

# INSEAI 2023 - TRAINING DISCUSSION

AN APPROACH TO INFORMAL WORK AND ITS FUNCTIONALITY IN  
A TOURISTIFIED CONTEXT. THE CASE OF PORTO



Funded by  
the European Union



Gabriel López  
(UA, Spain)

[gabriel.lopez@ua.es](mailto:gabriel.lopez@ua.es)



Javier Ortega  
(UA, Spain)

[j.ortega@ua.es](mailto:j.ortega@ua.es)



July 24th, 2025  
16:00 (CEST) / 14.00 (UTC)

Place: online  
[Link to Teams](#)

## ABSTRACT

This proposal starts from the hypothesis that certain informal activities linked to tourism in Porto —such as unofficial guides, street musicians, or vendors— play a functional role within the city's tourism system. Far from being merely precarious, these practices represent specific forms of economic organization that gain importance amid intensive touristification, contributing not only to the tourist experience but also to the city's social and urban reconfiguration, particularly in areas like the historic center. Based on interviews and participant observation, the proposal offers preliminary reflections on the agency of these actors and introduces an analytical framework that emphasizes their structuring role in an urban landscape shaped by international tourism.

More information: [INSEAI2023@uam.es](mailto:INSEAI2023@uam.es)  
[www.inseai.eu](http://www.inseai.eu)

