

# MERCAT DE LA BOQUERIA

*Sami Hout Ledo - Urban Commons in Barcelona*

1. Studied phenomenon: the marketplace
2. The marketplace as an urban CPR problem
3. IAD framework
4. The action arena
5. Research question
6. Operationalisation
7. Limitations and recommendations

# 1. STUDIED PHENOMENON: THE MARKETPLACE

- Immaterial heritage: mediterranean atmosphere, street lifestyle
- Visitors seek to experience: local marketplace -> massive influx
- Crowds; prepared, non-traditional food replacing groceries
- FOCUS: ban on big groups

*"That extremely popular saying of 'the market where you can find everything' has become 'the market where you can't buy quietly'". City Council Report, p. 3*

# 2. THE MARKETPLACE AS AN URBAN CPR

- **Focus:** lived notion of the marketplace: quotidian shopping, social space, sense of locality, etc.
- CPR: SUBTRACTABILITY + EXCLUDABILITY

- **High SUBTRACTABILITY**

1. Closed space, limited capacity
2. Impact on experience

	Subtractability of use		
		<i>Low</i>	<i>High</i>
Difficulty of excluding potential beneficiaries	<i>Low</i>	Toll goods	Private goods
	<i>High</i>	Public goods	Common-pool resources

Source: Ostrom, 2005

- **High EXCLUDABILITY:** 1. Publicness + 2. Tourist attraction

## 2. THE MARKETPLACE AS AN URBAN CPR II

- Problem of **Appropriation**:

- By definition, only locals can provide the good (lived notion)

*“Currently, we address the market as a ‘museum effect’, where tourists barely make purchases but instead take pictures and touch the food”. Mulà, p. 26*

- Tourists are free-riders

*“Common-pool resources yield benefits where beneficiaries are hard to exclude but each person’s use of a resource system subtracts units of that resource from a finite total amount available”. Ostrom, 2005, p. 24*

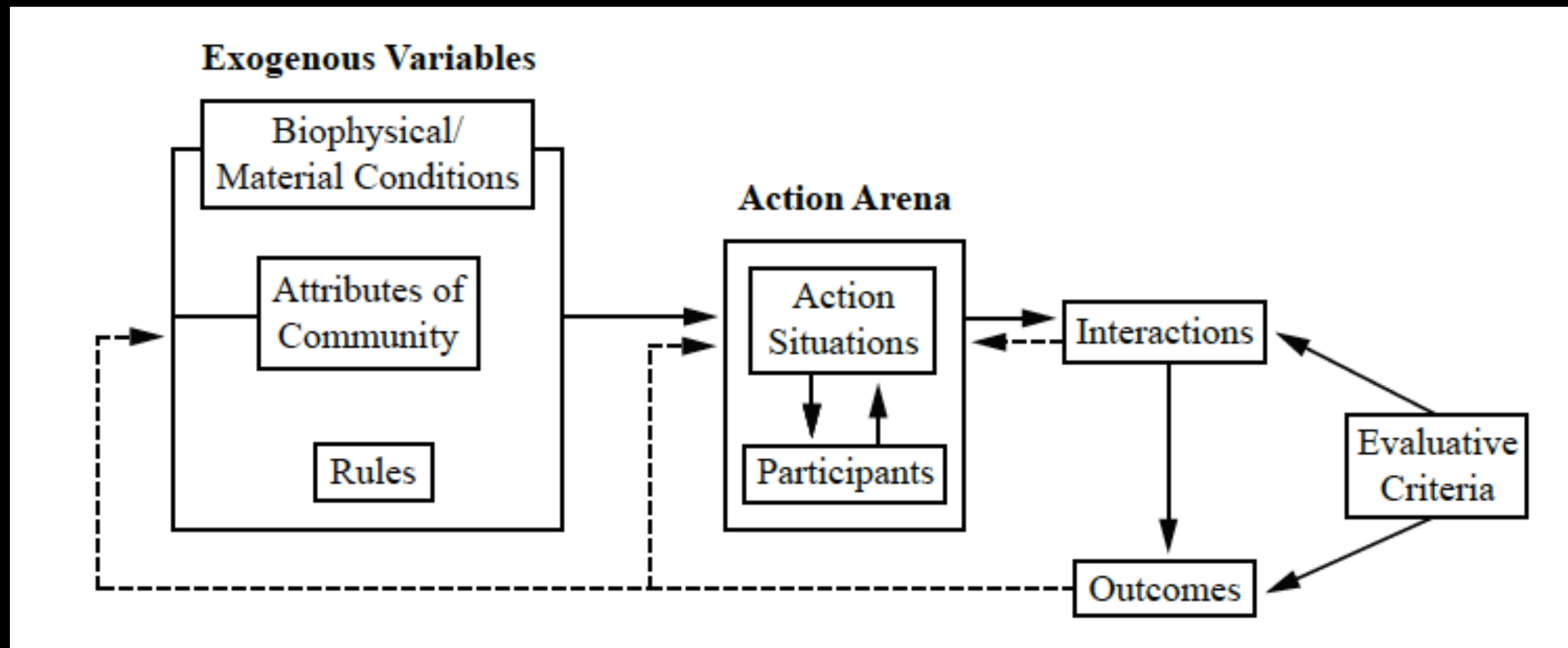
- Conclusively:

- Crowds in *La Boqueria* can be addressed as a Common Pool Resource Problem

# 3. IAD FRAMEWORK

- CPR problem: IAD framework
- Why IAD?
- Focus on **rules**: diagnostic analysis

*“Our confidence in the usefulness of the IAD framework has grown steadily (...) it has helped colleagues identify the key variables to undertake a systematic analysis of the structure of the situations that individuals faced and how **rules**, the nature of the events involved, and community affected these situations over time”.*  
Ostrom 2005, p. 9



Source: Ostrom, 2005, p. 15

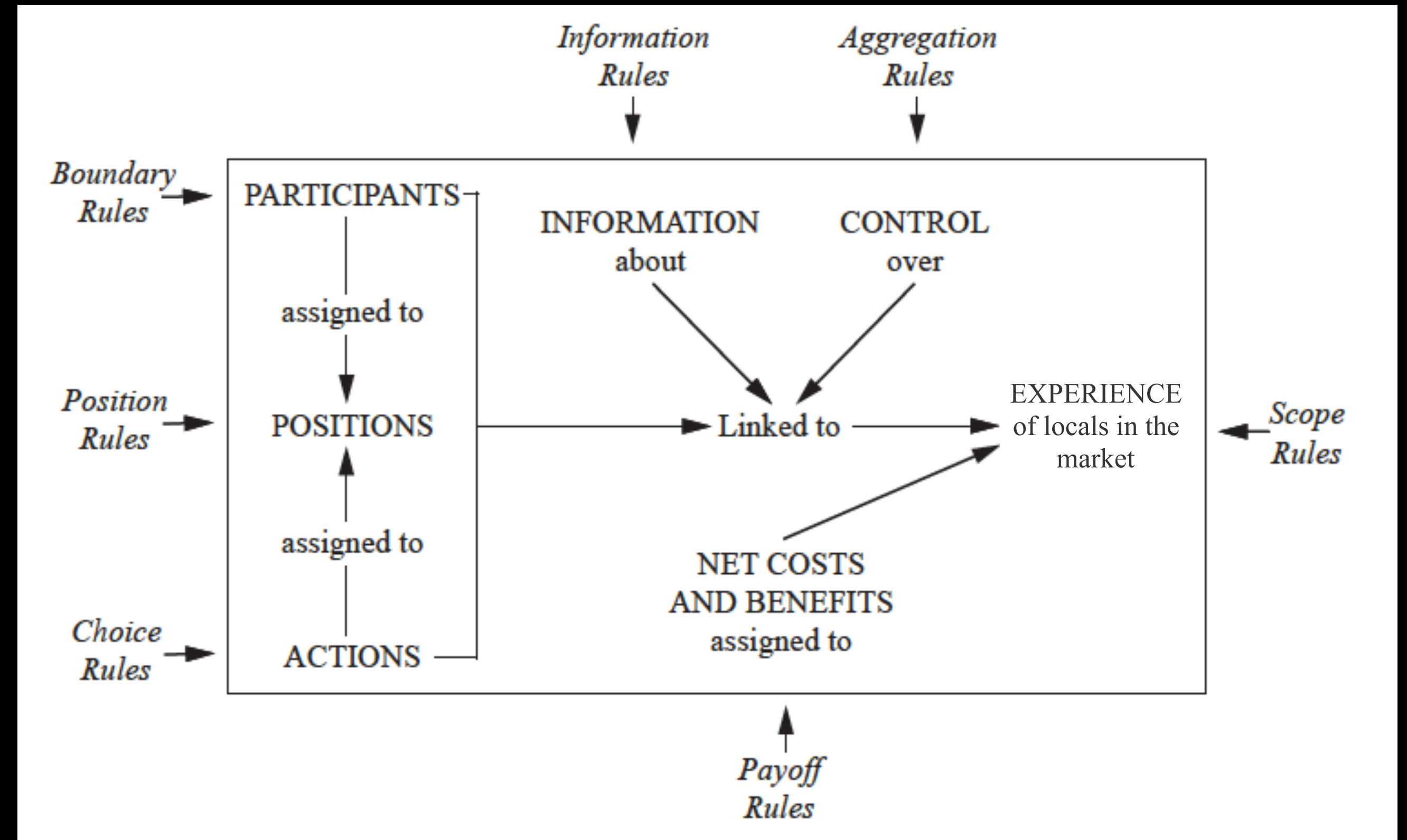
# 4. THE ACTION ARENA

- Participants:

- Attendees
  - Residents
  - Visitors
- Vendors
  - Traditional goods
  - Visitor-oriented goods
- Security staff

- Regulation:

- Sets criteria to be fulfilled by 'visitors'



Source: Ostrom, 2005, p. 189

“Boundary rules (...) define who is eligible to enter a position (...). Some entry rules, then, specify the criteria to be used to determine whether an actor is eligible to fill a particular position. Ascribed and acquired attributes are frequently used in this type of entry rule”. Ostrom, 2005, p. 194.

# 5. RESEARCH QUESTION

**Does the BAN ON BIG GROUPS influence LOCALS' EXPERIENCE attending the marketplace?**

- IV: ban (law) -> 'treatment'
- DV: local's experience
- Justification:
  - Critical role of laws
  - Dissatisfaction with their outcomes

*"The law is seen as a strategic tool for saving public spaces from disorder and unruly individuals, and at the same time way for promoting an attractive image of the city". Konzen, p. 27*

# 6. OPERATIONALISATION: METHOD

- Independent variable:
  1. Content analysis of the law (municipal competence) -> no need to search higher levels
  2. Qualitative research: interview to security
- Dependent variable:
  3. Quantitative research: questionnaire to locals (**impact analysis**)
  4. Control: comparison with another market



# 6.1. RESEARCH DESIGN: CONTENT ANALYSIS

- Rule-in-form
- Ostrom's characterisation of all regulatory rules

*"ATTRIBUTES of participants who are OBLIGED, FORBIDDEN OR PERMITTED to ACT (or AFFECT an outcome) under specified CONDITIONS, OR ELSE."* Ostrom, 2005, p. 185.

- Focus: *Butlletí Oficial de la Diputació de Barcelona: Institut Municipal de Mercats, 2/04/15*
  - **ATTRIBUTES:** people part of a big group -> definition of big group?
  - **CONDITIONS:** specific times/days when ban applies?
  - **FORBIDDEN:** to attend the market in general or specific actions?
  - **OR ELSE:** which sanctions?

## 6.2. RESEARCH DESIGN: INTERVIEW

- Rule-in-form -> rule-in-use: rule of law?
- Responsible of applying the rule: security guards

*"In an open society governed by a 'rule of law' (...) the rules-in-form are consistent with the rules-in-use (Sproule-Jones 1993)". Ostrom, 2005, p. 20*

- **Interview:**
  - How do you usually identify a guide?
  - Could you define one?
  - Do you always apply the law even if the market is not full?
  - ...

## 6.3. RESEARCH DESIGN:QUESTIONNAIRE

- Method: n-size study
- Target: local residents (both from and outside the district)
- Wide range of questions (answer 1-5) such as:
  - How comfortable do you feel buying in *La Boqueria*?
  - To what extent do you regard La Boqueria as a social meeting point?
  - How quiet do you find the market?
  - ...

# 6.4. RESEARCH DESIGN: CONTROL

- Aim: make sense of numerical data from questionnaire

- What we need: another market

No ban on tourist groups

Same features and problems

Mediterranean style  
Long history  
Tradition for locals  
Intrinsic social value

Highly touristic city

Tourists: brief time

Market: tourist attraction

Concern: massive tourism -> market disappear

Citizens actively fighting it

**Best match: *Mercato di Rialto in Venice***

*"If the market, with its life and colours, disappears, what will tourists see? An empty monument". Market vendor in Rialto.*

# 7. LIMITATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- In general, not enough information available
- Interview to security: social desirability bias
- Survey: extreme bias
- Control group: Venice  $\neq$  Barcelona or Rialto  $\neq$  La Boqueria

- 
- Number of visitors, or behaviour? -> Attributes of the community

*“the values of behavior generally accepted in the community; the level of common understanding that potential participants share (or do not share) about the structure(...).” Ostrom 2005, p. 26.*

*“If the participants in a situation come from many different cultures, speak different languages, and are distrustful of one another, the costs of devising and sustaining effective rules are substantially increased”. Ostrom 2005, p. 27.*

# MAIN SOURCES

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