages: Municipality, public transport company and car-sharing companies (consultation for territorial analysis).
Nikitas (2018)	To examine users' attitudes towards bike-sharing and to evaluate the implications of the introduction of bike-sharing schemes in Drama, Greece.	Empirical	640 bike-sharing users.



Table 8 (continued)

Author	Research question/aim	Approach	Sample
Sharp (2018)	By focusing on the Shareable's Sharing Cities Network, to examine the narratives used to mobilize an international sample of sharing cities organisers.	Empirical	Shareable's Sharing Cities Network and Airbnb's Home Sharing Clubs.
Thorpe (2018)	To examine the role of legal frameworks in projects of transforming cities in more collaborative ways.	Empirical	Founders of <i>Lande</i> and citizens involved in participatory planning in Montreal.
Bernardi (2018)	By focusing on the Sharing City Seoul project, to explore how millennials use the tools provided by the sharing economy to transform the tourist sector.	Empirical	Sharing organizations involved in Sharing City Seoul project.
del Moral-Espín and Fernández-García (2018)	To analyse collaborative economy (CE) initiatives in the case of Andalusia and the role played by public actors in endorsing (or not) these initiatives.	Empirical	Different actors involved in 140 Collaborative Economy experiences in the region of Andalusia.
Edwards and Davies (2018)	Explore the ways in which food sharing initiatives function and critically consider the efficacy of applying assemblage thinking to better understand food sharing practices and policy.	Empirical	Representatives from governments in the sector of food, community organizations, academics, participants in sharing case studies.
Jeong (2018)	Develop concepts and analysis frameworks to deal with the social movements and politics of commons.	Conceptual	Social movements that organize commoning as a social practice.
Lehavi (2018)	Identify the re-emergence of a public discourse about commons and communities across the Israeli landscape.	Empirical	A renewing kibbutz, an urban shared office-space -WeWork-, co-living spaces.
Ganapati and Reddick (2018)	To explore the opportunities and challenges of the sharing economy for public sector in general and digital government in particular.	Conceptual	Sectors of mobility services, accommodation sharing, and gig labor.
Zvolkska et al. (2019a)	To explore how institutions can be created and disrupted by urban sharing organizations	Empirical	Urban sharing organizations.
Cortés-Cediel et al. (2019)	How urban governance is taking place in citizen participation debate?	Conceptual	Smart cities initiatives from 76 European cities
Jarvis (2019)	To examine intentional sharing from a degrowth perspective.	Conceptual	Co-housing schemes.
Davies and Evans (2019)	To provide a review of main conceptual approaches and common themes in urban food sharing studies.	Conceptual	Papers of urban food sharing.
Morrow (2019)	To examine the governance strategies developed in the project of <i>Foodsharing.de</i> .	Empirical	Members of <i>Foodsharing.de</i> .
Ryu et al. (2019)	To provide a systematic review on what and how we share.	Conceptual	Peer-reviewed scientific papers.
Zvolkska et al. (2019b)	What are the roles of the cities governing the urban sharing?	Empirical	Sharing organizations and city governments in Berlin and London.
Loh and Agyeman (2019)	To offer a critical examination of the transformational potential of Boston's growing food solidarity economy and its food sharing practices.	Conceptual	Practices in the food sector in Boston.
Scharf et al. (2019)	To explore the reality of food commons in Berlin and in specific to understand its relationship to sustainable urban development and the role of city administration and politics.	Empirical	9 food sharing actors in Berlin.
Yuana et al. (2019)	To identify frames in news about ridesharing and their impact in policy responses in Indonesia and the Philippines.	Empirical	Bike-sharing online news.
Curtis and Lehner (2019)	To synthesize the existing academic definitions of the sharing economy in order to propose a definition from the sustainability perspective.	Conceptual	Peer-reviewed scientific papers.
Camboim et al. (2019)	To explore the drivers behind smart city projects in order to make them spaces that offer quality of life and that foster creativity and innovation.	Empirical	Experts and insights from smart cities projects (Amsterdam, Barcelona, Lisbon, Vienna).
Labaye (2019)	To examine the emergence of communal (non-commercial) sharing and the role of technology in sharing practices.	Conceptual	137 secondary cases and policies compiled in Shareable.
Wittmayer et al. (2019)	To describe the narratives of change through social innovation initiatives.	Empirical	TRANSformative Social Innovation Theory (TRANSIT) project.
Vith et al. (2019)	How has the sharing economy been interpreted in urban policies? Analyse the different frames used in governance to examine opportunities and challenges of sharing economy in cities.	Conceptual	Government-issued strategy documents
Winslow and Mont (2019)	To describe the values created by bicycle sharing systems and the strategies used to institutionalize them.	Empirical	Three cases of bicycle sharing system (Bicing, Donkey Republic, Scoot Network)
Santala and McGuirk (2019)	To identify the potential of the <i>Share Sydney</i> project in create new economic agency and capacities among other things in the city of Sydney.	Empirical	Sharing Map project, Share Sydney members, volunteers, and City of Sydney councillor.
Chan and Zhang (2021) <sup>a</sup>	In what ways can space and sharing be theorized? How does the inclusion of the spatial dimension improve the present understanding of sharing behaviours and practices?	Conceptual	Different approaches of shared spaces.

<sup>a</sup> As aforementioned, we set the parameters of our search until year 2019 and this paper came up as one of the results. At the time it appeared as an article in press. Only recently it was assigned in a volume and so now it has been modified as [Chan and Zhang \(2021\)](#). Given its relevance and importance for this SLR we decided to leave it as part of our dataset.

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