

EURA 2022 Conference

# Defrag-Europe: fragility/antifragility at play in contemporary Europe

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



## **EURA 2022 Conference**

# **Defrag-Europe: fragility/antifragility at play in contemporary Europe**

This Book of abstracts has been edited by **Mina Akhavan, Abdallah Jreij, Dafni Riga, Sajjad Zolfigol, Valeria Fedeli**

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# Marginalized territories of Europe

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The Track proposes to explore the emerging geographies and processes of marginalization and fragilization within the European space. The Track is open to contributions dedicated to rural and inner areas and in-between urbanized areas, midsize cities and deindustrialized regions that face new (and unexpected) processes of marginalization and fragilization after decades of demographic and economic growth or stability. Particular attention is addressed to the themes of depopulation, under-use, and abandonment of the built stock, but also economic and cultural impoverishment and the reduction in the supply of essential public services.

After decades of growth or stability new and unexpected processes of marginalization and fragilization are changing European cities and regions undermining territorial cohesion.

The contributions included in the track deal with old and new factors leading to processes of marginalization and fragilization, such as demographic, economic, spatial, environmental, social, and political conditions. Moreover, some contributions propose updated representations of processes of marginalization and fragilization occurring all over Europe and reflect on new ways to represent these long-known phenomena. While reflecting on the possible roles of marginalized and fragile territories in the future global and European scenarios, the Track aims at promoting a reflection on the (re)design of spatial policies able to cope with processes of marginalization/fragilization underway today in Europe.

### SESSION 1

#### Ongoing processes

Chairs: **Francesco Curci,**

**Agim Kërçuku**

*DASU - Politecnico di Milano*

**THURSDAY 16/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**

**ROOM T04**

**Tim Leibert, Jeroen Royer**

Putting marginalized territories on the map: some conceptual reflections based on peripheralization theory

**Aleksandra Marinkovic**

Overcrowding of a mountain settlement case study of Zlatibor, Serbia

**Andrea Di Giovanni, Alice Ranzini**

Mapping informal housing practices in Lombardy Region

**Francesco Chiodelli, Sara Caramaschi, Margherita Grazioli**

Illegalized self-promoted development in a fragile post-disaster territory

### SESSION 2

#### Plans and projects

Chair: **Ignazio Vinci**

*University of Palermo*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 9.00 - 11.00**

**ROOM T04**

**Valentina Galiulo, Antonella Contin**

Regenerating landscapes with cartography for grounding Metropolitan Architecture Project

**Donato Di Ludovico, Chiara Capannolo, Federico Eugeni**

Recovery planning in fragile areas in central Italy

**Maddalena Ferretti, Sara Favargiotti, Barbara Lino, Diana Rolando**

Branding4Resilience. Enhance small villages by drawing resilient communities and new open habitats

**Fatima Zahra Benhamza**

The green belt. Rural areas as a catalyst for innovative change in Europe

**Richmond J. Ehwi, Hannah Holmes, Sabina Maslova, Gemma Burgess**

Smart city governance and the ethical dimension of smart city decision-making in Cambridge, UK

### SESSION 3

#### Pre-organised Panel: The EU in the face of changing territorial fragilities

Chair: **Carlotta Fioretti**

*Joint Research Centre*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 14.00 - 16.00**

**ROOM T03**

**Carlotta Fioretti, Fabrizio Guzzo, Martina Pertoldi**

From marginalised areas to places of opportunities. Synergies between EU and national policies

**Paola Proietti, Patrizia Sulis, Carolina Perpina, Carlo Lavalle**

New perspective on territorial disparities: from lonely places to places of opportunities

**Paola Briata**

A new neighborhood-based approach? Micro-scale peripheries and the PON Metro in Venice

**Valentina Romero Silva**

The role of EU cooperation projects in the face of marginalisation: the case of AlpiMed

**Enrique Nieto**

Smart Villages in marginalised rural areas: Enabling conditions for rural revitalisation

**Cristina Stanus**

Political peripheralization in jurisdictionally fragmented metropolitan areas

CHAIRS

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TRACK 1

SESSION 1

**Ongoing processes**

**Tim Leibert**

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## **PUTTING MARGINALIZED TERRITORIES ON THE MAP: SOME CONCEPTUAL REFLECTIONS BASED ON PERIPHERALIZATION THEORY**

The success of populist and right-wing politicians and parties in recent elections and referendums in many European countries has led to a renewed interest in regional disparities and the peripheralization and marginalization of economically and demographically declining territories. The notion of 'left behind' places is frequently used as an interpretative frame to make sense of election results and other expressions of popular discontent, especially in deindustrialized/ deindustrializing cities and depopulating rural areas. In Germany, the public and political discourse on "abgehängte Regionen" (the German equivalent of 'left behind' places) focuses on the principle of equal living conditions in all parts of the federal territory, which is enshrined in the constitution. 'Left behind' places are a rather new field of research which still needs theoretical and conceptual underpinning. The more conceptual, methodological and empirical challenges include, first and foremost the need to operationalize the concept of 'left behind' places to make it (statistically) measurable. Which methods are appropriate? Which indicators cover the different perspectives of the concept? The second challenge is related to perceptions and regional disparities: Apart from the well-known socio-economic east-west divide, there is also a north-south divide in economic strength and living conditions. Are definitions based on national averages really a good benchmark or do people rather judge the degree of 'left behindness' of their home region based on the situation in neighboring territories? Third, the term 'left behind' implies a longitudinal component, indicating that "left behindness" is not (only) a state, but a process during which a given place has fallen behind. How can we adequately incorporate this temporal dynamic into quantitative analyses? Our paper points out and critically discusses some of these challenges using a statistical analysis of German NUTS3 regions as an example to highlight how the above-mentioned challenges affect research designs and to point to possible ways to deal with these challenges. We use peripheralization theory as a starting point for indicator selection. According to this concept, the socio-economic decline and marginalization of places is the result of four interrelated and mutually reinforcing processes: demographic decline, especially out-migration, disconnection from infrastructures and decision-making processes, dependency on decisions made in the centers, and stigmatization. We will use methods like hot- and coldspot analysis or principle component analysis to put marginalized territories in Germany "on the map".

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## **OVERCROWDING OF A MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENT – CASE STUDY OF ZLATIBOR, SERBIA**

### **Keywords:**

mountain settlement, overcrowding, FAR (floor area ratio)

Zlatibor (golden pine) is a settlement on a mountain of the same name, located in western part of Serbia. Tourism on Zlatibor started in 1910. When hotel Kraljeva voda was opened for tourists, and grew steadily since then. By the end of the 20 century there were three hotels and most of the other touristic capacities were family villas owned predominantly by the elite of Kingdom of Serbia and later Yugoslavia. Villas were typically in large yards and surrounded by tall pine trees, which offered high level of privacy for the occupants. However, in two decades of 21 century touristic and residential capacities of Zlatibor expanded extensively and uncontrollably, with most of the villas submerged by the tall new buildings surrounding them. Nowadays, Zlatibor is one large building site with high and often narrow buildings, positioned very close to each other, to dominate the landscape of this mountain settlement. Furthermore, the famous pine trees are being constantly cut to make room for more buildings and are becoming ever so scarce in central part of this, now urban settlement. This research will show: a) what the development has done to the landscape and quality of living in Zlatibor – based on urban parameters and comments of tourists and people who live there; and with the examples of buildings and their relation to one another. Also, through the analysis of gradual degradation of privacy and rental units size in Kraljevi konaci apartment complex – from semi-detached mountain cottages, through two /three storey houses with separate entrances from the ground level, to town-like multi-storey apartment buildings. b) How it was made possible – through analysis of relevant legal acts on construction. Comparative analysis of General Regulation Plan of the settlement of Cajetina/ Zlatibor from the years 2015/2020/2021 shows an increase in highest allowed FAR (Floor area ratio) for apartment buildings from 1.40/1.60/1.80 and for hotels 2.65/2.90/3.20, respectively; with possibility to be as high as 3.99, and with the double increase of maximal number of above ground stories for new developments. Also, in these documents central area of Zlatibor settlement is addressed as – high density central area.

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## MAPPING INFORMAL HOUSING PRACTICES IN THE LOMBARDY REGION

### Keywords:

informality, housing, Lombardy

As a Mediterranean country, Italy has experienced different practices of informal dwelling, inside both public and private stock. However, research has mainly focused on “self-made” built suburbs and single units in the central and southern regions or squatting practices of empty public and private buildings in the densest urban areas. Since 2008, both the local building sector and the households have been severely affected by the economic crisis, enhanced more by the current pandemic. Owners and renters experienced difficulties maintaining housing properties leading to a broader diffusion of informality in the private sector. However, data on the extension of the phenomenon are missing, and informal housing situations often remain invisible. Moreover, Italian private housing stock is highly fragmented, with many small properties scattered all over the territory. Within the research project “InfoHouseE –Informal Housing Experiences” (May 2020-March 2021), a multidisciplinary research group mapped more than 100 examples of informal housing around the Lombardy Region, with a specific focus on situations of marginality, but also on interventions of regeneration of areas and properties. While the research confirmed the similarities among different territories in terms of profiles of those living informally –very low-income households, mainly immigrants -it found differences in the spatial forms of the phenomenon depending on the economic and social dynamic occurring in specific areas and the conditions of their urban fabric. Even in a wealthy and dynamic region as Lombardy, informal dwelling is becoming an ordinary and structural phenomenon, reflecting struggles and strategies of unrecognised subjects to root. At the same time, the fragmentation of the property and the local regulation protecting private ownership prevent local governments from intervening, leaving informality ignored or treated as a security issue.

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## ILLEGALIZED SELF-PROMOTED DEVELOPMENT IN A FRAGILE POST-DISASTER TERRITORY

### Keywords:

post-disaster reconstruction, central Italy, self-promoted housing

On April 2009, the city of L'Aquila, in central Italy, was hit by a violent earthquake, making around half of the housing stock unfit for habitation – consequently, approximately 70,000 people were left homeless. Public authorities promptly activated different measures to host temporarily the evacuees. Some of these initiatives have been in the spotlight of national debate (such as the C.A.S.E. project strongly promoted by the Prime minister Silvio Berlusconi). Almost unknown, on the contrary, is the case of a municipal deliberation that allowed the residents to self-build small, temporary detached housing units in agricultural areas, colloquially defined casette, that is little houses. Some thousands casette were then constructed, both by and beyond the books. Even though these housing units should have been removed as soon as the emergency phase ended, almost all of them still stand and, therefore, are currently illegal. The precise magnitude and geography of casette, together with their reasons and consequences, are still unclear, as it is their future. Against this background, in this article we shed light upon the casette phenomenon. However, the principal goal of this study is not the mere investigation of this peculiar kind of self-promoted housing. The case of the casette is explored in light of its epistemic value to better understand: - firstly, the future developing trajectories and main critical issues of the fragile (but not marginalized, for the viewpoint of public interventions) territory of l'Aquila; - secondly the complex nature of housing informality, going beyond the tendency to identify few dominant, discrete reasons – often following a positivistic-structuralist approach – for illegal housing and, at this aim, scrutinizing the role of subjective meanings, perceptions, aspirations and expectations in the production of informal space.

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SESSION 2  
**Plans and projects**

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## REGENERATING LANDSCAPES WITH CARTOGRAPHY FOR GROUNDING METROPOLITAN ARCHITECTURE PROJECT

### Keywords:

landscapes, metropolitan cartography, urban-rural neglect

Contemporary cities call for ground operations in urban and metropolitan architectural design [1] to re-organise urban-rural settings. The environmentalist design vision is still rooted in an authentic landscape and wilderness image that must be protected, revealing a bitter anti-urbanism. However, there is a shared awareness of being in a new era of Urbanity [3] and of the uncertain processes the city and its landscapes are subjected to. Besides green urban and architectural design techniques, in rural inter-phase areas of the Net-city [2], it is necessary to recover transitional and obsolescent landscapes within urbanism operation: a new metropolitan image perceivable from the urban scale by re-connecting the Green-Grey infrastructure to urban proximity services. Regenerating Metropolitan Landscapes within the urban dimension means territorializing design actions to identify the potential for transforming degraded and obsolete spaces in dynamic metropolitan landscapes. The regenerative urbanism approach proposed through the Metropolitan Cartography tool encourages reading, diagnosing, and interpreting shades of neglect and potential transformations in metropolitan urban-rural places. It is possible to map the spatial components that characterize the interdependencies of metropolitan wastescapes [4] as spaces of neglect that can be reprogrammed for new adaptive patterns of land use. Metropolitan Cartography (MC) is a methodology for interpreting Metropolitan Landscapes in specific UrbanRural contexts, demonstrating how an innovative approach in GIS systems is a prerequisite for professional and academic practice to structure a new image of metropolitan structure. The Metropolitan Cartography maps, tested in the metropolitan case of Milan, are replicable and scalable tools for telling and re-designing urban regenerating areas in which hybrid landscapes at different scales overlap. This scenario determines the need to define a new mapping mediation code language through the identification of spatial data and information for configuring regenerating design actions on cartographic grounds [5]. The Metropolitan Cartography experiment allows us to contextualise qualitative and quantitative open-source information in neglected metropolitan urban-rural territories. The purpose of MC maps is to support metropolitan architecture projects, because mapping grounds is an operation to shape the transformations of Metropolis' grounds through data, information layers linkage, predictive technologies that could support the design decisions of metropolitan agents, local experts and civil servants.

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## RECOVERY PLANNING IN FRAGILE AREAS IN CENTRAL ITALY

### Keywords:

fragile territories, disasters, territorial recovery

A course of the research project “Territori Aperti” (Open Territories) of the University of L'Aquila concerns the territorial fragilities in the context of Central Italy and in particular of the 2016 Earthquake Crater, a geography of the so-called inner areas, a junction/strategic area between the centre-north and the south but also between the Adriatic and Tyrrhenian belts. The research pursues two objectives, an analytical one aimed at studying the interaction between the factors of fragility and the effects of calamitous events, including pandemic ones, and a planning one aimed at defining territorial recovery strategies based on the concept of integration between territories. The paper describe the outcomes of the analytical phase of the research and some first reflections on criticalities/opportunities and strategies for territorial planning. The methodology has defined three types of fragility, Physical, Social and Economic, whose analysis has been accompanied by three detailed interpretations concerning Tourism, Accessibility and ordinary Planning. These elements of fragility were related to the effects of the 2016 earthquake and the distribution of the Sars-Cov2 pandemic. Thus, some peculiar territorial phenomena emerged, such as the fragility of the territorial services system, analysed for example through the LEAs - Essential Levels of Care that concern the effectiveness of health services, or the fragility of digital services (lack of infrastructure in the most peripheral territories, with market failure). Currently, the research has moved on to the planning studies phase, i.e. the definition of strategies for the territorial recovery of fragile areas. At a preliminary level, these strategies will be defined in the framework of a recovery planning process based on the principle of integration, i.e. on the sharing and cooperation between territories and the related project strategies oriented to feed also the weakest parts, in the same way as the principles underlying the European macro-regions.

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### **BRANDING4RESILIENCE. ENHANCE SMALL VILLAGES BY DRAWING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND NEW OPEN HABITATS**

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#### **Keywords:**

branding, resilience, inner areas

“Inner” areas are a highly relevant contemporary issue in the European regional policy and academic research. The contexts addressed by the Italian National Strategy on Inner Areas are often lacking successful regional policies and systemic territorial approaches to achieve effective transformations. The “B4R Branding4Resilience. Tourist infrastructure as a tool to enhance small villages by drawing resilient communities and new open habitats” (B4R) project investigates fragile territories around the Italian peninsula, exploring, comparing and operatively intervening on four selected focus areas through an interdisciplinary perspective: the Appennino Basso Pesarese Anconetano (Marche Region), the Val di Sole (Trento Province), the Alta Valsesia (Piedmont Region) and the Sicani area (Sicily Region). B4R investigates the potentials of marginal territories and of branding in drawing the resilient development of these communities, making rural-urban contexts attractive to new residents and users and transforming them into resilient models. The B4R first results propose and discuss emerging geographies and processes of marginalization in four fragile areas within the Italian territory. The ‘Exploration’ phase analyses in depth each territory in its spatial, but also immaterial dimensions, such as formal and informal relationships, and the creativity of bottom-up initiatives. A second operative phase is the ‘Co-Design’ with communities, with the goal to identify possible operative branding actions. The next and third phase is the development of ‘Co- Visioning’ processes with local actors, with the aim to propose strategic spatial visioning to recompose in a coherent territorial vision the system of relationships in place, identifying a branding strategy that can unveil and enable the territorial capital and increase the community’s transformative capacity. The paper discusses the results of the first two phases. (1) (B4R) is a research project of national interest (PRIN 2017 – Young Line) funded by the Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) with a three years duration (2020-2023). The project is coordinated by the Università Politecnica delle Marche (principal investigator Maddalena Ferretti) and it involves as partners the Università degli Studi di Palermo (local coordinator Barbara Lino), the Università di Trento (local coordinator Sara Favargiotti) and the Politecnico di Torino (local coordinator Diana Rolando). See <https://www.branding4resilience.it>

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## THE GREEN BELT – RURAL AREAS AS A CATALYST FOR INNOVATIVE CHANGE IN EUROPE

### Keywords:

rural areas, new paradigm, sustainability

This paper is based on the exploration of new alternatives, and creative ways of imagining the future of countryside with an impactful role in contemporary urban issues resumption. Rural areas cover half of Europe and are home to around 20 percent of the population. They are also among the poorest regions in the European Union. There has been a clear distinction between the countryside and large cosmopolitan cities. This difference condemned rural life and its evolution. This situation is not sustainable in the long term and the countryside needs to be the front line of transformation. We need to reposition rural in response to the challenge of decline. Creating this new frontier is a complex task, however After the COVID pandemic in 2020, there has been a population movement between territories, besides Key areas dealing with contemporary urban issues as climate change, sustainability, collaborative economies, migration, or population growth are all in some way related to the countryside. Could rural areas play a major role in helping to correct these contemporary issues? Are we living a change of paradigm in these areas? This research will be discussing questions like: What new options and programs for the rural life? What policy change is needed to implement such transformations? What new architectural typology and technologies arises from such new paradigm?

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### **SMART CITY GOVERNANCE AND THE ETHICAL DIMENSION OF SMART CITY DECISION-MAKING IN CAMBRIDGE, UK**

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#### **Keywords:**

Smart Cities, ethics, urban governance

Smart Cities have been promoted as an efficient way of addressing pressing urban issues by doing more with less. The Smart City agenda is driven mainly by three main actors who together constitute the triple helix model: (1) city and/or national governments; (2) universities and technological institutes; and (3) technology companies. These actors mutually benefit from Smart City projects and, in particular, city governments facing fiscal constraints look for both funding and cost-effective solutions to city problems. Academics and data scientists in universities conduct research that generates innovative ideas with the potential to solve city problems. Technology companies in turn not only fund research projects through recruiting university scientists, they also seek research ideas and translate them into marketable and patented solutions. Where decision-making in Smart City projects remains largely limited to the triple helix, there is a risk that the problems addressed by such initiatives will not be those which matter most to the city's residents, nor to other stakeholders not included in this model. This is one of the key ethical issues to consider in the framework of smart city governance. Currently, ethical debates in the Smart City literature focus largely on data collection, processing, usage, storage and sharing. We argue that ethical debates should be extended to capture the crucial decisions taken as part of Smart City governance and the ethical references which underpin them. The qualitative study of the Smart Cambridge programme in Cambridge, UK with the key experts and actors involved in the programme explores the ethical nature of decisions taken in different aspects of Smart City governance. The study highlights ethical issues emerging from the geography of deployment, the level of expertise available, the formation of partnerships and funding, procurement processes and citizen engagement. By highlighting ethical dimensions in these areas of decision-making, we encourage current and future Smart City decisionmakers to think beyond legal frameworks and consider the hidden ethical dimensions of Smart City governance.

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Preorganised Panel

## SESSION 3

# The EU in the face of changing territorial fragilities

### Keywords:

territorial fragility, EU instruments, place-based policies

Territorial inequalities are an important concern for the European Union, which recognises the social and economic imbalances that characterises places across its Member States, and against them, it promotes the concept of territorial cohesion. Territorial cohesion is the process of promoting a more harmonious territorial development, reducing the imbalances between territories, reinforcing territorial cooperation, and strengthening the links between urban and rural areas (Medeiros, 2016). Three recently published documents demonstrate the centrality of this theme. The New Leipzig Charter (EU Ministers, 2020a) talks about the need to reduce and prevent new forms of inequalities in urban areas through integrated and sustainable development strategies. The Territorial Agenda 2030 (EU Ministers, 2020b) expressively acknowledges the fact that inequalities between places have reached in Europe critical level, and it provides an action-oriented framework to promote territorial cohesion. Finally, the Long-Term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas (EC, 2021) recognises that social, economic, and demographic transformations have challenged rural communities over the past decades, and it seeks to develop a common European vision for vibrant, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas.

The processes of 'fragilization' of certain territories have not only worsened but have also changed, making evident the need for new concepts as well as indicators to qualify and understand the actual drivers of territorial vulnerability beyond the purely social or economic dimensions. Although the scope of the EU in matters of territorial and urban policy is limited by the sovereignty of states, it is also true that the policy support (both in financial and discursive terms) to these themes has increased. As a matter of fact, the current cohesion policy legal framework dedicates one of its five policy objectives to place-based support to urban and non-urban territories, to ensure their harmonious development.

In the light of this, the special session investigates how the EU is currently behaving in the face of changing territorial fragilities, both for what concerns the understanding of them and policy action and tools. More specifically the contributions reflect around the following questions: 1. Which new concepts can help to understand the phenomenon of territorial fragility which is characterising the EU, both in urban and non-urban areas? 2. Which policy tools and methods can the EU provide to support fragile territories in developing their untapped potential and facing their needs through a place-based approach?

The special session is strongly aligned with the themes proposed by track no. 1. In particular, it reflects on how to provide evidence of processes of marginalisation and fragilisation in a comparative perspective across Europe. It also reflects on the role and opportunities of marginalised territories within the future European project.

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The following four papers compose the panel.

### **New perspectives on territorial disparities: From lonely places to places of opportunities**

*Paola Proietti, Patrizia Sulis, and Carolina Perpiña (Joint Research Centre)*

The paper introduces the new concept of 'lonely places' to read territorial fragilities in the European Union. Closely related to marginalised territories, this concept provides quantitative and spatial evidence that identifies priority areas to target through policy actions. Lonely places is a multidisciplinary and multi-scalar concept that can be referred to a plurality of places presenting vulnerabilities in terms of local endowment, accessibility, connectivity. The lonely places can be found in remote and rural areas as well as in cities. The concurrence and interactions among vulnerabilities can make some places lonelier than others.

### **From marginalized areas to places of opportunities: exploring synergies between EU and national policies**

*Carlotta Fioretti, Fabrizio Guzzo and Martina Pertoldi (Joint Research Centre)*

The objective of this paper is to investigate public action targeting different typologies of marginalised territories in three European Union Member States: Italy, France and Portugal. The place-based policy interventions explored are implemented in a multi-governance setting, with the contribution of EU cohesion policy to national policy schemes. This paper presents preliminary results and discusses the main challenges, highlighting commonalities as well as differences between these policy experiences. It aims at improving our understanding of how EU and national policies are integrated and implemented on the ground, and stimulate reflection on the future of place-based policies to support the anti-fragility of territories.

### **A new neighborhood-based approach? Dealing with micro-scale peripheries through the "PON Metro" in Venice (Italy)**

*Paola Briata (Polytechnic University of Milan)*

The paper focuses on how EU territorial instruments are implemented to target marginalised places within urban areas. In particular, it discusses a new neighbourhood-based approach to urban fragilities. This contribution will reflect on the intertwining among debates on the inclusion of migrants at the local level and new forms of intervention at the micro-scale for "peripheral areas" in Italy. These issues will be unpacked through a focus on EU-supported sustainable urban development strategies (2015-2020) for the Metropolitan area of Venice.

### **Smart Villages in marginalised rural areas: Unpacking the enabling conditions for rural revitalisation**

*Enrique Nieto (European Association for Information on Local Development)*

The paper will explore the concept of smart villages and their role in supporting innovative and community-led responses boosting the development of marginalised rural areas suffering from socio-economic decline. This discussion will unpack the main enabling factors that need to be considered in policies that have the ambition to revitalise rural areas and contribute to the EU Long Term Vision for Rural Areas published by the European Commission in June 2021. A particular focus will be placed on LEADER-CLLD as a core EU policy instrument supporting the integrated development of rural areas for the period 2021-2027.

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## **FROM MARGINALISED AREAS TO PLACES OF OPPORTUNITIES. SYNERGIES BETWEEN EU AND NATIONAL POLICIES**

### **Keywords:**

marginalised areas, place-based approach, EU cohesion policy

The objective of this paper is to investigate public action targeting different typologies of marginalised territories in three EU Member States. The policy interventions explored in this research draw on a place-based approach (Barca, McCann & Rodríguez-Pose, 2012) and are implemented in a multi-governance setting (Sabel & Zeitlin 2008), with the contribution of EU Cohesion policy to national policy schemes. In Italy, the focus is on marginalised inner areas that are targeted by the National Strategy for Inner Areas. In France, the analysis deals with distressed urban neighbourhoods, characterised by multiple forms of deprivation (Benbassa and Attias, 2017), which are targeted by the City Policy. Finally, in Portugal, the focus is placed on the so-called 'Interior' areas of the country, which are addressed by the National Programme for the Enhancement of the Interior. Evidence is mainly derived from official documents, reports and academic papers, combined with consultations with policy makers. Data on EU Cohesion Policy-funded territorial instruments are derived from the STRAT-Board database. This paper presents preliminary results and discusses the main challenges, highlighting commonalities as well as differences between these policy experiences. It aims at improving our understanding of how EU and national policies are integrated and implemented on the ground, while shedding light on the conditions that can help them to be successful. Insights from these interventions are expected to stimulate reflection and debate on the future of place-based policies to support the anti-fragility of territories and on the role of the EU.

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### **NEW PERSPECTIVE ON TERRITORIAL DISPARITIES: FROM LONELY PLACES TO PLACES OF OPPORTUNITIES**

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#### **Keywords:**

territorial disparities, lonely places, European policies

Persisting territorial disparities across and within the EU represent, together with socioeconomic inequalities, a potential threat to the future of the European project. These inequalities are related to several spatial phenomena such as depopulation, limited access to services, lack of connection to the physical or digital network, and have been further exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, it is crucial to understand existing challenges and opportunities across European locations against territorial, social, environmental, demographic and economic disparities to produce evidence for improving policies coherently with the principles of leaving no place and no one behind. This work introduces the exploratory concept of lonely places, which is spatially embedded and identifies a plurality of places that present a vulnerability in terms of insufficient local endowment, accessibility, connectivity. Although the term 'lonely' is mainly referred to people, this study presents a unique spatial, multi-scalar and interdisciplinary approach to places. It aims at creating knowledge going beyond traditional operational classes of policy programmes (e.g., national or regional), the urban/rural dichotomy, or administrative boundaries. This work retains certain linkages with terminology already associated with specific aspects of territorial disparities, e.g., "lagging behind-ness", "places of discontent", "spatial justice". However, the lonely places concept has a broader scope and directly targets European policies able to support local development and territorial cohesion. The identification and assessment of lonely places are based on a quantitative analysis applying several methodologies to both traditional and experimental high-resolution data, with European coverage and targeting several dimensions (e.g., physical infrastructure, access to schools, democratic participation, migrants' integration, etc.). Findings enhance and support evidence-based policy actions to favour cohesion among territories and avoid the possibility that places might act as an obstacle to individuals to achieving their full potential. Results presented in this report can also inform other specific EU policies and frameworks, as well as policies at national, regional, and local levels.

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## **A NEW NEIGHBORHOOD-BASED APPROACH? MICRO-SCALE PERIPHERIES AND THE PON METRO IN VENICE**

### **Keywords:**

new peripheries, PON metro, Venice

The paper is part of the special session proposed The European Union in the face of changing territorial fragilities proposed with Carlotta Fioretti and Patrizia Sulis. It focuses on how EU territorial instruments are implemented to target marginalised places within urban areas. In particular, it discusses a new neighbourhood-based approach to urban fragilities. This contribution will reflect on the intertwining among debates on the inclusion of migrants at the local level and new forms of intervention at the micro-scale for “peripheral areas” in Italy. These issues will be unpacked through a focus on EU-supported sustainable urban development strategies (2015-2020) for the Metropolitan area of Venice.

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## THE ROLE OF EU COOPERATION PROJECTS IN THE FACE OF MARGINALISATION: THE CASE OF ALPIMED

### Keywords:

local development, marginal territories, place-based approach

The aim of this contribution would be to reflect on the interaction between European cohesion and regional development policies and national or local policies for marginalised areas through analysing actor networks and types of projects developed on a cross-border alpine project: AlpiMed – Alps of Mediterranean. This approach is part of a wider discussion on seeking better policies for marginal places. Different claims underline the need to promote policies advocating to face the abandonment of marginal areas (Carrosio, 2019; De Rossi, 2018; Rodríguez-Pose, 2018). In this context, EU cohesion policy has not been successful in addressing intraregional differences. (Cotella & Brovarone, 2021). At the same time, EU cohesion policy reform has now focused on the so-called ‘place-based approach’ (Barca, 2009), allowing Member States to plan initiatives for the least-favoured territories, as was done by Italian “National Strategy for Inner Areas” (SNAI). In the meantime, it has hardly been discussed how cohesion policy, and more specifically the place-based approach, could be integrated into European projects involving rural and marginal areas. The proposed case study is the AlpiMed project, an Alpine cross-border project between France and Italy, within the framework of Interreg-ALCOTRA (Alpes Latines COopération TRAnsfrontalière). AlpiMed’s strategies are aimed at enhancing the quality of life of mountainous populations. Despite the geographical proximity, the differences between mountain territories in Italy and France are remarkable. The same applies to the backgrounds and competences of the managing institutions and partners in charge of implementing the projects. The paper will illustrate how a European cooperation project could be able to accompany ongoing national and local initiatives to set up integrated territorial projects in marginalised areas, in line with the objectives of European cohesion policy. Finally, the paper seeks to contribute to the debate on how to address marginalization in Europe from a little analysed perspective: territorial integrated cooperation projects.

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## **SMART VILLAGES IN MARGINALISED RURAL AREAS: ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR RURAL REVITALISATION AREAS**

### **Keywords:**

smart villages, LEADER-CLLD, rural revitalisation

Discontent of their communities. The fragility of many rural territories is reflected in serious depopulation trends, increased vulnerability to external shocks and poor access to basic services (Chartier, O., et al., 2021). With the publication of Long Term Vision for Rural Areas, the European Commission points out the policy direction needed to revert those negative tendencies in many rural areas of Europe (European Commission, 2021). In particular, the vision calls for greater attention, participation and cooperation among all policies relevant for rural citizens, namely in areas such as mobility, housing, digitalisation, energy, care, health, etc. Many of challenges and opportunities in all these areas are complex in nature, and require of the implementation of innovative action by rural communities. In this context, the concept of smart villages emerged to boost the revitalisation of rural areas through community-led innovation (European Commission, 2020). However, smart villages does not come accompanied by a specific policy instrument for its implementation and it will rather rely on the support from the current set of EU policy instruments. In this respect, LEADER-CLLD is being considered a key instrument for driving smart villages in Europe as they share common features and principles (Visvizi et al., 2019). The paper will examine the novel concept of smart villages and its role in boosting the revitalisation of rural areas, in particular of those suffering from depopulation and economic decline that can be considered as fragile territories. This analysis will consider the key enabling factors for rural revitalisation at local level which are outlined in a recent work conducted by the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) (ENRD, 2021). Finally, it will build recommendations for improving existing territorial development policies such as LEADER-CLLD to better support the development of fragile rural territories.

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## **POLITICAL PERIPHERALIZATION IN JURISDICTIONALLY FRAGMENTED METROPOLITAN AREAS**

### **Keywords:**

centre-periphery relations, metropolitan areas, Romania

This paper approaches the inner workings of metropolitan cooperation arrangements from a centre-periphery structure. Within the informal space of metropolitan governance a centre-periphery structure of relationships naturally exists. This happens even if formal rules treat equally the city and the other municipalities involved and the decision to set up a formal governance structure of the metropolitan area is left entirely to the involved municipalities. These informal relationships between involved actors influence the formal governance structures of metropolitan areas created from the bottom-up (Hamilton, Miller and Paytas, 2004; Skelcher, 2005), in what can be labelled political peripheralization - the exclusion/inclusion from political power and decision-making in governance networks (Herschel, 2009). The paper explores this process of peripheralization in the context provided by Romania's jurisdictionally fragmented metropolitan areas. It highlights how this process of peripheralization undermines the functioning of metropolitan cooperation arrangements, as well as the way in which the creation of formal metropolitan cooperation arrangements has shaped informal centre-periphery relationships.

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# Mobilities, accessibility and proximity

## TRACK CHAIRS

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**Giovanni Lanza**

*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

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Mobility is an essential condition to participate in social life since by moving, we can access the places where valued opportunities are available. Providing access to such opportunities may support social inclusion since it increases the possibilities for individuals to realize their projects and personal aspirations. Therefore, reduced accessibility to opportunities, services, and social networks may produce territorial and social fragilization processes that assume different dimensions and characteristics according to socio-spatial conditions.

Nevertheless, the socially justified goal of providing comprehensive accessibility should not always imply more and faster mobility and the use of transport systems. Granting inclusive accessibility with more local resources and facilities within walking distance, less need for long-distance motorized mobility, and caring for different accessibility needs is emerging in several urban agendas associated with the transition to sustainable and fair urban mobility and supported by the Covid 19 constraints.

The track questions the effectiveness of this emerging model in dealing with different forms of inequalities in the access to essential services and opportunities; in facing different socio-territorial conditions and mobility practices; and finally, in coping with the marginalization of some urban, periurban, rural territories that suffer from low accessibility level to the main activities of the economic, political, and social life of a community, up to the configuration of social exclusion. The track aims at investigating these issues, thanks to case studies and theoretical contributions from the broad field of planning, mobilities studies, geography, and sociology.

Thanks to the different contributions the track will explore: whether theoretical reflections about mobility, accessibility and proximity may help to address policy measures devoted to reducing inequalities in the access to urban opportunities; what are the different factors that contribute to define essential services and opportunities; if ensuring accessibility by proximity is more desirable than increasing accessibility as an unquestionable good and what are the conditions that allow to increase accessibility by proximity in different territorial context (urban areas, peri-urban territories, low density areas); in which way digital devices and technology may support fair, inclusive and sustainable mobilities; what are the strategies that enable upscaling sustainable niche innovations in transport and mobility policy, and what the barriers; and finally if Covid-19 outbreak impacted on the emergence of new needs and mobility practices, and if those practices should they be supported, and managed.

### SESSION 1

#### Increasing accessibility: evaluation criteria, planning tools, infrastructure design

Chair: **Giovanni Lanza**  
*DASU - Politecnico di Milano*

**THURSDAY 16/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**  
**ROOM 16 C01**

**Patricia Feiertag, Isabelle Wachter**  
The scope of local transport planning and determinants of its success

**Fulvio Adobati, Mario Paris**  
A rapid transit bus as a driver for the territorial regeneration and integrated welfare

**Mario Cerasoli, Chiara Ravagnan, Chiara Amato**  
The theoretical grid: an antifragile strategy for mobility in post-covid era

**Jaime Sierra-Munoz**  
Building accessible resilience in an automobile dependent world

**Lina Zhang**  
The evaluation criteria of accessibility methods: an application of empirical rules

### BOOK PRESENTATION

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 14.00 - 16.00**  
**ROOM 16 C01**

«Post-Car World. Futurs de la ville-territoire» (2021). Cogato Lanza E., Bahrami F., Berger S., Pattaroni L., (editors). Geneve: Metisse Press, with the authors, discussants: Federico Parolotto (Senior Partner, MIC Mobility In Chain) and Luca Velo

### SESSION 2

#### Walkability and proximity. The 15MC

Chair: **Paola Pucci**  
*DASU - Politecnico di Milano*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 9.00 - 11.00**  
**ROOM 16 C01**

**Peter Parker, Martin Grander, Anders Larsson**  
Pedestrian perspectives and inclusion

**Matteo Colleoni, Simone Caiello, Luca Daconto**  
Proximity and accessibility in the Milan metropolitan area

**Luca Staricco**  
15-minute city vs. 15-minute neighbourhoods. A focus on accessibility to services in Turin, Italy

**Elif Sezer**  
15 minute city concept and Palermo case study

**Christian Gerten**  
Mobility for all? An analytical approach to identify spatial inequalities

### SESSION 4

#### Accessibility in rural/low dense territories

Chair: **Bruna Vendemmia**  
*DASU - Politecnico di Milano*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 16.20 - 18.00**  
**ROOM 16 C01**

**Elisabetta Vitale Brovarone, Giancarlo Cotella, Luca Staricco**  
Mobilities and accessibility in marginalised areas: challenges and perspectives

**Julio A. Del Pino, Luis Camarero, Jesús Oliva**  
Mobility and accessibility to daily services in Spain

**Francesca Lacqua**  
New challenges for intermediate areas

**Maya El Khawand**  
The role of transit oriented development (TOD) in developing local accessibility in rural urban region. Methodological considerations applied to the periphery of Ile de France

**Patricia Lejoux**  
Co-workers' lifestyle: a new way to accommodate mobilities, accessibility and proximity?

### SESSION 3

#### Pre-organised Panel: Active mobility

Chair: **Farzaneh Bahrami**  
*University of Groningen*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**  
**ROOM 16 C01**

**Paolo Bozzuto, Emma Missale**  
Cycle logistics is an antifragile factor. A tale of two cities: Copenhagen and Milan

**Luca Velo**  
Different intensities active mobilities. Finding for a new culture

**Anders Larsson**  
Landscape as vehicle for streetscape interventions

**Jean-Philippe De Visscher, Gabrielle Fenton, Michel Hubert**  
Exploring morphology of inclusion in urbanity along the Steenweg in Brussels, Belgium

### SESSION 5

#### Walkability and proximity. Case studies analysis

Chair: **Susanne Søholt**  
*Oslo Metropolitan University*

**SATURDAY 18/6 \_ 14.00 - 16.00**  
**ROOM F1**

**Carolyn Ahmer**  
Walkability in cities universal design - the missing link?

**Lucia Capanema-Alvares**  
Mobility, accessibility and porosity: how the city includes/excludes its marginalised groups

**Karin Grundström**  
Stråk: planning for walkable and just access to public space

**Marichela Sepe**  
Planning strategies for sustainable connections: a contemporary case study

**Enyu Chang**  
Active travel and wellbeing in China: a comparative analysis of different generations

**Hande Akar, Arzu Çahantimur, Rengin Beceren Öztürk, Ayşe Barutçu**  
Re-questioning the spatial quality of open public spaces; Bursa-Turkey as a case

SESSION 1

**Increasing accessibility:  
evaluation criteria, planning  
tools, infrastructure design**

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## THE SCOPE OF LOCAL TRANSPORT PLANNING AND DETERMINANTS OF IT SUCCESS

### Keywords:

municipal transport policy, transport demand, transport supply

For several decades, cities set goals guided by the strategies of avoiding, shifting and improving traffic. Despite this political will, traffic continues to grow in most cities, whereby the car remains the dominant transport mode. This raises the question about the scope of local transport planning. What can it achieve? What are its determinants of success and what are potential obstacles? To address these issues, we analyze the transport policy and planning in seven German cities, including cities that are regarded as pioneers of sustainable transport planning. To gain a comprehensive insight, the study combines approaches from the fields of transport research and political science. These include analysis of travel demand data (e.g., travel surveys, motor vehicle counts, accident and commuter data), transport supply data (e.g., comparisons of travel times, parking fees, supply of public transportation), and document analysis of strategic transportation plans. Furthermore, we conducted interviews with 31 experts and evaluated the council decisions on transport policy in the period 2014 - 2021. The results indicate substantial differences between the travel behavior of the different resident populations with respect to shorter trips. Differences in transport policy and planning can partially explain these differences. For example, cities with lower car use and higher use of environmentally friendly modes have been pursuing coherent sustainable transport planning for years. These cities have also used push measures more frequently to discourage car use. However, factors outside the purview of urban transport planning also explain differences in transport demand. Among them are differences in population structure, topography, or the size of a city. Moreover, it is often the public or an external event such as law suits against municipal clean air plans that provides the impetus for more sustainable transport policy, rather than the administration or policymakers themselves. The results also highlight the limitations of local policy. As the trip length increases, the differences in travel behavior between the various urban populations converge, indicating the importance of regional cooperation.

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## **A RAPID TRANSIT BUS AS A DRIVER FOR THE TERRITORIAL REGENERATION AND INTEGRATED WELFARE**

### **Keywords:**

proximity, rapid transit bus, Bergamo-Dalmine conurbation

The 15-minutes city is an adaptable paradigm proposed to exceed the pandemic crisis, but it imposes a transition to sustainable and fair urban mobility to enhance the connection between services and inhabitants. The reinforced links –often based on public transport or slow mobility systems –could subvert the consolidated hierarchical relationships in the city producing new proximities, especially, for the most fragile areas of current metropolitan systems. This transition needs innovative approaches in the field of urban planning, which exceed the sectoral ones, exclusively based on the mobility management or services provision. The transformations bring to a multilevel and inclusive governance, which involve different actors and stakeholders that could contribute to the improvement of the quality of built environments and contemporary habitats. The paper aims to explore the sustainable and fair urban mobility as a driver for territorial regeneration. We will critically analyse and discuss the project of a new Rapid Transit Bus that links the city centre of Bergamo to the innovative district of Dalmine financed by the NEXT-EU Funds, starting from a double point of view as consultant of the public administrations/institutions involved in the project and as inhabitants/users of the area. The axis forms a rich, dynamic but fragmented transect along the SP525. We consider it as a testing ground for potential innovative forms of living, moving, and working the metropolitan space of Bergamo. It is one of the arterial backbones of the metropolitan area, marked by the presence of public players and it is an innovative industrial hub, but poor in terms of quality and provision of public/green spaces. A new, effective accessibility based on public transport could impact on the social, safety and environmental profile of the area, producing opportunities to re-think its urban dimension, enhancing the interaction between public services and private facilities and boosting the transformation of private spaces. Throughout this process, a scattered corridor could become a productive and inhabited ecosystem, a territorial boulevard. In the conclusions, the direct observation of this process and its critical analysis will produce a set of lessons learned for the public actors and the institutions.

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## THE THEORETICAL GRIDAN ANTIFRAGILE STRATEGY FOR MOBILITY IN POST-COVID ERA

### Keywords:

urban mobility, post pandemic, anti-fragile urban regeneration

Mobility represents a central issue for sustainable urban planning and regeneration processes in large cities, concerning the impact on environmental quality, equity, social inclusion (Amato, 2021). However, the pandemic has strongly affected mobility trends, influenced by international and national social distancing measures and new “safe” lifestyles. Thus, many cities have been adopting mobility emergency strategies for urban resilience (Cerasoli, Ravagnan, 2020; Ravagnan, Cerasoli, Amato, 2022). In this context, as a result of a research developed in the framework of a collaboration between Roma Tre University and the Sapienza University of Rome, the paper proposes an “antifragile” (Blecic, Cecchini, 2016) strategy for “post-covid mobility”, adaptable to the European metropolitan contexts, based on an integrated approach to urban planning and mobility. The research methodology is articulated in three phases: the analysis of the main scientific references related to urban resilience and antifragility concerning the relations between urban form, ways of living and mobility models in pre and post-pandemic scenarios, the study of the main ongoing practices in European cities and the proposal for an antifragile strategy for the reorganization of urban mobility based on the theoretical grid (Cerasoli, Pandolfi, 2019). The theoretical grid is an urban grammar that proposes a model of reorganization for the city based on elementary urban units and defines an integrated strategy for the reorganization of mobility, the reconfiguration of local flows, and the regeneration of public space. This grammar is declined in specific ways, through the definition of Guidelines for anti-fragile urban regeneration strategy based on mobility, according to the different urban fabrics, within an articulation in four “cities”, the historical city, the consolidated city, the modernist city, the peripheral urban fringes.

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## **BUILDING ACCESSIBLE RESILIENCE IN AN AUTOMOBILE DEPENDENT WORLD**

### **Keywords:**

accessibility by proximity, car dependency, resilience

Along most of the 20 Century and recent years, the transportation focus has been mainly devoted to increase speed of displacements and pursue traffic fluidity. As a consequence, urban expansions in an automobile dependent scheme became a regular basis in most territories around the world. The negative outcomes of this scheme encompass pollution, congestion, road accidents as well as economic and physical impacts of dedicated infrastructure. Nonetheless, the car-dependent situation is related to transport disadvantage and social exclusion issues as well. Indeed, transportation is an issue on fragility for certain social groups and territories, also considering the uncertain conditions due to forthcoming changes in transport. On this matter, accessibility reveals as an approach to increase proximity opportunities and nearness, devoting on human-scaled spaces and communities strengthening. These qualities enhance a diverse urban environment, overcoming monofunctional models, both in land use and transportation. Behind reducing car use goal also lays research for new solutions for trips, where living labs offer user-centered testbeds for new schemes. Based on literature review, this paper aims at proposing an approach on resilience territories based on accessibility and innovative mobility solutions. This approach pursues at linking these ideas and strategies under the concept of “accessible resilience”, understood as a user centered view on transportation which foster adaptability to different urban contexts in a comprehensive way. The development of the accessible resilience concept would contribute to achieve more prepared territories on transportation, diversifying the available solutions while reducing car ownership and its overstated reliance.

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## THE EVALUATION CRITERIA OF ACCESSIBILITY METHODS: AN APPLICATION OF EMPIRICAL RULES

### Keywords:

accessibility, spatial equity, floating catchment area (FCA) methods

Methodologies are of great importance in accessibility measurements (Bunel & Tovar, 2013). Various elements in the methodology, including spatial unit (Apparicio et al., 2008), distance decay function (Delamater et al., 2019), model type (Bunel & Tovar, 2013), service capacity (Neutens, 2015), transport mode (Mao & Nekorchuk, 2013), and catchment area (Pan et al., 2018), can generate divergent results of accessibility distribution. These different accessibility results lead to an evaluation dilemma for accessibility methods. On one hand, there is a gap between accessibility methods and reality. The rational method may still produce counterintuitive results (McGrail & Humphreys, 2009). This gap forces the evaluation of FCA methods cannot only rely on methodological logistics but must take empirical experiences into account. On the other hand, the real/precise distribution of accessibility, along with spatial equity, remains unexplored (Guagliardo et al., 2004). Therefore, the evaluation criteria for accessibility methods can neither be based on empirical experience nor methodological logic. If the criteria are empirically based, then accessibility results, which aim to validate those known conclusions, may lack new findings and the necessity to apply the accessibility measurements. If the criteria are based on methodological logic, then it is difficult to identify possible methodological fallacies, and accessibility results may have low reliability compared to experiences. This study tries to solve this evaluation dilemma by applying empirical rules. As Lefebvre (1992) wrote that social space is a social product, there is a hidden mechanism influenced by social institutions and contexts that organize the spatial distribution. This hidden mechanism generates context-specific empirical rules, which could be one possible approach to evaluate the fitness of accessibility models. The empirical rules can help optimizing the accessibility models and identifying spatial inequalities in the access to urban opportunities.

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SESSION 2  
**Walkability and proximity.  
The 15MC**

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## PEDESTRIAN PERSPECTIVES AND INCLUSION

### Keywords:

pedestrian spaces, counter mapping, inclusion

There is a considerable literature, spanning many decades that exhorts planners to consider the central role of pedestrians in urban life. Recent instantiations of this point include planning notions of proximity and walkability (Moreno et al 2021, Talen and Kochinsky 2013). While there is much laudable in these approaches, the question of who is being connected in walkable spaces is often downplayed. Moreover, there seems to be a disjunction between general ideas about pedestrian cities and planning practices, that is, how different concepts and measures actually enter into urban planning. In this paper we explore the development of pedestrian spaces and how city planners perceive their role in this development. Specifically, the paper presents our work on mapping of pedestrian spaces in three adjacent but quite different municipalities in Southern Sweden. We map the distribution of pedestrian spaces in the municipalities and plot their distribution in relation to socio-economic divides. We also show how pedestrian spaces are connected or disconnected and to some extent, therefore, who is being connected with what. Although the maps do not show who actually uses pedestrian spaces and for what purposes, we argue they do provide a foundation for raising questions about developing a pedestrian city in relation to aspects of spatial justice and pedestrian mobility (Young 2001, Sheller 2018). In particular, the maps provide grounds for questions on what kind of areas and connections are focal in planning and which tend to slip from view. The maps are, however, not an end in themselves but rather provide grounds for exploration with city planners on what kinds of spatial developments they see as important and what they perceive they can affect. The paper contributes to setting issues of proximity and pedestrian cities in a broader perspective of socioeconomic inequality and by exploring conditions for developing pedestrian connectivity in different areas. The paper also makes a methodological contribution in using counter-mapping (Dalton and Stallman 2018) as a basis for making pedestrian perspectives salient.

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## **PROXIMITY AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESSIBILITY IN THE MILAN METROPOLITAN AREA**

### **Keywords:**

accessibility, fragility, metropolitan area

**Proximity and pedestrian accessibility in the Milan Metropolitan Area: the challenges of socio-territorial cohesion.** The risk of growth of territorial socio-economic inequalities has increased not only between the poles of the traditional city-countryside and centreperiphery, but also within the metropolitan regions. Accessibility, defined as people's ability to reach and engage in key opportunities and activities (Farrington and Farrington 2005), is a social indicator (Geurs and van Wee 2004; Martens 2016), useful to measure the inclusiveness degree of territories. A recent trend is to consider accessibility to opportunities not only through the motorized transport means. Given the relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals in the political agendas and the impact of the COVID19 pandemic, the need of granting inclusive accessibility with more local resources and facilities at walking distance emerged, as the diffusion of the 15-minute city model debate demonstrates (Moreno et al., 2021). The city of Milan itself, in the "Milan 2020" adaptation strategy, referred to the 15-minute threshold to reshape its neighbourhoods, conceived as a response to the current emergency but also as a view to promote the sustainability and resilience of the city, capable of anticipating (Adey, 2016) any similar future emergency. The paper presents the main results of a GISbased analysis of pedestrian accessibility to several points of interest (POI) in the metropolitan area of Milan, carried out as a part of the Project of Excellence of the Institute for Advanced Study of Social Change (IASSC) by the working group "Socio-territorial local cohesion and development". The analysis made it possible to highlight the different degrees of pedestrian accessibility characterizing the areas composing the Metropolitan Area of Milan, according to the variety of its territorial structure (core, suburban, peri-urban sub-areas), providing an approach adaptable to different populations of interest according to the set of opportunities considered in the accessibility computation. The analysis will help in finding zones of territorial fragility and social vulnerability inside the Metropolitan Area, supporting the design of differentiated strategies and policies for facing these challenges and enhancing sustainability, inclusiveness and socio-territorial cohesion.

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## **15-MINUTE CITY VS. 15-MINUTE NEIGHBORHOODS. A FOCUS ON ACCESSIBILITY TO SERVICES IN TURIN, ITALY**

### **Keywords:**

15-minute city, accessibility by proximity, neighborhood

In recent years, the concept of the 15-minute city has gathered great momentum and has been embraced in a growing number of scholars and city mayors' agendas. Launched in the 2010s, this model has gained further traction during the Covid-19 pandemic, when the introduction of stringent health protocols, social distancing, lockdowns and movement restriction revealed the vulnerability of many urban environments. Two main approaches are emerging in promoting this model: the whole city and the neighborhoods. The first case is generally prevailing in European dense cities, where accessibility by proximity is often (not always) assessed and pursued at the whole comprehensive urban scale; the second approach is dominant in North-American and Australian low-density cities, where neighborhoods are proposed to be planned so to be self-sufficient in terms of provision of (and accessibility by proximity to) main basic services. The paper compares the two approaches through the case study of the city of Turin, Italy. An index of accessibility by foot within 5, 10 and 15 minutes to 20 main kind of services is applied to both the whole area of the city (using census tracts for spatial disaggregation), and to each neighborhood of the city (identified according to a range of delimitation criteria). The comparison of the results allows to reflect on the pros & cons of the two approaches. Conclusion seem to actually advocate the urban scale approach in the case of densest cities such as Turin, even if the neighborhood scale offer advantages for participation processes and enhancing local identities.

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## 15 MINUTE CITY CONCEPT AND PALERMO CASE STUDY

### Keywords:

15 Min City, Palermo, mobility

Sustainable urban mobility models and decarbonization in transportation have been discussed globally for decades. Yet the problem is not just decarbonization and the solution is not limited to green technology alone. Particularly, Covid-19 brought to light other important and ingrained problems of cities such as inequality of accessibility, the marginalization of some urban, peri-urban, rural territories and the emergence of social exclusion. In order to find a way out from these problems, practical, easily accessible, comfortable, and cheap alternatives should be provided to citizens and the use of private vehicles should be minimized. However, no matter how many alternative transportation modes and models are offered, it is very difficult to achieve the desired results if the daily travel need of people is not reduced. As the case study city of this paper, the mobility plans and the actions taken in the last decades in Palermo is examined. Like many other Southern European cities, Palermo suffers from a lack of an efficient public transport system. Even if there are steps taken to increase connectivity and accessibility among the peripheral neighborhoods and the city center, still commuters should make long trips for their daily basic needs and Palermo has one of the highest congestion problems in Europe which makes it harder. In the light of these facts, this paper analyzes one of the newest and increasingly popular concepts “15 Minute City” and tries to answer the questions such as: **(a) what are the steps to take in Palermo to increase proximity and to decrease inequality in accessibility; (b) which parts of the city need to be the priority of action for ensuring accessibility by proximity in different territorial conditions and (c) how the 15 Minute City concept can be localized and applicable for Palermo.** The main idea of the paper is to find answers to these questions which **could be transferable to the city’s mobility plan and also open a path for other implications.** To do that, a desk study and site investigation will be made on the Palermo case study concerning the dimensions of the 15 Min City concept.

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## **MOBILITY FOR ALL? AN ANALYTICAL APPROACH TO IDENTIFY SPATIAL INEQUALITIES**

### **Keywords:**

sustainable mobility, walkability, GIS

Urban mobility structure is essential for a sustainable development and a foundation for the inhabitants to participate in work and social life. The ubiquitous dominance of private motorized mobility and the path dependencies in transport planning are determined as main driver for negative urban developments in terms of urban sprawl and functionally segregated neighbourhoods. New concepts, such as the idea of the 15-minute city or neighbourhood, are intended to promote walkability and to drive sustainable and inclusive urban development. But there are also critical voices here that see this concept as reinforcing the isolation and segregation of neighbourhoods. Therefore, monitoring urban areas in terms of their spatial mobility structure is of great importance to ensure a sustainable, inclusive urban development. The focus is on the question of how spatial and social inequalities in the distribution of mobility options in urban areas can be measured? This contribution is intended to provide a first methodological approach to assess an overall access to different mobility options and to measure the degree of inequality for different case studies. The basis for this analysis is a tool, which classifies neighbourhoods based on their dominant mobility type in walking, transit or car-dependent areas. Land use data and points of interest from OSM as well as transit feed data (GTFS) are used to measure access to key infrastructure and high-quality public transport. The results of this analysis are combined with socio-economic data to examine the extent to which there is unequal mobility access. Such a monitoring approach provides a fundament for identifying negative effects and risks of exclusion at an early stage.

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Preorganised Panel

## SESSION 3

# Active mobility for cities and territories: towards new perspectives

### Keywords:

mobility , practices, inclusion

Between the beginning of 2020 and the first months of 2022, the tragic pandemic of Covid-19 temporarily changed the forms of mobility and the modal choices of citizens and travelers. At the same time as the legitimate concerns of individuals, the physical distancing measures adopted by many Governments have put all forms of collective transport in crisis and, in particular, local public transport. But paradoxically, the pandemic has played a driving and accelerating role in constructing public policies and projects for active mobility (pedestrian and cycling mobility) - often through immediate and significant physical modifications - in many European cities. In particular, those cities traditionally not friendly for cyclists and pedestrians gave evidence of how active mobility solutions are the relevant field (both conceptual and concrete) for promoting accessibility by integrating transport, health, quality of life, and environmental goals into urban and spatial planning policies. Today, it is necessary and valuable to reconstruct a precise 'state of the art' of active mobility in the European cities questioning the possible future perspectives. It is essential to reflect on the collective capacity to make the opportunities arising from an emergency framework evolve into coherent planning and design actions, considering the substantial potential to assist planners and stakeholders in decision-making processes. Within this background framework, a plurality of topics are relevant: - What best practices can we find in European cities, both from the point of view of spaces and infrastructures designed for active mobility and from the point of view of services and public policies to support users? - How to make active mobility more inclusive for a plurality of people with different physical characteristics and abilities (for age, gender, skills, health conditions, cultural background, etc.) in the frame of a transitional process, including the different practices and uses of the diverse types of pedal vehicles (traditional bicycles, folding bikes, cargo bikes, trikes, etc.)? - How to change and improve the standards and design criteria for infrastructure and cycling spaces? - How to act on rhetoric and social communication to construct a new and different collective imagination of mobility to promote and increase awareness about active mobility? - How to develop interactive instruments (e.g., GOAT Geo Open Accessibility Tool) as an open-source and easy-to-use web interface for active mobility? - How to develop processes and design solutions regarding the high potential for active mobility in suburban metropolitan areas (still developed according to car-oriented models), starting from the secondary or tertiary road networks?

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## **CYCLE LOGISTICS IS AN ANTIFRAGILE FACTOR. A TALE OF TWO CITIES: COPENHAGEN AND MILAN**

### **Keywords:**

bike couriers, cycle logistics, mobility

The diffusion of cycle logistics services, with the support of bike couriers delivering goods using standard bicycles, cargo bikes, or other pedal vehicles, is a fundamental strategic perspective for the future sustainability of our cities. Along with the different forms of active mobility, Courier companies aim to reduce the amount and impact of negative externalities generated by motorized traffic within urban and metropolitan areas: roads and public space congestion, air pollution, health problems, fatalities, etc.

The Covid-19 pandemic dramatically exposed the fragility of living in contemporary cities but proved specific flexions and outcomes for cycle logistics services. The authors argue that these services represent a solid 'antifragile' factor for our cities in addition to being sustainable and efficient.

The proposed paper provides a unique insider analysis of the evolution of the activities of two European cycle logistics companies: By-Expressen (Copenhagen, Denmark) and UBM (Milan, Italy). While recognizing the differences between the two cities' contexts (especially in terms of cycling culture, cycling infrastructures, and everyday cycling modal share), the study points out common, specific facts and dynamics in the growing process of the two.

The paper highlights and argues the substantial and shared 'antifragile' character of cycle logistics companies by comparing data analysis from the operational databases of the two case studies and the road experiences witnessed by the bike couriers, pointing out the ability of this kind of delivery service to positively deal with an unknown and unexpected event such as the pandemic, and their ability to improve and strengthen themselves in a context of risk and significant uncertainty.

Finally, the paper consolidates the potentially positive role of cycle logistics companies and bike couriers as stakeholders in cycling mobility urban planning and design processes.

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## **DIFFERENT INTENSITIES ACTIVE MOBILITIES. FINDING FOR A NEW CULTURE.**

### **Keywords:**

active mobility, practices, low density territories

The effects related to the progressive post-pandemic phase and the increasing energy costs related to the recent Russian-Ukrainian conflict affirm on the issues related to different forms of mobility, a process rather polarized especially if read within peri-urban or low population density areas. The northeastern Italy could be a good example, for its specific urban structure and because of its comparability with other contexts, both Italian and European.

On the one hand, in terms of social practices, motorized mobility underwent an inevitable increase due to a return to the use of the private car. In this regard, in 2021 the European Automotive Consumer Research has published significant data. They constitute can be read as a fragility on the European level. Today, more than 80% of Italians prefer to have their own car instead of using car-sharing services. This is the more general European trend that constitutes a serious risk for policies on public transport and sustainable mobility.

On the other hand, a substantial increase in the various forms of active mobility continues within these territories. This does not mean only cycling and walking. Crossing these territories the different forms of mobility that invest the movement of the body within the physical space are clear: they are individual or collective, pervasive and intergenerational, sometimes including extra activities: e.g. horses riding or rowing on the rivers. All these practices state needs and critical issues on the dedicated infrastructure support network. In this context, it is evident how specialized supports for active mobility, provided by local, regional and national planning tools, often struggle to find points of contact able of being expressed in micro-scale projects, for connection and integration. It is in this specific set of fragility and criticality that the paper would aim at one side to document, sampling specific case studies, and on the other, to re-discuss the policies and projects of specific suburban territorial contexts that today concern active mobility of “different intensities” that today must be recognized according to a cultural approach of competence, completion and connection involving new strategies and territorial reconfiguration to strengthen the links with public transport and new project strategies at different scales.

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## LANDSCAPE AS VEHICLE FOR STREETSCAPE INTERVENTIONS

### Keywords:

urban planning, streetscapes, mobility transitions

Cities look very different in different parts of the world. Common to many cities or city districts that have expanded after the breakthrough of the car is, however, that they have often been built primarily for motorized traffic. Sweden belongs to these countries and is one of the most sparsely populated countries in the world with a very high amount of artificial land and road surface area per capita. But thereby there is also a lot of traffic space available where pedestrian and bicycle lanes could be added without even having to impede the accessibility of motorized traffic according to national standards. In combination with green infrastructure, such adaptations of streetscapes could also provide added value in the form of much wanted ecosystem services (e.g., Laforteza et al., 2018). The problem of democratizing streetscapes and sustainable mobility transitions in Sweden is thus not the space in itself, but relates more to the planning system and its ability to implement sustainable mobility solutions (Banister, 2008; Koglin, 2015). In this study, a relatively busy street in Malmö, southernmost Sweden, has been studied from the possibilities of supplementing the streetscapes with green infrastructure and pedestrian and bicycle lanes. Based on images of alternative solutions, a dialogue with planners has been conducted to investigate how they view problems and possibilities concerning such redesign of streetscapes. This often turns out to have much to do with general obstacles regarding instruments of control, such as legislative, economic and informative/communicative aspects. This presentation deals with some results from this study and a discussion on how urban 'landscapes' could constitute vehicles for planning instead of just objects for planning, e.g., by starting from the biological, social and cultural values of the place and its context in the city instead of designing the urban landscapes based primarily on the economic prerequisites of today (Sheller, 2017; Radywyl & Biggs, 2013).

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## EXPLORING MORPHOLOGIES OF INCLUSION IN URBANITY ALONG THE STEENWEG IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

### Keywords:

social inclusion, pedestrian mobility, urban morphology

The Steenweg, an historical axis crossing through Brussels Metropolitan Centre, has been earmarked to play a key role in the implementation of the region's pedestrian mobility plan. Moreover, recent research [De Visscher et al., 2020] suggests that this axis also presents high stakes in terms of social inclusion for Brussels. Indeed, the Steenweg crosses and connects neighborhood with important cultural and social differences. It has a strong potential to contribute to "inclusion in urbanity" at the scale of the city by providing access to the social and material fabric of the city to diverse –and at times segregated against –groups. Furthermore, it is also a morphologically diverse axis counting numerous spaces in-between, below, above and in continuity of its streets and squares such as galleries, arcades, patios, undergrounds, stations, public buildings and other leftover public spaces. This set of publicly accessible interior spaces has a strong potential to contribute to "inclusion in urbanity" by supporting anchorage and communication between different groups. In anticipation of future refurbishments, this presentation delves deeper into this latter proposition, opening lines of thought regarding the potential for "inclusion in urbanity" along the Steenweg. Working from sociologist Jean Remy's suggestion for communication in distance [Remy, 2020 [1990]] and using a socio-spatial approach, the presentation focuses on morphologies that participate in enabling an inclusive access to the social and spatial fabric of urbanity to diverse groups. To do so, the results of an exploratory research within one type of morphology found along the Steenweg –commercial galleries - are presented. The article then suggests possibilities for thinking further about morphologies that enable communication in distance along the axis by mapping out all publicly accessible spaces beyond the usual limits of the Steenweg's open air public spaces.

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SESSION 4  
**Accessibility in rural/  
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## **MOBILITIES AND ACCESSIBILITY IN MARGINALIZED AREAS: CHALLENGES AND PERSPECTIVES**

### **Keywords:**

accessibility, rural areas, marginalization

Accessibility to services and opportunities to people, no matter the place where they live and work, is a vital precondition of the EU objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth (EC, 2016). While there is abundant literature on how to improve accessibility in urban contexts, the same is not true for rural areas, especially when considering the concept in its broadest meaning and not only as a measure of travel time from one centre to another. This gap is problematic, if one considers that most low-density, peripheral rural settlements (which make up large parts of the European territory) suffer from accessibility and mobility problems that challenge their liveability and potential for development, and contribute to their marginalisation (Moseley, 1979; Vitale Brovarone et al., 2022). The low density of settlements, the scattered demand and the large distance from centres where services and opportunities are located are all typical features of these areas, that often struggle to invert the decline loop they have been trapped into (Küpper et al., 2018), also as a consequence of the increasingly urban-centric approach that has characterised policy-making at all levels in the last 30 years. In these contexts, the equity impacts of car dependence are particularly relevant (Oliva and Camarero, 2019), and concepts of immobility as a right (Nikolaeva et al., 2019) and stillness as social capital (Ferreira et al., 2017) take on connotations and implications that go well beyond the transport component, also in relation to localisation and localism concepts. Beyond mobility-centred approaches, a wider perspective is needed to understand and address these challenges, embracing the societal, economic and spatial components and implications of accessibility. Acknowledging this issue, the contribution reflects on the accessibility challenges in rural (peripheral, marginal, low-density, ...) areas, and aims to contribute to stimulate a debate on this issue. First, the challenges of accessibility in European rural areas will be framed; then, the potentialities and limits of a national policy in Italy aimed at addressing them will be presented; finally, a research agenda will be proposed.

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## MOBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY TO DAI

### Keywords:

rural, automobility, social inequalities

The mobility turn in social sciences is especially suitable for the research of sparsely populated areas, where mobility occupies a central place in social life. The qualitative analysis was composed of 27 in-depth interviews and three focus groups. The selected informants were key actors from depopulated environments in three regions of Spain. The questions explore the accessibility to services in daily life, the mobility strategies they carry out and their relationship with the quality of life and equality to welfare services by comparison with densely populated areas. The work tries to capture, on the one hand, the daily mobility of the population of these places, paying attention to the interplay of spatial and digital mobilities and the accessibility to services. The changes in the transport models adding with the impact of the digital transition and the absence in the adaptation of community services alter the living conditions in depopulated areas. In this scenario, social vulnerability is increasing by the ageing process and dependency. This issue is especially notorious with the immigrant populations. For these groups, access to mobility determines the capacity to take roots. On the other hand, the profound effects of mobility access are ambivalent. What may be an advantage for some actors and territories is a disadvantage for others. Some initiatives such as the digital infrastructure improvement, the concentration of services, the articulation of public transport lines and the coexistence of private demand-transport could be beneficial for some population groups, but not for others. In this way, the orientation towards innovation and efficiency in the provision of services must go hand in hand with the search for the internal cohesion of the communities and the territorial cohesion, reducing the current gap between dispersed and remote areas and the concentrated and central ones.

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## NEW CHALLENGES FOR INTERMEDIATE AREAS

### Keywords:

railway, intermediate areas, territorial marginalization

**Emerging marginalities and railway infrastructures transformations.** Present contribution focuses on the relationship between «intermediate areas» and the processes of territorial marginalization, within the framework of mobility infrastructures, specifically rail. At Eura 2022 conference, I intend to present some preliminary outcomes of the doctoral project I am conducting within the PhD course in Urban Studies at the University of Milano Bicocca. This paper aims to highlight the effects of railways transformations specifically towards «intermediate areas» (Curci, Kercuku and Lanzani, 2020), with particular focus on Northwest Italy (mainly along the axis Biella, Vercelli, Asti, Alessandria) asking rather and how we can see correlations with potential territorial marginalization dynamics in the midsize cities and in-between areas of a region, today in deep transformation after the post Fordism transition. In last decades, rail infrastructures are crossing decisive changes (i.e. privatization and regionalization of public transport, HS, new management system, cultural company transformation) (Maggi, 2017; Salento and Pesare, 2016) a deep paradigm shift whose literature still underestimates the territorial impact at different scale, at least from sociological perspective. The process of reshaping of local lines affected mostly intermediate areas, with rescaling risks. Scholars (Lanzani et al, 2020; Viesti, 2021) highlight how these areas - hard to ascribe in a clear definition and barely at the center of Urban Studies inquiry - know emergent challenges related to the risks of demographic contraction and territorial fragmentation. This issue of territorial inequalities here is addressed in systemic terms: mobility infrastructure are indeed deeply related to the material, social and environmental ones that together provide (or not) the full exercise of citizenship rights (Sen, 1995; Collective for the foundational economy, 2019). Given this framework, I pursue a mix method approach that could be useful in dealing with the research questions. The qualitative and ethnographic approach allows me to deepen users and railway worker perspective about the shifting territorial centrality of intermediate areas, visible through transformations of rail assets. Quantitative tools are used to map the socio economical variation of the areas and understanding their connective potential. Looking at the future, in these contexts, the role that railway could play in a more sustainable transition could be crucial. This needs the reconfiguration of railways not only as transport node but as primary territorial resource (Pucci - Vecchio, 2019) also to re - connect the territorial fragmentation of that places that (risks of) don't matter (Rodriguez - Pose, 2017).

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### **THE ROLE OF TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) IN DEVELOPING LOCAL ACCESSIBILITY IN RURAL URBAN REGIONS. METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS APPLIED TO THE PERIPHERY OF ILE-DE-FRANCE**

#### **Keywords:**

mobility dependency, TOD, rural urban regions

In a context of climate emergency, public authorities are faced with a dilemma: how to regulate mobility without increasing social inequalities and insuring access to urban amenities, especially for the poorest? A reflection on planning models favouring access to amenities while limiting the need to travel is more necessary than ever, especially in rural urban regions. We propose to investigate the ability of a Transit Oriented Development (TOD)-inspired model (Calthorpe, 1993) to moderate mobility dependency in rural urban areas. We define mobility dependency as the harm suffered by low mobile people or people who are highly constrained in their daily mobility (Fol and Gallez, 2017). In a context where public, social and housing politics keep increasing the need of mobility; we assume that a TOD model could contribute to a “multi-scale accessibility” favouring both access to local and distant amenities, while developing a more inclusive proximity. In peri-urban region, proximity can play a salient role in mitigating mobility dependency, both for low mobile people, suffering from a lack of access to local amenities and for people highly constrained in their daily mobility. Accessibility does not only depend on the quality of transport network, but also on the spatial concentration of amenities and individual characteristics (Geurs and Van Wee, 2014). This means that within the same territory, not all individuals and social groups have the same access to resources. Different factors, such as age, gender, ethnicity, social group, etc. can have a significant role in access to resources (Fol and Gallez, 2017). Applied to our research topic, this raises the question of how a TOD model can help rethink the local accessibility of the territory through the needs and mobility practices of the individuals. In this presentation, we will focus on theoretical and methodological issues. First, we will review the place of TOD model in the literature on multi-scale accessibility models. Then we will present methods to rethink and measure the accessibility of the territory through different mobility practices. We will support this methodology with our first results applied to a study case located in the periphery of Ile-de-France region.

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## **COWORKERS' LIFESTYLE: A NEW WAY TO ACCOMMODATE MOBILITIES, ACCESSIBILITY AND PROXIMITY?**

### **Keywords:**

municipal transport policy, transport demand, transport supply

Coworking spaces, which first appeared in San Francisco in 2005, have spread rapidly throughout the world. They represent a new way of working, supported by the development of digital technologies and based on the sharing of a workspace and a network of workers that encourages collaboration. The aim of the paper is to describe how coworkers develop a new lifestyle by articulating virtual, spatial and social mobilities. The presentation will address three points. The first one will present the research methodology. Our results are based on a research project, Coworkworlds, funded by the French National Research Agency. Its aim is to study the sustainability and spatiality of coworkers' mobility practices in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region of France (metropolitan areas, medium-sized cities, small cities). Based on an interdisciplinary approach, it combines different methodologies: questionnaire survey, interviews conducted among creators of coworking spaces and coworkers, participant observations in two coworking spaces, etc. The second point will characterize coworkers' lifestyle by six keywords that qualify the relationship coworkers have with spatial and social mobility according to three temporal scales: the day, the year and the life. These six keywords are: "proximity", "sociability", "accessibility", "network", "quality of the living environment", "purpose and meaning of work". On the basis of these characteristics, we will question the sustainability of coworkers' lifestyle according to their environmental, economic and social dimensions. The third point will put into perspective the consequences of these emerging lifestyles. On the one hand, we will discuss spatial issues: a surprising result like the indifferenciation of coworkers' lifestyle according to their area of residence (metropolitan, rural, etc.) and the development of a network approach of space where coworking spaces could play a role of territorial hubs. On the other hand, we will discuss social issues: the development of a new kind of communities based more on the sharing of experiences than on the sharing of socio-demographic or socioeconomic characteristics and the question of lifestyles inequalities between overqualified people like coworkers and other people.

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SESSION 5  
**Walkability and proximity.**  
**Case studies analysis**

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## **WALKABILITY IN CITIES UNIVERSAL DESIGN – THE MISSING LINK?**

### **Keywords:**

universal design, mobility, walkable communities

The aim of this study is to discuss the underlying ambiguities and contradictions that shape how urban visions are handled. “Walkability”, for instance, is a term in common use and an important concept on visions about urban futures such as sustainable cities. The term often refers to environmental features or means of creating walkable environments, including areas being traversable, compact, physically enticing, and safe. This is related to the United Nations sustainability goals (2015) and the acute climate and environmental situations, both locally and globally. However, the walkability discussion seems to be too focused on the scale of the block, street, trail and district. It seems to lack the consideration of physical conditions that allow people to get from one place to another without major obstacles. For example, the definition of walkability sets no criteria for universal design (the design of products, environments, programs, and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design). This in spite of universal design has become widely recognised and applied in political documents, statutory frameworks and technical guidelines. The enactment of the United Nations’ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006 reinforced the right to accessible built environments to engender inclusion and full participation by all people. Gåbyen Bergen, walkability in the city of Bergen, is a strategy developed by Bergen municipality. The question is to which extent persons with reduced functionality have been taken into consideration in the municipality’s strategic, political documents. This will be discussed in the light of the indicators for walkability assessment.

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## **MOBILITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND POROSITY: HOW THE CITY INCLUDES/EXCLUDES ITS MARGINALIZED GROUPS**

### **Keywords:**

mobility, accessibility, porosity

The literature on the right to the city, on justice and social inequality, on mobility as a social fact, and on accessibility and potential participation, together with Bernardo Secchi's understanding of urban flows, mobility, and porosity as agents and mirrors of social (in)equality seem to particularly provide grounds to think about mobility, accessibility and porosity together as a possible approximation to understand the different levels of urban fruition and as a necessary condition for equity and sustainability. This paper discusses how residents of a metropolitan marginalized neighborhood see and live the city regarding their mobility and accessibility vis-a-vis the porosity of the city. It presents the results of a study undertaken in the San Siro Housing Project area, Milan, considering the data gathered through 100 interviews with residents and a rhythm analysis effort to contextualize them through seeing and hearing the marginalized groups in their daily flows and feelings.

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## **STRÅK: PLANNING FOR WALKABLE AND JUST ACCESS TO PUBLIC SPACE**

### **Keywords:**

pathways, mobilities, spatial-justice

Increased mobility through motorized transport has been supported in Swedish urban planning through policies and through municipal investments in transportation infrastructure. These investments – even though beneficial through increasing connectivity – have led to a fragmented, fragile and unjust urbanism (Lefebvre, 1974; Soja, 2009) and an urban-rural divide that restricts or even hinders pedestrian mobility. With the aim to analyse the relation between urban planning, pedestrian mobility and spatial justice, this paper revisits the Old Norse concept of *stråk* [pathway]. *Stråk* focus on mobility, connects public spaces and is increasingly used as a concept in urban planning (Grundström, 2019). The paper investigates planning of *stråk* that connect urban-rural environments and socio-economic different neighbourhoods in the municipalities Malmö, Lund and Staffanstorps. Methods include 20 semi-structured interviews with planners and maps of *stråk* drawn by the planners. In addition, Deso-area based statistics on income and education levels, is used to develop QGIS maps of socioeconomic segregation in the three municipalities. The paper argues that in addition to 'porous borders' between urban districts (Fainstein, 2010; Soja 2009), links and pedestrian mobilities need to be addressed to support spatial justice and counteract fragility. The maps and interviews clearly show a sharp border between urban districts and between the urban areas and the surrounding farmlands – and how transportation infrastructure create barriers for pedestrian mobilities. The interviews show how issues of location, size, maintenance and quality of public spaces influence how planners assess accessibility and useability. Furthermore, programming of public spaces, which has increased during the pandemic, and demands for outdoor gyms; walking trails; mountain bike trails, spaces for outdoor barbecue and more, both support and restrict access for socio-economically different groups. In conclusion, planning for mobilities of speed and 'mobile machines' (Urry, 2007) during the past decades have diminished the role of walkability. In order to counteract this development, pedestrian accessibility to *stråk*/pathways that link nodes and shared spaces and support urban-rural connections, is one way towards a more just and less fragile urbanism. In all, the research contributes to the conceptualisation of mobilities in relation to spatial justice in urban development and planning.

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## PLANNING STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE CONNECTIONS: A CONTEMPORARY CASE STUDY

### Keywords:

accessibility, inclusion, sustainability

Sustainable mobility implies good accessibility and proximity among places, both also attention to create inclusive spaces. Copenhagen is implementing an inclusive urban planning strategy in which accessibility meant in its multiple meaning is considered a main factor to improve sustainable liveability. Liveability is improved creating more physical spaces where people can meet, socialize, play in order to build or improve the social structure. To create social bonds, leisure spaces such as parks have been created, but also structures such as the Harbour Baths, where it is possible to swim in the city harbour. In continuity, the new Copenhagen Municipal Plan defines policies for the city until 2031. Among these: the houses are located 300 meters from a green area; parking spaces are reduced by 30% except where there is a lack of public transport in order to give more space to pedestrians and cyclists. A new, more sustainable bus network is also planned to achieve the zero emissions target. Another goal of the Plan is to increase the number of walks in Copenhagen by 20%. To achieve this, partnerships will be established with landowners and courtyard associations to create along the route green recreational activities and areas with high quality pedestrian connections; and safer school streets and access to wider stations and bus stops. To increase social equality noise-reducing asphalt will be used in urban areas at risk and urban spaces with good design will be created that attract people to exercise and improve mental health. Starting from these premises, aim of this work is to illustrate the emblematic case of the Superkilen park in the Nørrebro neighbourhood of Copenhagen, carried out in the framework of the “PRIN2020 #20209F3A37” research project, within the ISMed-CNR Unit with the author’s responsibility. This case will be showed through strategies, details of the project and involvement of people to explain its success in terms of mobility, accessibility and inclusion.

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## **ACTIVE TRAVEL AND WELLBEING IN CHINA: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF DIFFERENT GENERATIONS**

**Keywords:**

active mobility, well-being, China

With the increasing attention on climate change and health, most of the existing research has focused on the influence of active mobility and subjective well-being, demonstrating that active travel modes are associated with increased SWB. However, the generation differences are still remains unclear. Moreover, most existing studies are based on data from developed Western countries, and the situation in Chinese cities remains largely unknown. In addition, existing research paid little attention on the emerging trends of new energy vehicles. This paper, therefore, attempts to investigate how active mobility affect the Hedonic and Eudemonic well-being of different generations in urban China. In addition, we will examine the impacts of new energy vehicles and perceived built environment attributes on well-being. Based on quantitative data of 780 individuals in the urban area of Nanjing and multilevel ordered logit models analysis, we found that the relationship between active travel and wellbeing of Chinese residents and the determinants of that pattern different from those of their western counterparts. In the group of young adults, active travel has a negative effect on both Hedonic and Eudemonic well-being, while the use of new energy vehicles has a significant positive effect on well-being, with a higher coefficient of influence than conventional vehicles. Among the elderly, active mobility has a significant positive relationship with Eudemonic well-being. In addition, the community type and walkability in the built environment have a significant positive impact. These findings offer insights for policy making on distributing appropriate public facilities and built environment, especially in urban renewal of urban China.

### RE-QUESTIONING THE SPATIAL QUALITY OF OPEN PUBLIC SPACES; BURSA-TURKEY AS A CASE

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#### Keywords:

accessibility, public space, spatial quality

The concept of 'accessibility' is an urban right that allows urbanites to reach public uses they need. With the Covid-19 process, open spaces have gained importance due to the fact that closed environments have been interpreted as inadequate in terms of hygiene and fresh air. However, in dense areas of the city, accessibility to these open spaces was limited and mobility around the city was tried to be reduced. According to Gehl's (2020) data, as a solution to these restrictions, city centers have been abandoned and local meeting places have been developed instead. In this period, proximity has gained importance. People searched for areas nearby themselves to meet their need for open space. It is not easy to find such areas, especially in compact city centers. As a result of the literature and observations It has been determined that this situation has changed the expectations especially in open public spaces. For this reason, within the scope of this study, public parks in Bursa, the city known as Green Bursa but at the same time has an intense urban texture, are discussed. The changing expectations and quality parameters in open public spaces are investigated. The main motivation of the study is to rethink the policies towards these areas and to re-question the spatial quality of these areas, whether they meet the needs of the citizens, in line with new experiences, needs and expectations. The study consist of five sections. After a brief introduction including the importance of accessibility to basic urban services, especially open public spaces throughout the pandemic process, the second section presents the effective role of open public spaces for urban life before and after Covid-19 pandemic besides categorizing them. The third and fourth sections introduce the fourth biggest city of Turkey, Bursa and a field work undertaken in sample public parks in the city center respectively. The study concludes with a discussion about the data gathered from the observations and the conducted survey that were implemented to determine the users' satisfaction with the quality criteria. Quality criteria were created by compiling various parameters. (Carr, et. al.,1992; Gehl, 2011; Whyte, 1980; PPS, 2021)

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# Regenerating urbanity

## TRACK CHAIRS

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*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**Anna Moro**

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The Track investigates the different dimensions of urban regeneration processes in European cities and territories as possible responses to the contemporary urban settlements' fragilization. In particular, the Track is concerned with how cities are (or are not) coping with the need to renew their material infrastructures and facilities and to reactivate functions and services in front of the challenges posed by climate, environmental, social, and economic changes. "Regenerating urbanity" can have broad and multiple meanings. They can change and have different impacts according to several aspects: the contexts where the regeneration processes are located (large cities, medium or small urban centres); the historical and morphological characteristics (dense cities, recent urban sprawl); or the economic and social features of the places where they develop. Despite the eventual context differences, through a critical illustration of multiple cases, the session aims at reflecting upon the different regeneration forms and tools, their possible innovation (how to regenerate), the objects of regeneration (what to regenerate), the actors and governance network involved (who regenerates). It will also discuss the idea of urbanity the urban regeneration conveys and the limits and risks that may arise with the expected or unexpected outcomes.

The contributors to the Track will discuss four main aspects of the "Regenerating urbanity" especially needed to de-fragilize cities. Some contributors will reflect upon the tools and approaches to address or orient the regeneration with particular attention to digital tools, innovative bids, forms of regulation or guidelines. An additional stream of reflections will deal with the involved actors' networks, the conditions of governance and leadership and, more in general, the social innovation that some regeneration experiences can bring. A focus will concern the topic of public space, intended as one of the central cores of urban life: contributions will reflect both on the role of regenerating public space as placemaking tools and on the regeneration processes' effects on public space. A last group of contributors will illustrate and reflect the role of specific policies and projects in enhancing processes of urbanity regeneration, paying attention to limits and risks emerging from the renewal itself. Eventually, the Track will reflect on innovative theoretical contributions, practical approaches and tools emerging from recent regeneration experiences by asking whether they contribute to reframing and redefining urban regeneration.

### SESSION 1

#### Tools and approaches for regenerating urbanity

Chairs: **Antonella Bruzzese, Marco Peverini**

*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 09.00 - 11.00**  
**ROOM ROGERS**

**Helene Dang Vu**

Reinventing cities: a new urban regeneration process in circulation?

**Laura Pogliani**

Drivers of innovation in Milan Reinventing Cities competitions

**Mike Raco, Sonia Freire Trigo**

In the shadow of the market: liquid regulation and the governance of social housing in England

**Igal Charney, Gillad Rosen**

The emergence of a Build-to-Rent housing market in Israel: The role of regulation

**Francesco Alaniz**

The struggles for densification in a sprawling city

### SESSION 4

#### Social innovation and sustainability for urban regeneration

Chair: **Anna Moro**

*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 16.20 - 18.00**  
**ROOM ROGERS**

**Hannah Saldert**

Social sustainability for whom? The role of discursive boundary objects in regeneration projects

**Maja Nilssen**

Strengthening local government's role in urban redevelopment role by collaboration and innovation

**Nadia Caruso, Elena Camilla Pede**

Swinging Turin: between innovative impulses and local crisis dynamics

**Carla Tedesco, Raffaella Freschi**

Mobile urbanism and social innovation practices

### SESSION 2

#### Pre-organised Panel:

#### Digital tools

Chairs: **Silvia Gullino, Cristina Cerulli, Antonella Radicchi**

*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**  
**ROOM ROGERS**

**Cristina Cerulli**

Pledges, Increments and Incentives: digitally enabled spatial activism and policy support

**Antonella Radicchi**

Benefits and limits of leveraging citizen science mobile applications in urban planning

**Silvia Gullino, Carolina Pacchi**

Exploring digital and physical community making: Italian Social Streets in pandemic times

**Daphna Levine**

Responding to regenerating urbanity with a multi-dimensional (2D, 3D and 4D) toolbox

### SESSION 5

#### Regenerating public space

Chair: **Antonella Bruzzese**

*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**SATURDAY 18/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**  
**ROOM F2**

**Jo Zhou**

How has the regeneration project impacted the residents' mental health and wellbeing

**Beatrice Galimberti**

Regeneration is not a straight line. Antifragility and prototypes in the process of Jubileumsparken

**Aleksandra Stupar, Nebojsa Camprag, Jelena Ivanovic Vojvodic**

(Re)Creating sustainable public space: an insight into inclusive approaches to placemaking

**Fabio Lepratto, Laura Montedoro**

Between plans and projects. Intermediate tools for qualitative public space regeneration

**Sarah Karic**

Introducing a framework of German state garden shows for event-led urban regeneration

**Valentina Rossella Zucca**

KEEP (OFF) THE GRASS!

### SESSION 3

#### The role of public actors in regeneration processes

Chairs: **Antonella Bruzzese, Anna Moro**

*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 14.00 - 16.00**  
**ROOM ROGERS**

**Federica Rotondo, Constanze Wolfgring**

Public housing in urban regeneration processes: policies, actors and spaces. The case of Bologna

**Robin A. Chang, Sara Caramaschi, Alejandra G. Castro-Giron**

Leadership trajectories: a collectively oriented re-framing for temporary urbanism

**Tuomas Ilmavirta**

Analysing planning of urbanity in the regeneration of Fish Harbour, Helsinki

**Jurga Bucaite Yilke**

Bottom-up approach and local welfare: policy tools for spatial inequality

**Stephen Hall, Steven Griggs, Ian Smith**

Levelling up versus the new municipalism in a place that doesn't matter

### SESSION 6

#### The challenge of specific projects and policies in improving regeneration processes

Chair: **Sonia De Gregorio Hurtado**

*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**SATURDAY 18/6 \_ 14.00 - 16.00**  
**ROOM F2**

**Gianfranco Orsenigo**

No-man's land prison. which opportunity for the city and the punishment

**Luca Lazzarini, Marco Mareggi**

The CHC Atlas: typologies of Community Health Centers and their potential for urban regeneration

**Michele Ugolini, Stefania Varvaro**

The CHC Atlas: regenerative sequences of places for the community

**Filipe Teles**

Urban Innovations and the need for creativity-based policies

**João Igreja**

Urban regeneration in Porto: exploring the role of the EU urban policies in Bairro da Se

**Heidi Bergsli**

Small city regeneration in Northern Norway

**Sonia De Gregorio Hurtado**

Adaptation to climate change as a field of innovation in urban regeneration in Europe

CHAIRS

**Antonella Bruzzese**

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TRACK 3

SESSION 1

**Tools and approaches for  
regenerating urbanity**

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**REINVENTING CITIES:  
A NEW URBAN REGENERATION  
PROCESS IN CIRCULATION?**

**Keywords:**

regeneration project, international models, developers

In 2014, the city of Paris made a buzz in the French planner community, launching the first call for innovative urban projects, entitled Réinventer Paris. The principle was quite simple: grouping sales of public goods (real estate properties for the most part) in a single call for multi-skill teams of private operators. The promises were big: boosting innovative projects, accelerating the operational process, taking into account future uses. Such as the controversy: some pointed to the risk of privatization of the city; others, questioned the growing role of private developers in planning. Soon after, this type of calls flourished in the Greater Paris area, then elsewhere in France and quite quickly in many countries, thanks to the the international program Reinventing Cities promoted by an international metropolis network (C40). The reinventing cities programs focus particularly on the environmental challenges that winning urban regeneration projects must address. The communication will propose a critical reading of this international device in diffusion, from Paris to Rome, and of the underlying model it promotes. Different cases of regeneration projects in Roma (the Tuscolana station district) and in the Greater Paris will be particularly mobilized to enlighten the discussion.

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## **DRIVERS OF INNOVATION IN MILAN REINVENTING CITIES COMPETITIONS**

### **Keywords:**

urban regeneration, Milan, reinventing cities competitions

The current urban regeneration policies involve broad portions of the existing city to be reclaimed and re-structured. A remarkable attention is paid to environmental sustainability in the fight against climate change, with a special focus on the role of open spaces for the construction of the contemporary city. This new approach calls for transdisciplinary and multi-scalar solutions that are unusual to established practices and thus may trigger a wider innovation in the goals, tools and forms of governance involved. This is the aim resulting from the C40 Reinventing Cities projects in Milan that are worth to investigate, considering that the physical transformations and functional renovations resulting from competitions are of significant size and impact and subject to diverse investments by public and private actors. Regarding the innovation, the paper intends to analyse to what extent these proposals answer the challenges and the needs of the city, its residents, and local activities for the present and the future. Starting from an illustration of the actors, processes, intentions, and outcomes of these competitions, the paper discusses the strategies for regenerating urbanity through the design of new spaces and activities at different scales, leveraging private investments and activating new actors' networks. It also tests the capability of the awarded proposals to match the appropriate ecological and environmental value measures with the effectiveness in meeting social expectations of the surrounding populations and sustainability issues. Finally, it suggests considering an appropriate time to monitor the implementation process that may profit of design guidelines focussing on the necessary relationships with the physical, spatial, social context and the provision of facilities and services.

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## **IN THE SHADOW OF THE MARKET: LIQUID REGULATION AND THE GOVERNANCE OF SOCIAL HOUSING IN ENGLAND**

### **Keywords:**

governance, finance, social housing

Since 2010 the English planning system, like others across Europe, has undergone a series of market-oriented reforms. There has been a concerted attempt to make state organisations, and those in receipt of public funds, more entrepreneurial and financially proactive and independent (Beswick et al., 2016). This has involved reducing direct grants and encouraging agencies to finance their own spending through value-capture programmes and other innovations, such as the setting up of Joint Ventures or even new property companies. It is within this wider context that this paper focuses on one manifestation of these wider trends - the regulation of English Housing Associations [HAs] as examples of organisations that are under pressure to take on more financial risks and deliver a wider range of social and affordable housing for communities in need (Crook & Kemp, 2019). Drawing on in-depth qualitative research, the paper assesses some of the regulatory and governmental challenges that emerge in using market-led forms of coordination in the delivery of welfare. It examines the role of new regulators and the ways which they seek to 'co-produce' regulations with HAs in more liquid and negotiated ways. We show that in reality decisions are taken in the shadow of the market – that is with a constant eye on how private regulators, especially credit-rating agencies and financial lenders, view the riskiness of Associations' activities. We show how this mix of simultaneous regulatory pressures are acting as multiple gravitational pulls on the activities and decisions made by HAs, rather than enforcing a consistent and linear form of regulatory control. HAs exist in a liminal regulatory space between public, private, and civil society groups and arrangements. Whilst a growing body of literature focuses on processes of deep financialisation, we demonstrate that liquid regulatory arrangements have increased the power and capacity of HAs to do the opposite - to operate conservatively, and to undertake activities that are only contingently related to the policy instruments and programmes of other state and governmental organisations. We conclude with wider reflections for planning theory and practice.

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## **THE EMERGENCE OF A BUILD-TO-RENT HOUSING MARKET IN ISRAEL: THE ROLE OF REGULATION**

### **Keywords:**

housing, regulation, build-to-rent

Israel's rental housing market is on the verge of a new era. Throughout the country's history, owner-occupied dwellings have been the preferred and unchallenged housing product. In contrast, rental units have been offered mainly by individual investors (i.e., mom and pop landlords) and through state-owned public housing to a lesser extent. A long-term rental housing market (an institutional rental market) has emerged in the past few years, primarily through Build-to-Rent (BtR) mechanisms. However, the institutional rental market investors consists of less than 1% of the rental housing market in Israel. This paper investigates the role of the central state in launching and catalyzing the BtR market in Israel, theoretically engaging with the growing literature on rental housing financialization. The trigger for the emergence of the BtR market is escalating housing prices and public outcry. It is an exploratory paper, that delves into this uncharted territory through the analysis of documents (legislation, housing policy papers, planning protocols, newspapers, and corporate reports). We argue that Israeli neoliberal-minded governments have been experimenting with various financial and planning tools (i.e., land, development, and financial incentives) to stimulate the emergence of the BtR market. These experiments, represent a range of interventions and seek to address impediments to the formation and function of the housing market. Within this context, the question of affordability was relegated and not given significant consideration.

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## THE STRUGGLES FOR DENSIFICATION IN A SPRAWLING CITY

### Keywords:

densification, sprawl, policy

Densification is an essential strategy if we are to curb greenhouse gas emissions and curtail global warming. This form of urban regeneration offers multiple benefits including lower infrastructure cost, more sustainable transportation and transit systems, efficiency for power consumption as well as social and wellbeing benefits. It can also provide relief for decreasing housing affordability. Unfortunately, it often encounters opposition from different actors of the urban development process: land developers, government administrators, elected official, citizens and others. The struggle of densification in North American cities can be exemplified by the case study of Calgary. In 2007 Calgary's city council passed into law a Municipal Development Plan with the aim of reverting the current sprawling development patterns into a 50/50 growth balance, with 50% of new growth in suburban areas, and 50% within the existing urban form. Currently the split stands at 90% suburban and only 10% urban. This research studied the different density regenerating strategies including transit-oriented development, the main streets program and piecemeal rezoning that have failed to fully accomplish the 50/50 goal. Using spatial and morphological analysis as well as policy research for the past 15 years, our findings have shown that there is a disconnect from urban planning policies, real estate development factors (land value, rate of absorption, housing affordability) and morphological factors (parcel type, block patterns, building types, etc.). Today most vulnerable populations, those living one paycheque away from bankruptcy, new immigrants, retired seniors, low income and single-parent families, struggle to find affordable housing well served by transit and close to their place of employment. Calgary's density in the early 20th century was double what it is today. Regenerating urbanity in North American cities means returning to those densities, where transit was extensively used as the main mean of transportation and diversity of housing types allowed for better housing affordability. Our research outlines the lessons learned and provides recommendations to increase the success of densification policies and also suggest a different development model that would change the economic environment that continues to incentivize suburban development over urban regeneration.

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Preorganised Panel

## SESSION 2

# Digital tools

### Keywords:

mobility , practices, inclusion

The making of future cities involves the challenging of existing models of urban regeneration by promoting alternative innovative processes, practices and digital technologies to make urban areas more socially sustainable and livable, and more environmentally resilient. However, who are the actors who take part in such changes and in defining/designing the cities of the future? Which roles do citizens play? How can they be agents for new modes of collaborative city-making? What transformative resources do they have available? These are some of the starting questions framing the discussion on how citizens (1) engage with digital tools to take an active part in urban changes, and (2) contribute to new forms of urban governance and collaborative, community-led initiatives aiming at making cities more inclusive and sustainable. In recent years, digital tools have been emerged playing an increasingly significant role in participatory practices and grassroots activism in urban contexts with the potential of contributing to more socially just and sustainable cities. From invited civic participation facilitated by digital tools, to participatory budgeting practices, to platform- enabled civic crowdfunding campaigns, to more informal initiatives such as Social Street groups supported by social media networks, there is a growing range of initiatives exploring the interface and interplay between traditional forms of activism (offline) and citizen engagement and digital spaces (online). In the context of this clear trend for civic activism initiatives to have increasingly stronger digital components, it is important to explore the often significant differences in terms of forms of knowledge, political involvement and modes of interaction deployed by such initiatives. Ease of use, efficient information, and communication management even for large groups, low cost, and ability to reach many across multiple networks of digital tools explain the increasingly central role that they play in civic activist practices. While in general such practices show a relative level of sophistication in the choice and use of the appropriate digital tools, questions about data and infrastructure ownership, control, and digital citizenship remain more contentious and underexplored, as are the political implications of such extended use. In the face of clear advantages for grassroots organizations in engaging with digital tools to take part in urban changes, some underlying questions about legitimacy, forms of control, ethics and inclusion remain open for discussion. The panel welcomes a critical discussion on the relationship between grassroots activism and digital tools in cities, considering their potential innovative contribution to regenerating urban contexts, but also their limits and risks. **Dr Antonella Radicchi (TU Berlin)** will critically investigate the potentialities and limits of leveraging citizen science mobile applications for participatory urban regeneration processes, drawing on empirical research done in the framework of the Hush City project.

She is an architect-urbanist and senior Research Associate at the TU Berlin Institute of Urban and Regional Planning. Her research interests focus on sustainable urban models, urban design and planning of factors affecting health & well-being, citizen science mobile apps and digital platforms, creative research methods. **Dr Cristina Cerulli (Sheffield Hallam University)** will discuss the production of the city through digitally-enabled forms of civic activism, with a focus on civic crowdfunding and mutual initiatives. She will explore their significance for local governance and the opportunities for policy innovation. She is Professor of Ethical Practice in Architecture and Urban Design. As a practitioner, researcher and educator in architecture and urban design, her work focuses on supporting collective endeavours in the city and countering inequality through practices of care, actively proposing and implementing alternatives. **Dr Miguel Hincapie Trivino (Birmingham City University)** will discuss the role of digital tools in enabling local communities to communicate experiences and knowledge in city production, with a particular focus on conservation areas. He is Lecturer in Urban Planning and Sustainability. His research focuses on placemaking, area-based conservation initiatives and community and social actors' participation in the production of the built environment. **Dr Silvia Gullino (Birmingham City University) and Dr Carolina Pacchi (Politecnico di Milano)** will jointly present outcomes of ongoing research on social streets in Milano and the importance of local connectivity and digitally-mediated local actions in the context of practices and policies in city centres during the pandemic and post-pandemic recovery. Silvia is Associate Professor in City Making. Her research relates to policies and practices of city and community development, with a focus on networks and self-organised groups, and alternative views on the city in relation to societal challenges like: inequalities, digital technologies, climate change, health and wellbeing. Carolina is Associate Professor in Urban Planning. Her research focuses on changing patterns of urban governance, grassroots activism and mobilization in cities and forms of social and spatial inequalities in cities.

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## **PLEDGES, INCREMENTS AND INCENTIVES: DIGITALLY ENABLED SPATIAL ACTIVISM AND POLICY SUPPORT**

### **Keywords:**

civic engagement, digital participation, community-led development

The availability and accessibility of digital tools has been playing an increasing role in community led civic projects with a spatial focus, by assisting self-organisation, mobilisation of supporters and aggregation of resources. Increasingly, the same tools are also being deployed to deliver targeted policy interventions, particularly at the local level (Gullino et al. 2018). The relationship between activist projects and socially innovative bottom-linked governance with policy is dynamic and complex, oscillating between autonomy, cooperation, regulation and opposition (Silvia Gullino et al. 2019), creating fertile ground for political transformation (Moulaert et al. 2019), alongside the potential for autonomous geographies to emerge (Pickerill and Chatterton 2006). This paper explores the interface and interdependencies between spatially focused activist projects and the policy contexts in which they develop, focusing on digitally enabled forms of activism like civic crowdfunding and localised mutual initiatives. Building directly on research exploring the dynamic relationship and patterns of interaction between civic activism and local government (Silvia Gullino et al. 2019) and drawing upon qualitative and practice based research carried out in London, Sheffield and Milan (Silvia Gullino et al. 2018; Cerulli and Udall 2011), this paper discusses how readily available and easily accessible digital technologies can empower citizens to actively engage with shaping their cities and what role can Local Governments play in supporting such constructive engagements. Examining the relationships, trade-offs and mutual influences between digitally enabled self-organised civic initiatives and more traditional and structured urban planning frameworks, the dynamic interaction between civic actors and the state is explored through cases of civic crowdfunding financially backed by local authorities and other place-based initiatives in which digitally enabled grassroots projects led to changes in local policy. The cases are discussed in relation to the fluid configurations of autonomy, cooperation and regulation and the challenges faced by grassroots and state actors within each of these configurations, and how innovative policy and regulatory interventions might be designed to support and scaffold grassroots initiatives without stifling or compromising them.

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## **BENEFITS AND LIMITS OF LEVERAGING CITIZEN SCIENCE MOBILE APPLICATIONS IN URBAN PLANNING**

### **Keywords:**

mobile apps, citizen science, urban regeneration

In recent years, digital participatory planning has gained momentum as a result of technological innovation and the mainstream adoption of digital tools and technologies such as social media, digital gaming, mobile applications and web-based platforms. A literature review shows that digital technology has enhanced public participation, grassroots activism and knowledge production in urban planning, thus leading to more socially and environmentally sustainable cities. However, issues regarding FAIR data, ethics, social diversity, inclusion and accessibility remain open and require further discussion. Against this backdrop, this paper aims to contribute to the debate by critically reflecting on the pros and cons of citizen science mobile applications in urban regeneration processes, drawing on empirical research conducted as part of the Hush City project. This project deploys an application to involve citizens in mapping and assessing quiet areas in cities in response to a European regulatory directive. In this context, the project provides the ground for analysing benefits and challenges, as well as potential mitigation solutions, supported by citizen science best practices. As examples of pros, this paper discusses how using citizen science mobile apps can enhance the quality and quantity of data collected, support innovative and creative cross-policy/sector applications and foster alternative forms of collaboration between citizens and governments. The cons, on the other hand, include a lack of social diversity in citizen engagement and issues of digital divide across societal actors and acceptance of technological innovation among stakeholders involved in complex decision-making processes. In conclusion, this work presents guidelines to inform future research, promote transdisciplinary action-oriented projects and possibly shape policy agendas for more socially inclusive urban regeneration plans.

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## EXPLORING DIGITAL AND PHYSICAL COMMUNITY MAKING: ITALIAN SOCIAL STREETS IN PANDEMIC TIMES

### Keywords:

civic engagement, digital participation, social street

Digitally mediated and hybrid forms of community engagement and participation have experimented across European cities in the last decade (Wilson, Tewdwr-Jones, 2021), and they have been accelerated during the pandemic phase. The paper critically discusses the importance of local connectivity and digitally mediated local actions in the context of practices and policies in city centres during the pandemic and post-pandemic recovery. It focuses in particular on recent developments of social streets: the concept emerged in Italy in 2013, from the experience of group citizens in Bologna, who, reacting to impoverished social relationships and urban degradation in their neighborhood, organized themselves to address local concerns. The social streets model has quickly spread in Italy and beyond, aiming to promote socialization at street scale and to create communities of place by building new relationships, sharing expertise and knowledge, implementing common interest projects and good neighbourly practices. Using closed Facebook Groups to create infrastructures for place-based activities, social streets created hybrid forms of community engagement, combining online interactions through social media with face-to-face activities. While the model is gaining ground in practice and has attracted attention in the academic debate, the actual transformative capacity and the dynamics of inclusion and exclusion that characterize these localized hybrid groups deserve further research. Based on ongoing research on social streets in Milano, this paper critically reflects on social streets as an interesting example of digitally mediated civic engagement and presents insights on the importance of local connectivity and digitally-mediated local action in the context of practices and policies in city centres during the pandemic and post-pandemic recovery.

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## **RESPONDING TO REGENERATING URBANITY WITH A MULTI-DIMENSIONAL (2D, 3D, AND 4D) TOOLBOX**

### **Keywords:**

space-time GIS, online participatory tools, self-organization

Since the 1990s, researchers have proposed rethinking urban regeneration planning using a spatial conception of the city as dynamic relations and processes. They have assessed the many spatial and temporal experiences that occur contemporaneously in the city. They recognized the continuous negotiation engaged by many urban agents using mutual communication and different interpretations on different spatial and temporal scales. However, in practice, the tools used by the planning departments of local municipalities to manage the urban regeneration plans are not necessarily the most suitable for the job. Although web-based geographic information systems (GIS) and planning support systems (PSS) are widely adopted as digital tools to support planning practices, the solutions still tend to be isolated implementations that do not achieve sophisticated management of the complex temporal-spatial urban dynamics of variety actors. In this paper, I will argue that the challenge facing current urban regeneration lies in addressing the dynamic of multiple time axes, particularly self-organized initiatives to redevelop the urban fabric that originates in civil society itself. In order to meet this challenge, I will present an attempt to advance a prototype of a multi-dimensional (2D, 3D, and 4D) toolbox that responds to the space-time challenges of multiple self-organization planning. As the arena of research, we selected a neighborhood in the city of Bat Yam (Israel) that is currently undergoing massive redevelopment in response to the urgent national goal of increasing the housing supply. Using a spatialtemporal toolbox for planning can facilitate recognition of the potential of self-organization as the leading form of contemporary regenerating urbanity and contribute to de-fragilizing cities.

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SESSION 3

**The role of public actors in  
regeneration processes**

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## **PUBLIC HOUSING IN URBAN REGENERATION PROCESSES: POLICIES, ACTORS AND SPACES. THE CASE OF BOLOGNA**

### **Keywords:**

urban regeneration, public housing, policies

Throughout the 20th century and particularly after the Second World War, the construction and management of public housing has closely been intertwined with urban and economic development in Italy. Since then, public housing has experienced a pronounced process of residualisation – characterised by a reduction of public funds, the privatisation of parts of the stock and the retreat of the state from rental policies. However, the public housing segment still constitutes coherent and often clearly delimited parts of the urban fabric in Italian cities. Today the need for developing strategies for renovating Italian public housing stock becomes ever more pressing in view of its high age as well as socio-economic and climate changes. Moreover, due to the characteristics of allocation policies (addressing particularly fragile population groups), public housing neighbourhoods are often sites of socioeconomic fragilities and thus require attention that goes beyond the physical properties of the built stock. Within this framework, public housing renovation is an opportunity for integrated action, tackling manifold criticalities at the same time, impacting on both the spatial and social fabric of Italian cities and thereby contributing to urban regeneration processes on a wider scale. Current plans and programmes on different governance levels devote a significant amount of resources to urban regeneration and sustainable housing. They challenge the actors and the governance network involved – from public administrations over public housing associations to third sector actors – to propose innovative, collaborative, and transectorial approaches. Bologna represents a promising case study in this respect since the previous city government started an ambitious policy to provide a large number of new dwellings through the regeneration of the public stock and assigned housing a crucial role in the Piano Urbanistico Generale. The current government (in office since October 2021) continues this strategic direction. The present research adopts a mixed method combining document analysis, semi-structured interviews and onsite observations with the aim to critically illustrate the role of public housing within the wider framework of urban regeneration processes in the city of Bologna. The discussion revolves around three research questions: which public policies and programs are targeting the regeneration of public housing today? How are those policies and programs translated into space? Who is involved in processes of public housing renovation and how does the governance network operate?

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## **LEADERSHIP TRAJECTORIES: A COLLECTIVELY ORIENTED RE-FRAMING FOR TEMPORARY URBANISM**

### **Keywords:**

temporary use, trajectories, collective leadership

In the possible trajectories towards the regeneration of urban futures, temporary uses in the built environment serve as entry points that bring together material and social potential. This contribution makes use of temporary use initiatives in Dortmund, Germany, to highlight collective forms of regeneration. These offer models of experimentation and flexibility that feed into antifragile approaches to planning (Blecic and Cecchini 2019). In pushing to understand these initiatives as more than simple outcomes that combine vacant spaces with social resourcefulness, we first follow their delineation through adaptability and activation (Andres and Kraftl 2021), in order to unpack more complex evolutions of leadership that steer these paths of innovation. In pursuing this leadership-oriented study of temporary urbanism, however, this contribution defers from conventional considerations of leadership through roles and responsibilities, and take on an ontological re-framing of leadership through temporary uses that is positioned through collectively oriented qualities of direction, alignment, and commitment (Drath, McCauley et al. 2008). Illustrations from temporary use case studies deployed in the formal and master planned regeneration of the Union Quarter in Dortmund, help us untangle the evolving modes of leadership that transcend through unplanned and temporary uses. Three cases illuminate the practices and values, which public administrations and communities might orchestrate or steer to develop new and antifragile rhythms. Specifically, this contribution highlights points of opportunities that surface through temporary uses; these helps build capacity for collective leadership. As well, the re-framing for leadership in this contribution concerns itself with uncovering opportunism that dichotomise the often celebrated but chronopolitical contentions facilitated through temporary urbanism.

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## **ANALYSING PLANNING OF URBANITY IN THE REGENERATION OF FISH HARBOUR, HELSINKI**

### **Keywords:**

urbanity, urban regeneration, non-statutory planning

Spatial visions, storytelling, and other so called non-statutory planning instruments have gained importance in planning and urban development in the recent years (eg. Ameen 2020). This paper studies the non-statutory planning – the contents of the discursive planning as well as the tools of non-statutory planning – of one of the largest regeneration sites in Europe, Fish Harbour in Helsinki, Finland. In Helsinki, “social space” has been introduced as a new domain of planning, and urbanity is widely accepted as a common planning goal both on the level of statutory and non-statutory planning. This paper concentrates on the planning of “social space”, and critically studies the discursive production of urbanity in Helsinki by analysing planning documents and processes as well as marketing texts and public discussion of planning of Fish Harbour. Additionally, interviews of key actors of planning and regeneration process of Kalasatama have been conducted. The topic is approached by analysing “framing of space” (Zukin 1995) through which urbanity is produced as well as by analysing the use of non-statutory planning tools in production of urbanity. Additionally, goals and aims of creating narratives on urbanity are analysed. Increased use of non-statutory planning has been seen as one of the implications of neoliberalisation. The attractiveness of urban space increasingly contributes to the success of cities in global competition of tourists, skilled workforce and foreign investments, and non-statutory planning have been seen as a vehicle of neoliberal growth-driven urban policies (Houghton et al 2013; Bragaglia & Rossignolo 2021). My analysis suggests that planning and development of Fish Harbour stems from this thinking, too. My findings indicate that majority of the contents the urbanity is produced with will not be part of the built future of Fish Harbour. Instead, non-statutory planning produces symbolic representations of urbanity, aiming at increasing economic value of the developments.

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## **BOTTOM-UP APPROACH AND LOCAL WELFARE: POLICY TOOLS FOR SPATIAL INEQUALITY**

### **Keywords:**

welfare policy, local governance, spatial inequalities, welfare, governance, urban

The paper focuses on the role of networks and place-based leadership for territorial governance in two different rural and urban municipalities in Lithuania. The main objective is to analyze the relations between the socioeconomic context and conditions for developing place-based governance in different localities that face demographic, economic and social challenges. The statistical data define existing patterns of territorial inequality in Lithuania within classical dual rural/urban differentiation. The variation between different social and economic indicators demonstrates that the capital area including the other two large cities signifies intensive multicentered economic development compared with the rest of the rural regions. Based on two cases studies from rural and urban municipalities we argue that territorial governance and leadership is important aspect to consider for urban regeneration and territorial development policies. Territorial governance is understood as “the process of territorial organization of the multiplicity of relations that characterize interactions among actors and different, but non-conflictual, interests” (Davoudi et al., 2008; Atkinson, Tallon, & Williams, 2019; Jessop, 2002). The role of local leadership refers to power allocation, trust building and development of horizontal coalitions (Beer & Clower, 2014; Jørgensen et al., 2016). Comparing these cases through the lens of territorial governance and leadership concepts contribute to understanding of territorial place-based approach and role of formal and informal forms of collective action. The empirical data derives from the COHSMO research project “Inequality, Urbanization and Territorial Cohesion: Developing the European Social Model of Economic Growth and Democratic Capacity” funded by Horizon2020 Grant [no. 727058] implemented in the period 2018 to 2021. The project addresses social inequalities and socio-economic differences between neighborhoods, cities and regions across European countries (Poland, Greece, Austria, UK, Denmark, Italy, Lithuania) and points the relevance of a territorial perspective in forming place-driven policies.

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## LEVELLING UP VERSUS THE NEW MUNICIPALISM IN 'A PLACE THAT DOESN'T MATTER'

### Keywords:

levelling-up, new municipalism, collective efficacy

Levelling up versus the new municipalism in 'a place that doesn't matter'; a case study of North Staffordshire, England. In February 2022, the UK government published its long-awaited White Paper 'Levelling up the United Kingdom' (DHLUC, 2022), the main features of which are targeted infrastructure investment and a new devolved governance framework for England. Concurrently, and in contrast, the global 'new municipalism' agenda advocates using the levers of the local state to advance economic and social justice (Barnett et al, 2021). These two competing narratives foreground, albeit in very different forms, local action and municipal entrepreneurship. We consider the potential for local partners in the North Staffordshire conurbation (comprising the city of Stoke on Trent, market town of Newcastle under Lyme, and neighbouring ex-mining communities) to respond to these disparate agendas. North Staffordshire is a former site of a Housing Market Renewal programme, an exemplar of Rodriguez Pose's (2017) places that don't matter, and the UK's 'Brexit capital' (MacLeod and Jones, 2018). We use a framework that considers the depletion of 'collective efficacy', defined here as a set of institutional resources – money or exchangeable resources which local authorities can mobilise; the legal or official powers at the disposal of local government; the capabilities that local authorities draw from their position at the centre of a network of actors; and, the skills, land and buildings at the disposal of local government (Hood and Margetts, 2007) – to assess the impact of a decade of austerity on North Staffordshire and its potential to engage with the levelling up and new municipalism. Drawing on findings from the Horizon 2020 project 'Inequality, urbanization and territorial Cohesion: Developing the European Social Model of economic growth and democratic capacity' (COHSMO), we argue that, in the absence of a funded, strategic framework and peer group network underwritten by central government, the capacity of networked actors locally to effect positive economic and social change is fundamentally diminished. In conclusion, we consider the implications for 'Places like North Staffordshire'.

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SESSION 4  
**Social innovation and  
sustainability for urban  
regeneration**

## **SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY FOR WHOM? THE ROLE OF DISCURSIVE BOUNDARY OBJECTS IN REGENERATION PROJECTS**

### **Keywords:**

social sustainability, boundary object, gentrification

During the last decades, a focus on regenerating industrial land to sustainable urban areas have become a popular practice. In this process, social sustainability has gained attention, both in urban policy and theory. However, how to define and implement it in practice is still facing challenges. Previous research show both how social sustainability as a vague concept is challenging to implement in itself, but also that there is a risk that the social dimension can conflict with the environmental and economical dimensions of sustainability. This paper explores how the concept of social sustainability, as a boundary object between policy areas, gains meaning in a strategic urban planning project in Gothenburg, Sweden. Gothenburg is one example of a city struggling with income gaps, segregation, and social unrest. To address these issues, the municipality put social sustainability as an overarching goal for city development. This paper traces how the discourse of social sustainability in the planning of central Gothenburg shifted between 2012 and 2019. The study shows how, as a boundary object, social sustainability contains several levels of meaning, which enable the discourse to shift at one level of meaning without having to change the overarching meaning. It further shows how environmental and economical aspects are influencing what is deemed possible to achieve within the social dimension. This paper contributes to a deeper understanding of meaning-making in strategic urban planning and an empirical account of the discursive shifts in social sustainability in a regeneration project. Particularly it contributes methodologically when studying discursive boundary objects.

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## **STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ROLE IN URBAN REDEVELOPMENT ROLE BY COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION**

### **Keywords:**

institutional change, urban governance, urban redevelopment

This paper addresses how collaboration and innovation can strengthen local government's role in urban redevelopment processes. The aim is to explore how large(r) institutional changes can strengthen the role of local government in the governance of urban redevelopment projects. These institutional changes are studied through the theoretical-analytical lens of innovation, understood as an actively intended process of change that leads to discontinuity. In sum, the article concerns itself with innovative institutional practices in the governance of urban redevelopment, which is framed as governance by critical junctures, collaborative efforts, and innovation. The paper thus provides a theoretical contribution through bridging the literatures on interactive governance and planning, with theories of collaborative innovation, and illustrating this contribution to theory with examples from three empirical cases of urban redevelopment. The empirical examples presented in this article illustrate that innovations strengthen local government's role in urban redevelopment processes by increasing the system capacity of local government, and enhancing their ability to achieve long-term goals and strategies through consensus-building, thus increasing their capacity to make and implement policy – in other words to steer society.

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## **SWINGING TURIN: BETWEEN INNOVATIVE IMPULSES AND LOCAL CRISIS DYNAMICS**

### **Keywords:**

Turin, innovation, crisis

Turin is an interesting case on the Italian national scene: after being one of the country's industrial engines, since the end of the 1980s it has seen a fluctuating process of deconstruction and reconstruction of its image and identity. After the crisis of the Fordist model, the city deployed various strategies to transform its economic structure and change urban development. The 1995 Masterplan and 2006 Olympic Winter Games constituted two of the local attempts to innovate the local economic system and trigger a transition. Therefore, thanks to international events and other urban initiatives, the economic reconversion seemed to be underway, but the economic and financial crisis of 2009 strongly hit this territory, leading the city to levels of youth unemployment equal to those of Southern Italy, numerous redundancy schemes and a new strong need for an economic and social revival policy. The pandemic emergency has further affected a territory that was slowly trying to recover in terms of economic productivity and the management of inequalities and social fragilities. This text intends to deepen the study of the Turin context from the point of view of innovation, considering technological, financial and/or social aspects. By studying actors and institutions, it emerges how the local activities and projects promoted innovation in its various dimensions, (even in the absence of a unitary frame of coherence provided by strategic plans or public policies). These innovative practices, whether punctual or linked by networks, constitute the most recent elements of the trajectories constructed in previous decades. The paper proposes a critical view on the changes and path-dependent character of the city, reflecting in terms of governance, action of local actors and project developed.

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## MOBILE URBANISM AND SOCIAL INNOVATION PRACTICES

### Keywords:

urban, regeneration, assemblage

This paper aims at exploring the relationships between local actors' mobilization and international openness in urban regeneration practices dealing with the self-organization ability of formal and informal citizens' groups in the Italian context. Local creative regeneration experiences have been influenced by the foreign panorama becoming themselves good practices in the international context. Does the "mobile urbanism" frame developed within assemblage thinking theory apply to these initiatives? Although social sciences haven't completely processed the concept of assemblage, a debate about its contribution to urban processes comprehension richly developed in the last decade. Our hypothesis is that assuming a deleuzian operational definition of assemblage as a multiplicity consisting of heterogeneous terms and establishing links, relationships between them, it is possible to highlight several mechanisms of good practices' migrations through the international scene. As far as concrete experiences are concerned, we selected a first group of social innovation initiatives taking a chance from organized networks or institutional subjects to establish an international project of territorial regeneration; a second group of bottom up local xperiences not necessarily involved in structured and financed programs that receive attention from international organizations because of political and technical actors involved in the process. Within these initiatives practices influence and can modify institutional policies, accepting a mutual definition. Furthermore bodies and organizations intervene in designing new forms of collaboration between citizens and institutions. Hybrid patterns could take shape, dealing with various fields of reference. But, if their social, ecological and cultural value as good practice is recognized, how to construct new mainstream modes of governance is still a challenge.

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SESSION 5  
**Regenerating public space**



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## HOW HAS THE REGENERATION PROJECT IMPACTED THE RESIDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

### Keywords:

regeneration, mental health and wellbeing, Pandemic

**How has regeneration project impacted residents' wellbeing and mental health? Case study of Wapping Wharf Project, Bristol UK.** Numerous studies have identified that the places that we live and work significantly impact our health and wellbeing (Barthel et al, 2015; Hamann and Turkmen, 2020), this is particularly the case along with the covid-19 pandemic. This paper investigates how the regeneration of a brownfield site (the Wapping Wharf project) has impacted the residents' health and wellbeing in Bristol, the United Kingdom. 22 interviews with stakeholders and residents were conducted to identify the weights of various determinants identified by the theoretical framework developed through the literature review (London, 2020). The paper finds that the factors of living somewhere Healthy, Peaceful and Tranquillity, though also beneficial, do not seem as significant as the factors of Clean Air, Contact with Nature, and Feeling Safe on residents' health and wellbeing. Particularly in a vulnerable time, the factor of walkability to onsite amenities as an important feature of a mixed-use development has played a most significant role on consolidating the community resilience and the physical and mental health of residents through encouraging outdoor daily exercise, social interaction and decreasing the reliance on driving. As the informed developers of this case project has already acknowledged, such findings are expected to provide implications for the second and third stages of this project and future regeneration projects elsewhere.

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## **REGENERATION IS NOT A STRAIGHT LINE. ANTIFRAGILITY AND PROTOTYPES IN THE PROCESS OF JUBILEUMSPARKEN**

### **Keywords:**

antifragility, prototype, urban regeneration

Jessica Segerlund and Kristoffer Nilsson are two placemakers: She is an art curator, and he is an urban planner. In 2013 they were asked by the municipality of Gothenburg to work on the temporary reactivation of Jubileumsparken, the first phase of a longer urban regeneration process of the urban harbour of Frihamnen. It was supposed to be a quick job, lasting no more than three years, but that is not exactly how it turned out. Segerlund and Nilsson involved a variety of institutions, designers, collectives, artists, third sector associations, individuals, and inhabitants to transform a still partially productive area into one of the city's most vibrant urban spaces without losing its productive functionality. In 2020, this phase enthusiast transformation of Jubileumsparken came to an abrupt end, but it bequeathed a mindset that is now flourishing in other transforming places in the city. The regeneration process of Jubileumsparken has not been a straight line, and in this absence of linearity lies its strength. It has developed through prototyping (prototypes of spaces, events, and services), simultaneously considering different temporal depths, without running away from complexity and uncertainty, but rather managing to stay with them and in some cases even benefit from them, implementing some strategies that this presentation suggests defining as antifragile. This contribution starts from the case of Jubileumsparken to reflect on how to de-fragilise cities through urban regeneration practices and, above all, how to de-fragilise the regeneration processes. To do so, the presentation will weave critical reflections on antifragility with the story of the case, reconstructing the network of actors, innovative tools, successes and false trails. Interviews with key actors of the process, direct observation, and desk analysis form the basis of this work, which will be presented with the support of drawings, maps, and short videos. These topics are part of the doctoral research the author is carrying out at the Politecnico di Milano. The research identifies some antifragile strategies present in several contemporary design/regeneration processes of public spaces in Europe, which 'stay with' uncertainty and also take advantage of it.

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## **(RE)CREATING SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC SPACE: AN INSIGHT INTO INCLUSIVE APPROACHES TO PLACEMAKING**

### **Keywords:**

placemaking, social sustainability, participatory process

Public spaces are the vital elements of cities due to their important role in the creation of place attachment and place identity. The New Urban Agenda thus highlights the quality public spaces as one of the most valuable urban features. Starting from the theoretical framework of Lefebvre's 'right to the city' and 'right to urban life', this paper demonstrates two diverse inclusive approaches to sustainable placemaking - formal and informal. The example from Belgrade/Serbia (Block Plato), represents a more formal approach to placemaking, conducted through the EU cultural platform Shared Cities: Creative Momentum (SCCM) between 2017 and 2018. This case primarily reflects the post-transitional changes of the Serbian socio-economic context, representing simultaneously the citizen's response to contemporary urban needs. Other example represents a community-powered initiative from Frankfurt, Germany, resisting the current urban socio-economic restructuring and environmental challenges. The non-profit project titled Neue Frankfurter Garten (New Frankfurt's Garden) was initiated on a plot of land in the former workers' neighborhood of Ostend, facing extensive urban refurbishment and skyrocketing gentrification during the last few years. Although applying different approaches in different settings, both initiatives commonly involve principles of inclusion and sustainability representing a strong bond between local communities and open public spaces. The comparative analysis will be conducted in order to highlight activities and results of collaborative place-making efforts, which followed needs and preferences of local inhabitants, while simultaneously improving physical and social identities of targeted places.

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## **BETWEEN PLANS AND PROJECTS. INTERMEDIATE TOOLS FOR QUALITATIVE PUBLIC SPACE REGENERATION.**

### **Keywords:**

guidelines, design tools, public space regeneration

Public space is increasingly central to policies, rhetorics, and design actions. What ten-fifteen years ago wasn't a widespread belief seems now widely shared: the network of public spaces is/should be the city's essential structure, both in new urban developments and in existing portions under transformation. Yet, the challenges of contemporary society open up questions relating to the design practice: what 'performances', types of equipment, and characteristics must the open spaces guarantee? How to properly orient broad incremental transformations in a long-time perspective? Regenerating an existing public space network means turning the attention towards broken or interrupted elements and reconnecting them through coordinated design actions. Promoting incremental re-appropriation strategies or experimenting with temporary or permanent modifications may lead to a reconquest of spaces currently eroded by disqualifying activities – such as vehicular traffic and cars parking. This research, developed at Politecnico di Milano Department of Architecture and Urban Studies and applied to the case of the Municipality of Desio, finds its goal and interest in rescuing the process of public space regeneration from the shattering of norms, procedures, and administrative segmentation that profoundly impact spatial outcomes. This investigation aims to complete regular planning tools, often too rigid, with a noprescriptive document that fixes strategies, visions, expectations, and orientations in coherence with the city's long transformation time. The outcome, defined as guidelines, is an intermediate tool that fits between plan and project to foster the value of continuity (of paths, soils, sequence of spaces) and the strategic coherence of multiple incremental interventions subdivided into numerous phases. The nature of this document is not something already codified: indeed, it is itself the main object of research. This scientific contribution describes a field experience, offering a point of view to the debate developed from a privileged perspective. The text will report the guidelines design phase and the monitoring phase of the first interventions – realized by selected professionals and completed in 2020. These first realizations represent a crucial test to evaluate the guidelines' effectiveness in fixing essential qualitative elements while leaving sufficient space for architectural interpretation to the designers.

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## **INTRODUCING A FRAMEWORK OF GERMAN STATE GARDEN SHOWS FOR EVENT-LED URBAN REGENERATION**

### **Keywords:**

garden show, event-led urban development, urban regeneration

Facing increasing global interurban competition and structural changes, hosting events such as the Olympic Games as a development and regeneration strategy has gained in importance for cities in recent decades (Gaffney et al. 2018). While event effects have been intensively discussed since the 1990s under the terms of festivalization and event-led urban development (Häußermann and Siebel 1993), there has been increasing criticism on such formats (Müller 2017). Regarding the lack of sustainability as well as negative ecological (Pitts and Liao 2013) and social effects of mega-events, smaller event formats in smaller cities are becoming more relevant. In this respect, state garden shows (Landesgartenschauen) are prominent formats in Germany providing important impetus for urban development in small and medium-sized cities (SMSC). Nevertheless, there is a gap between their relevance and the scientific discussion to date (Diller 2020). The aim of the research was, thus, to create a profound understanding of state garden shows as a format for event-led urban development in SMSC. Within a mixed-methods research design, I created a database of all state garden shows in Germany since 1990 and subsequently studied 13 cities using a qualitative case study approach. I developed a multi-level phase framework, which describes state garden shows as an instrument for event-led urban development and regeneration and explains relevant processes as well as actor constellations. I structured the framework into different event phases and levels of state garden shows. Objectives such as urban and regional development, regeneration, urban green spaces, climate adaptation, and marketing are relevant inputs. In the course of time, various actors become relevant to processes (e.g. participation, implementation and evaluation) and interact. In the planning process, citizen participation is central for public acceptance. The output of the system are medium- and long-term effects on the cities. The framework is suitable to apply to various event formats to systematize processes. I could show that state garden shows are important catalysts for urban development. Due to the fixed deadline of the event opening and the compressed planning phase, actors cooperate and forces as well as investments and funding are bundled.

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## KEEP (OFF) THE GRASS!

### Keywords:

schools, vandalism, urban green space

### **(Guerrilla) Gardening in schools as a practice of determination of the right to the city.**

The demographic growth during the economic miracle has provided the whole Italian territory with a stock of permeable soils and green spaces, both widespread and pertinent to other facilities. School spaces regulations require that 2/3 of the lot area have to be open, seen as an extension of educational space and a catalyst for recreational activities among students: “2.0.2. The area not covered by the buildings must be adequately wooded, arranged in green, and equipped to allow a permanent performance, even outdoors, of educational and gymnastic-sports activities; the arrangement, provided in the project, shall be such as to allow its easy and appropriate maintenance.” DM 18.12.1975 The frustration of seeing uncared spaces in their town and poorly maintained and unusable school courtyards triggers more or less invasive practices of vandalism. Even areas of vegetation along the streets are often just cutouts of soil that suffer from the lack of maintenance and continuity with other open spaces that could make them usable. Starting from a case of research-action in a town in southern Sardinia, it is reasoned on the urges of modification of space by young people in practices of direct manipulation. The workshop presented a horticultural project in the underused school garden and the production of seed bombs to spread in unused permeable spaces around the town. Finding propitious occasions of manipulating the urban space can give children greater autonomy and awareness of their right to the city. Highlighting the relationship between the unheard voices of children and the mistreated voice of the non-human world could start a collaborative relationship for a necessary socio-ecological transition.

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SESSION 6

**The challenge of specific  
projects and policies in  
improving regeneration  
processes**



## **NO-MAN'S LAND PRISON. WHICH OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CITY AND THE PUNISHMENT**

### **Keywords:**

no man's land, prison, networking

The prison is a social emergency in Italy as proved by the sentences of the European Court, by Antigone's surveys and last by the Minister of Justice: "Prisons are a priority for the government". The ongoing debate rarely leads to concrete action. If it is strong the reference to the society's contribution, the proposals are often confined to the internal spaces with a functionalist glance. A vision that reiterates the contradiction between the two missions: custody and reintegration. The functionalist vision guided the construction of the modern prison, determining its marginalization. Even today, when the city reached the penitentiaries, in the surroundings is perceivable a "suspension of urbanity" (Infussi 2020) that reinforces the stigma of these places. This no man's land, between the city and the prison, is rich in potential if it is observed with the lens of the project. This suspended place could "become the space for a new creativity [employed to] transform the city that has rejected it" (Michelucci 1996). The penitentiary, placing itself in dialogue with the actors that operate in the surrounding area and bringing into play its own resources - spatial and skills - can be an added value to urban regeneration processes that increasingly characterize these parts of the city. From the involvement, the prison could get benefit in terms of space quality and operative support in its service role for the reintegration into society of those who have committed a crime. This is a road not followed in Italy. The proposal aims to open a debate that explores the real possibilities of action. Some clues of possible functionality and criticalities will be proposed through the experience in multidisciplinary research on the prison theme (particularly in Milan), the study of some European experiences, and the critical analysis of national and European policies ongoing.

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## **THE CHC ATLAS: TYPOLOGIES OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS AND THEIR POTENTIAL FOR URBAN REGENERATION**

### **Keywords:**

healthcare, urban regeneration, public services

The contribution presents some results of the research project “Coltivare\_Salute.Com” funded by Politecnico di Milano as part of the Polisocial Award 2020 Program. The project aims to redefine the approach to Community Health Centers (CHC) (in Italian “Case della Salute”): from services providing access to primary healthcare to opportunities for urban regeneration. The paper focuses on the outcomes of the case study analysis that investigated the CHCs in seven cities in Italy (Torino, Bologna, Firenze, Reggio Emilia, Ferrara, La Spezia) chosen as a sample of cities having in their municipal area a system of CHCs. The objective of the study is to identify the strengths and challenges that characterize different systems of CHCs in relation to different urban contexts and the analysis of their potential for regenerating urban neighborhoods. As far as the methodology is concerned, the research has adopted an analytical approach made of field surveys and semi-structured interviews with the CHC managers, with the purpose to map the services present in each health center and those in its proximity, and describe the functional and territorial organization of CHCs across the municipal area. The main outcome of the research is the construction of an Atlas of CHCs, that serves as a tool to describe and compare different models of health centers according to several criteria which concern the typology of services provided, the typology of building/block hosting the center, the levels of accessibility from public transport or soft mobility paths, and the relationship with the public services located at walkable distance. The relevance of the Atlas lies in its potential contribution to the process of implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, according to which 1.280 new Community Centers (Case di Comunità) will be created and several existing CHCs will be functionally readapted and reorganized.

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## THE CHC ATLAS: REGENERATIVE SEQUENCES OF PLACES FOR THE COMMUNITY

### Keywords:

community, open urban spaces, sequences of regenerative spaces

The contribution presents some results of the research project “Coltivare\_Salute.Com” funded by Politecnico di Milano as part of the Polisocial Award 2020 Program. The project aims to redefine the approach to Healthcare Centers: from facilities providing access to primary healthcare services to opportunities for urban regeneration. The Italian PNRR (National Plan of Recovery and Resilience) proposes a name change for this structure: from Healthcare Center to Community Center. The objective is modifying the paradigm, underlining the rule and the importance of the Community. These places are the spokesmen for an idea of health understood as people’s psycho-physical wellbeing and intrinsically linked to the reconstitution of a healthy environment, where prevention and health promotion can address the issues of old age and chronic diseases, which are constantly increasing in our societies. The paper focuses on the possibility of increasing, within the planning of urban development and regeneration of the consolidated fabric of cities, a service of great public importance whose location in the area can contribute to modifying the balance of settlement. Through the study of international and national experiences, it is emphasized how certain characteristics of the space design are fundamental in the redefinition of places generally entrusted to a functionalist and high-performance logic. It is thought that a public service such as the Community Center, through the choice of its location, even in a proximity relationship with other services, has the power to weave new urban relationships, whose architectural and spatial configuration can participate in defining portions of the public city. Recognisable spatial sequences constitute relationships between outside and inside. The spatial devices of the architectural project such as porticoes, roofs, thresholds, windows and doors, together with the devices of the design of the open public space such as squares, green spaces, paths, equipment identify regenerative potential in the reconfiguration of the relationship between open urban space and interior space, as places of welcome for the community. The aim is to build new elements of identity reference for the community itself.

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## **URBAN INNOVATIONS AND THE NEED FOR CREATIVITY-BASED POLICIES**

### **Keywords:**

urban, innovation, creativity

This paper intends to present a theoretical contribution to frame innovative approaches to urban policies, particularly regarding contexts where climate, social and economic challenges are at stake. By exploring the concepts of Creativity based policies and Creative Territories, it argues for the need of dialogue arenas, representation and territorialization as conditions for innovation in urban policies. Creative territories are those that enable innovative social and political devices that allow for the visibility, enactment, and construction of forms of knowledge and political action. They are deeply democratic in nature. Conceivably more democratic than democracy itself, because they not only give voice, but empower voices. Creative territories also point to paths of sustainability by allowing to combine knowledge and practices so often absent from the most politically visible arenas. The initiative of the European Commission – the New European Bauhaus – which seeks to bring together knowledge from different disciplines, arts, architecture, engineering, urbanism, and design, seems a step in this direction. The paper is organized as follows: it starts by clarifying the concept of urban policy innovation; it is followed by the identification of major urban challenges and their policy drivers and consequences; and the bulk of the paper will deal with the discussion of the main features of Creative Based Policies.

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## **URBAN REGENERATION IN PORTO: EXPLORING THE ROLE OF THE EU URBAN POLICIES IN BAIRRO DA SE**

### **Keywords:**

integrated urban regeneration, local development, Porto

European cities have been threatened by many challenges, including socioeconomic crisis, environmental hazards and the phenomenon of climate change, that affect both the territory and the people that inhabit it. At the same time the European Commission underlines the major impact of local urban settings on the sustainable development of Europe, while cities hold the capacity to steer their futures. Since the 1990s that the European Union, together with the Portuguese urban policies, have been influencing the processes of spatial development within the city of Porto by deploying direct and indirect urban regeneration strategies. Among these strategies are integrated urban regeneration interventions which one might wonder if have led to a fruitful local development? This case study reflected upon different programmatic and financial instruments promoted by and with the support of the European Union that sought to positively shape local spatial transformations. However, the urban regeneration process has seen irregular trajectories and different authors emphasise that past and existing problems haven't been effectively solved. Among some of the reasons for such an event might be the political turn towards more neoliberal urban policies, the need for tailored-made, long-term regeneration strategies, or the numerous adjustments made over the years to accommodate the succession of key players and stakeholders. Focusing on the development patterns that have been taking place in the historic Bairro da Sé, we describe the urban regeneration trajectories in this area of the historic centre of Porto and try to analytically highlight the relation between both EU and national urban regeneration strategies, and local regeneration processes.

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## SMALL CITY REGENERATION IN NORTHERN NORWAY

### Keywords:

culture-led urban redevelopment, public space, urban theory

In most countries, smaller cities form a key component in the settlement pattern (Banski 2021). International urban research has, however, mostly targeted larger cities, i.e. in particular the economic, social and cultural dynamics of large Western cities in the framework of globalization (Atkinson 2019). Urban theory is therefore largely informed by studies and perspectives on the metropolis on the one hand, whereas small cities are regularly recommended to adapt generic urban redevelopment strategies to obtain attractiveness and sustainability on the other hand. This paper aims to reflect upon the role that urban theory can play in analysis of small cities and how small cities can inform urban theory. The paper's empirical focus is the small city of Bodø, that is located in the North of Norway. Bodø has engaged extensive regeneration strategies as a means to strengthen population levels and economic development. The city is selected European capital of culture in 2024, that builds upon nested strategies of culture-led urban redevelopment (Cf. Miles and Paddison 2005). A central strategy is city centre redevelopment, in which public space plays a central role in the policies of attractiveness. The paper investigates how goals of attractiveness and social inclusion intersect and conflict in the urban redevelopment processes of Bodø, and argues that public space development requires specific means at this scale. The paper discusses the challenges faced by small cities in making use of generic urban strategies. It concludes that the urban research agenda should include discussion of small city urbanity and urbanism as part of the development of urban theory.

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## **ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE AS A FIELD OF INNOVATION IN URBAN REGENERATION IN EUROPE**

### **Keywords:**

urban regeneration, climate change adaptation, local communities

Urban regeneration emerged during the 1990s as a policy area aimed at addressing urban decay through a novel approach to overcoming the limitations rooted in physical sectoral transformation and the lack of community participation. From that point on, a number of integrating mechanisms and relevant topics have emerged in this field, aimed at resolving current urban problems. At this juncture, when climate change has now been recognized as one of the most pressing urban challenges, urban regeneration needs to integrate adaptation to climate change as a crucial basis for action toward resilient urban transformation. This study springs from the recognition of the relevance of this policy approach, the analysis of which is undertaken focusing on three European cities – Copenhagen, Vienna, and Madrid – to understand whether and how the three municipalities are currently integrating adaptation to climate change within their urban regeneration programs. This objective is addressed through a mixed qualitative methodology that uses the case study approach to analyze the policy process, drivers, and obstacles that are fostering or limiting that vision in each local context. The research responds to the questions posed, showing the transformative capacity of integrating adaptation explicitly in the “common” regeneration practice of municipalities, the relevance of the development of local capacity as a crucial element for that, and other main factors that enable cities to advance or keep rooted in “traditional practices.”

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# Institutions politics and policies between crisis and transitions

## TRACK CHAIRS

**Alessandro Coppola**

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**Gloria Pessina**

*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**Alistair Jones**

*De Montfort University*

At a time of great uncertainties and generalising risks, the State is pushed to refashion its organisation while re-spatialising its action. Natural disasters, climate events, epidemics, economic restructuring imply the State's new ability to confront highly localised crises and put in place reconstruction and recovery plans in specific territories. At the same time, the State is also engaged in designing and implementing transition initiatives - energy and resources projects, industrial innovation initiatives - that also imply exercises in multi-level governance and territorialisation of its ways to plan and implement policies. Furthermore, these forms of state interventions often address the needs of territories involved in emerging geographies of polarisation, changing entrenched ways in which spatial equalisation projects and policies are framed and implemented.

The track aims at shedding light on these issues by sharing both case studies and theoretical contributions from the broad fields of planning, policy studies, geography and sociology.

Hence, contributors will show how state action is being refashioned while addressing specific territorial crises and transition projects. Moreover, they will investigate which state and non-state actors intervene in such situations and what are their rationales. A further concern of the track's contributors will be the multi-level arrangements put in place to promote power-sharing practices among various actors and at a variety of governance levels. The track will also include reflections on the development ideologies driving reconstruction and crisis management strategies. Eventually, the track will promote a discussion of the sources of knowledge legitimating such projects and on different forms of science-policy interfaces set up to respond to crises and transitions.

### SESSION 1

#### Risks, participation, conflicts, and justice

Chair: **Gloria Pessina**  
DAStU - Politecnico di Milano

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**  
**ROOM T04**

**Mia Arp Fallov, Carolina Pacchi**  
Spatial imaginaries and the development of territorial cohesion in Horsens and Legnano

**Miriam Goncalves, Cristina Cavaco, João Mourato**  
Community-oriented local development strategies: a path to building resilience in Europe?

**Enrico Gualini**  
Persistence and change in urban tourism policy: evidence from Berlin and Amsterdam

**Bas V. Vliet, Bart Haagsma, Tamara Metze, Sanneke Kloppenburg**  
Spatializing concepts of energy justice: the case of renewable energy production in the Netherlands

### SESSION 2

#### Housing in transition

Chair: **Alessandro Coppola**  
DAStU - Politecnico di Milano

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 14.00 - 16.00**  
**ROOM T04**

**Sara Caramaschi**  
Housing, placelessness, and new geographies in post- earthquake LAquila

**Francesca Artioli, Claire Colomb, Thomas Aguilera**  
Governing Platform Capitalism. The politics of short-term rental regulation in European cities

**Antonin Margier, Solène Gaudin**  
Governing substandard housing in shrinking territories

**Laura Saija, Giulia Li Destri Nicosia, Carla Barbanti**  
Housing welfare urban regeneration in the face of recovery

**Massimo Bertolin, Francesco Chiodelli**  
The criminal exploitation of property development: the role of peripherality

### ROUNDTABLE

#### Municipal councils as an arena for overcoming fragmented urban policies

Chair: **Hubert Heinelt**  
TU Darmstadt

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 16.20 - 18.00**  
**ROOM T04**

**Hubert Heinelt**

**Bjorn Egner**

**Felipe Teles**

**Eva Marín Hlynsdóttir**  
Amateurs or professionals: role perception of Icelandic local councillors

### SESSION 4b

#### Pre-organised Panel: Governance in times of crisis

Chairs: **Alessandro Coppola, Gloria Pessina**  
DAStU - Politecnico di Milano

**SATURDAY 18/6 \_ 14.00 - 16.00**  
**ROOM F3**

**Erblin Berisha, Giancarlo Cotella, Umberto J. Rivolin, Alys Solly**  
Spatial governance and planning systems and the sustainability of spatial development in Europe

**Benjamin Gröbe, Staphan Grohs, Renate Reiter, Dorothee Riese**  
Urban Europe-related activities between institutionalisation and crisis mode

**Antonio Raciti**  
"Bouncing back" to longstanding urban alliances in the face of the climate crisis? Evidence from Metro-Boston

**Marta M. Lackowska, Wirginia Aksztejn, Lukasz Mikula, Joanna Krukowska**  
Reconstructing recentralization: the central-local interactions in times of illiberal turn in Poland

**Katarzyna Szmigiel-Rawska, António F. Tavares, Emanuel Wittberg**  
Local politics and land use. A comparative study of Norway and Sweden

### SESSION 3

#### Pre-organised Panel: The H2020 HARMONIA project

Chair: **Maria Stella Lux**  
ABC - Politecnico di Milano

**SATURDAY 18/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**  
**ROOM F3**

**Silvia Rossi, Piero Pelizzaro, Ilaria Giuliani**  
Taking advantage of H2020 HARMONIA project to push forward Milan Climate Change adaptation program

**Julia N. Tzortzi, Maria Stella Lux, Giovanni Barbotti**  
Cross-domain collaboration for adaptation strategies: HARMONIA consortium and expertise requirements

**Laurine Duivon, Yulia Barsukova, Pietro Elisei**  
Harmonia Project: Pluralist engagement to enhance cities

### SESSION 4a

#### Pre-organised Panel: Governance in times of crisis

Chairs: **Alessandro Coppola, Gloria Pessina**  
DAStU - Politecnico di Milano

**SATURDAY 18/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**  
**ROOM F3**

**João Seixas, Roberto Falanga**  
The evolution of Urban Governance in Lisbon between convergence and divergence trends

**Era Razin, Lihi Luzon-Beranen**  
Will COVID19 create an opportunity to reform local government finance?

SESSION 1  
**Risks, participation,  
conflicts, and justice**

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## **SPATIAL IMAGINARIES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF TERRITORIAL COHESION IN HORSSENS AND LEGNANO**

### **Keywords:**

cohesion, alliances, economic development

In this paper we explore based on data from a recent European project, COHSMO, the question: *How can a conjunctural analysis of spatial imaginaries explain strategies for developing territorial cohesion in different contexts?* We focus on the two towns Horsens, Denmark and Legnano in Italy. They are cases of towns that have recently gone through a transformation from an industrial past, and both of which struggle with coupling economic growth, spatial development, tackling at the same time growing inequalities and socio-spatial divisions. In both cases, their development depends on their relational geography and functional regions with a nearby big city. In order to interpret the transition phase, the two cities are undergoing we deploy the concept of spatial imaginaries (Sum & Jessop 2013) to examine how history, place identity and alliances between local business and municipal actors are strategically mobilized in varied ways to secure labour market inclusion as particular place-specific versions of corporate social responsibility. We show how the alliances are mobilized in relation to a proactive spatial imaginary in Horsens, and a more reactive spatial imaginary in the case of Legnano. Despite the differences, there are similarities in the role of the mayors in leading and promoting the spatial imaginaries and in how history and place identity become significant for mobilizing community and civil society in development strategies. We argue that it is relevant to analyze the two cases as particular conjunctions (Clarke 2018, Neergaard et al 2020) of changing identity, entrepreneurial spirit and autonomy and interdependence in relations to formal local government. Moreover, we argue that such form of analysis and the results from the two case studies can provide cross-European learning regarding how to approach the fuzzy concept of territorial cohesion in a non-linear way that takes human life into account (Faludi 2016) and thus secures development without social fragmentation.

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## **COMMUNITY-ORIENTED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES: A PATH TO BUILDING RESILIENCE IN EUROPE?**

### **Keywords:**

community engagement, territorial governance,  
CLLD (Community-Led Local Development)

Development strategies based on community potentials and capabilities have been increasingly employed over the last decades by the European Commission, World Bank, and UN to foster local development worldwide. In Europe, they have been conceived as strategies aiming at improving territorial cohesion and resilience, while in developing countries they have been used in rather stressful post-conflict or post-disaster situations, or whenever governmental institutions are weak or unable to provide essential infrastructures and services. They encompass a constellation of forms under several concepts: CBD (Community-based development), CDD (Community-driven development), CED (Community Economic Development) and CLLD (community-led local development) among others. These people-centred, bottom-up, placebased development strategies emphasize community participation and/or control in both planning decisions and the allocation of investment resources. Regardless their emergence in recent literature and international agendas, these local development strategies have been mentioned interchangeably rendering ambiguous the very nature of practices and meanings they encompass. This has led to implementation and evaluation challenges, hindering their evolution and betterment. To shed light on this unclear theme, this paper is divided in four parts: firstly, a historical outline of community-oriented strategies worldwide. Secondly, their clear definition provided by the main scholars as well as an assessment of main similarities and disparities. Thirdly, an analysis of seven key characteristics of each one of them (geography; promoter; ethos; objectives; governance arrangement; leadership; outputs), illustrated by examples selected according to the accomplishment of trustworthy evaluation processes. Finally, a preliminary assessment on the risks and potentialities of the implementation of these strategies in Europe. Arguably, beyond being an opportunity for communities to participate in decision-making processes, these strategies deliver 'soft' outputs, inter alia, community capacitation, social capital building, social inclusion, resilience and on a hopeful note, societal change. While productive economic infrastructure, urbanistic interventions, creation of jobs and services are tangible contributions, 'soft' outputs still represent evaluation challenges. Nonetheless, both categories of outputs produced are expected to fuel a virtuous circle of material and immaterial local development, enhancing territorial governance practices. In this sense, these strategies are an important test balloon to trigger political, institutional, and instrumental innovation in territorial planning and governance.

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## **PERSISTENCE AND CHANGE IN URBAN TOURISM POLICY: EVIDENCE FROM BERLIN AND AMSTERDAM**

### **Keywords:**

urban tourism, urban policy, policy change

The global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic marks a turning point in the history of tourism, and will shape its future development. However, while the COVID-19 pandemic represents an unprecedented challenge, the impacts of tourism on the urban social and physical fabric have been affecting local communities for years. The increased importance of tourism for cities, along with the growing contradictions and conflicts arising from the impacts of urban tourism, have reinforced perception of the necessity for political action. This, again, has led an increasing number of cities to address a substantial reorientation in their tourism policies. While currently envisioned changes are strongly influenced by the 'exogenous shock' of the pandemic, their actual features and directions must be critically understood as part of an ongoing process. A systematic analysis of the emerging shifts in urban tourism policy needs therefore to be backed by critical assessment of the nature and scope of change involved. For this purpose, it appears pertinent to refer theories of policy persistence and change. This presentation adopts an analytical framework drawing on theoretical debates on policy paradigms and policy change (Hall 1993; Baumgartner 2014; Hogan and Howlett 2015). Embedded in a critical-interpretive research approach (Schwartz-Shea and Yanow 2012), the presentation addresses policy paradigms as frameworks of ideas and normative beliefs that – through the way they define problem definitions, goals and instruments of policies – support and legitimize modes of agency and structure as far as to constitute an hegemonic position within a policy field. Reference to policy paradigms structures the analytical field of investigation and allows advancing explanations for policy persistence and change (e.g. Hall 2011), highlighting factors and dynamics by which elements of change – and their relative features – may be introduced in a policy field. Based on initial findings from empirical fieldwork conducted before and during the pandemic in Berlin and Amsterdam, the presentation analyses in what manner policy orientations have changed in the aftermath of the pandemic which may foster the achievement of sustainability goals. On the other hand, it shows how observable policy activities in both cities still conform to traditional tourism development strategies, delineating the picture of a persisting growth-oriented policy paradigm. The presentation however also traces the emergence of ideas, approaches and practices that may bear the potential of initiating more radical change and possibly a paradigm shift towards alternative conceptions of urban tourism.

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### **SPATIALIZING CONCEPTS OF ENERGY JUSTICE: THE CASE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION IN THE NETHERLANDS**

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#### **Keywords:**

spatial, justice, renewable energy

To spur the transition from fossil to renewable energy production, policies have been created to implement renewable sources of energy like wind turbines and solar parks. In Dutch energy policy, the national government created 30 energy regions to which it delegated the planning of achieving national renewable energy goals. Each energy region consisting of numerous governmental, private and civil society actors, is responsible for accomplishing a significant onshore renewable energy production by 2030. The creation of these energy regions has had major spatial and social implications. Its policies will significantly alter regional landscapes and raise questions on who will benefit and who will be disadvantaged (in terms of financial gains, public costs, detrimental landscape change and local ownership of energy production). Furthermore, how these newly created energy regions are governed, and how actors and their needs are recognized is yet unknown. In short, the regional energy strategies raise questions of social and spatial energy justice. In this paper, we argue that to analyze these policies the concept of energy justice needs to be spatialized further. Building on works of Bouzarovski & Simcock (2017) and Yenneti et al. (2016), we propose extending spatial justice to include procedural and recognition aspects as well. This allows critical assessment of how notions of space are created in current energy policies, how they are appropriated by local stakeholders and what they imply about justice. We apply the concept of spatialized energy justice to the policies of two energy regions in the Netherlands: West-Overijssel and Twente. Next to a thematic analysis of policy documents and local parliamentary resolutions we present findings from interviews with local stakeholders in both regions. These findings were used to create an interactive map of energy regions, which will be used to spur the dialogue on implementing renewable energy in both regions.

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TRACK 4

SESSION 2  
**Housing in transition**

## **HOUSING, PLACELESSNESS, AND NEW GEOGRAPHIES IN POST-EARTHQUAKE L'AQUILA**

### **Keywords:**

housing, earthquake disaster, post-disaster reconstruction

Post-disaster reconstruction is a complex process. It deals with the underlying vulnerabilities of the territories affected, the stress and pressures that connote its aftermath, and the hopes, challenges, and potentials of what comes next. This contribution underlines the complexities posed by the emergency and reconstruction efforts in post-earthquake L'Aquila, Italy. It reveals the approach to shelter and housing interventions in a fragile and fragmented environment that have eventually resulted in the increase and reproduction of pre-disaster vulnerabilities. The purpose of this contribution is to offer a critical examination of the aftermath of 2009 L'Aquila earthquake. It considers the elements of the recovery process, addressing major initiatives that have resulted in new geographies, stirring feelings of uneven discrimination and tension, and becoming major obstacles to equitable rebuilding of houses and livelihoods. The analysis of the processes and outcomes of temporary and permanent post-earthquake housing programmes yields information about the extent to which processes of recovery serve not only physical needs but the expediency of broader political and socio-economic forces that can overwhelm and distort any rational scientific agenda.

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## **GOVERNING PLATFORM CAPITALISM. THE POLITICS OF SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGULATION IN EUROPEAN CITIES**

### **Keywords:**

platform capitalism, multi-level governance, short-term rental housing

The exponential development of platform-mediated short-term rental accommodation (PM-STR) around the world is part of a larger process of transformation associated with 'platform capitalism'. PM-STR have been accused of producing harmful effects on urban communities and markets (e.g. nuisances, increases in housing prices and rents leading to gentrification, unfair competition with the hotel industry...). The interruption of the PMSTR market during the pandemic also revealed the fragilities of this model. In the European context, city governments have, over the past 10 years, developed multiple forms of regulation whose scope, stringency and fields of action differ sharply from city to city. We will present the results of a comparative project which analysed the politicisation and regulation of PMSTR in 12 large European cities (Amsterdam, Barcelona, Berlin, Brussels, Lisbon, London, Madrid, Milan, Paris, Prague, Rome, Vienna). We first map the various stakeholders which have been advocating, or opposing, the regulation of PM-STR, to show how social and economic interests have been reconfigured through new coalitions, conflicts and relationships between public authorities, corporate platforms, professional STR organizations, associations of hosts, the hotel industry, residents' associations and social movements. Second, we comparatively analyse the regulations put in place to manage and/or control PM-STR. Finally, we reflect on the current challenges to PM-STR regulations (and their implementation) posed by two developments: (i) the reactions of the diverse interest groups affected by regulatory measures, in particular the lobbying, political and legal activities of digital platforms as "new urban actors", and the subsequent judicialisation and transnational rescaling of regulatory conflicts at the European (EU) level; (ii) the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic: after disrupting tourism flows and temporary mobilities, it has given rise to a growing mid-term rental market for so-called 'nomad workers', which entails new regulatory challenges.

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## GOVERNING SUBSTANDARD HOUSING IN SHRINKING TERRITORIES

### Keywords:

substandard housing, post-political governance, urban decline

The Côtes d'Armor is a 6000 square-kilometer area in France, known for its urban and industrial decline. Most of small sized cities located throughout the territory are shrinking and the population has been decreasing for decades. In that context, the most disadvantaged are stuck in this deindustrialized area and the poverty rate is on the rise. The households' poverty impacts the quality of housing units which have degraded over the years, giving rise to an increase of substandard housing units over the territory. A coalition of public stakeholders has been built in order to help the people living in substandard conditions. Relying on a diversity of state funded programs, this public coalition aims at providing the resources to make the works needed to improve the home environment. As we point out, the ways in which the resources are provided to the households gave rise to a technocratic and post-political management led by experts. The outsourcing to nonprofits which compete to get the public funds brings them to reduce the cost of their proposals as well as the quality of their action. We argue in this paper that this post-political governance of substandard housing issue contributes to the delegitimization of grass roots organizations and activists who prone more political solutions to end the substandard housing as a stricter regulation of rental housing.

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## **HOUSING WELFARE & URBAN REGENERATION IN THE FACE OF *RECOVERY***

### **Keywords:**

housing welfare, urban regeneration, co-production

Over the last decades, Italy has faced a significant contraction of public investments over public or privately-owned affordable housing and housing policies in general. A consequence is the decline of the public and affordable housing stock as well as a decrease, in quantity and quality, of welfare services traditionally associated with affordable housing, even in the face of an increasing social divide. In this context, the non-profit sector often takes initiatives aimed at fulfilling the demand for affordability and services but not without significant criticalities. Today, the sudden availability of an important amount of public funds connected to the recovery phase seems to increase public institutions' possibilities of actions in many sectors, including housing affordability. However, at the local level, the lack of a strategic vision and clear objectives are amongst the cause of public investments that (when successful) do not match with the real needs of cities. What can academia do, in the immediate term, to push for a better use of recovery funds? Many scholars, including planning scholars, are intensively debating over this dilemma. This paper aims at contributing to this debate, with a focus on the local scale, moving beyond the necessary but not sufficient activity of 'monitoring' public expenditures in this recovery phase. The paper discusses the opportunities to use research to directly enhance the actions of public administrations, presenting the initial findings of an action-research partnership aimed at improving housing welfare in the Catania Metro Area, involving researchers at the University of Catania supported by the Horizon 2020 e-SAFE project. In the Catania context, the housing issue is inevitably associated with the local debate on 'urban regeneration' since, after its approval in the summer 2020, the new regional planning law considers 'urban regeneration' the main planning priority for all Sicilian Cities. Here, the implementation of public initiatives toward the enhancement of housing welfare faces obstacles related to fragmentation of responsibilities and significantly scarce capabilities of the local authorities. A set of local actors, with the aim of pushing the inefficient authorities 'to do the right thing' are engaging in a series of civil actions that are progressively converging toward collaboration and co-production.

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## THE CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION OF PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT: THE ROLE OF PERIPHERALITY

### Keywords:

organised crime, governance, real estate

The paper deals with the infiltration of mafia-type organised criminal groups [OCGs] with regard to property development in peripheral areas. It has two main aims. Firstly, to shed light on the fact that, contrary to what has been frequently argued about the lack of interest for real estate development by mafia groups, OCGs often become active agents of this industry. Secondly, to identify those place-bound aspects that foster OCGs infiltration in real estate development. To this end, the article reviews recent instances of OCGs infiltration in the sphere of property development in the nontraditional mafia area of northern Italy. By focusing on two small municipalities, Brescello and Desio, the article offers insight into the factors that make peripheral areas an attractive property market for place-embedded criminal organisations such as mafias – that is: stagnation, low complexity and low competition of the local property market, and the ease of infiltrating the local political and bureaucratic spheres thus shaping directly urban planning.

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# ROUNDTABLE

## **Municipal housing as an arena for overcoming fragmented urban policies**

**Keywords:**

municipal councils, representation, surveys

Within the debate about a 'shift from government to governance' it is emphasized that representative bodies and 'parliamentary politics' related to them have a 'holistic character' (Lord 2007: 147) in so far as they offer a place for political decisions 'in which all problems can be comprehended in relation to all others. This [...] is important if representatives are to influence trade-offs of value across the range of public policy, and control the externalities and cumulative unintended consequences associated with individual actions' (Lord 2007: 147). This is more than ever true in complex and interdependent but at the same time fragmented societies (see Habermas 1996: 151ff.) which are thereby characterized by various processes of fragilization. To avoid uncontrolled externalities and cumulative unintended consequences of fragmented actions, not only certain normative ideas or opinions of appropriateness and particular dominant understandings of causalities have to be accommodated. At the end policies of segmented policy domains have to be coordinated and – ideally – anti-fragility policies have to be developed. What is true for modern societies in general is also true at the local level – not least for larger cities or urban centres. The proposed special session (panel) aims at a discussion about how and under which conditions 'parliamentary politics' of municipal councils can attain a 'holistic character' in the sense outlined above and thereby counterbalance fragilization. The proposed special session (panel) is not to be based on the presentation of a limited number of papers (and their discussion), but on a round table debate starting with prepared short statements by members of the EURA network, which has conducted surveys on actors involved in local politics in different roles and different forms over the last two decades in most European countries (see <https://eura.org/activities/workinggroups/state-society/>) and is now planning a new (the second) survey on municipal councillors. The proposed special session (panel) and the intended round table debate will also offer participants an opportunity to join this EURA network as new members. Dubravka Jurlina Alibegovic Björn Egnér Hubert Heinelt Kristof Steyvers Cristina Stanus Pawel Swianiewicz Filipe Teles

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## **AMATEURS OR PROFESSIONALS: ROLE PERCEPTION OF ICELANDIC LOCAL COUNCILLORS**

### **Keywords:**

laymen system, councillors, role perception

The Icelandic local government system is based on a traditional layman system. However, there is a growing pressure from local elites to increase the level of remuneration for local councillors, which de facto means a transition from amateur councillors to a professional type. In a professional system, the possibility of entering the political sphere and developing a political career is no longer equally distributed. Hence, instead of the council mirroring society, it is replete with professional politicians, thus epitomising expertise over political equality. Consequently, it may be argued that the importance of responsiveness surpasses representativeness. Studies have found a complex relationship between public service motivation and extrinsic and intrinsic rewards, such as one's sense of accomplishment or remuneration. It has also been pointed out that councillors may be motivated by institutional positions, such as holding a committee or council leadership position. The effects of moving from a system based on the layman ideal to one of professional politics may therefore provide mixed results.

The aim of this study is to explore Icelandic councillors' attitude towards their role as elected members of local government in relation to general notion of a transition from a laymen system to a professional system. The study utilizes survey data from among all local councillors in Iceland collected in 2020, with a response rate of 51% and aims to answer the following questions:

What indications are there of a transition from a laymen system to a professional system in Iceland?

Which factors are influencing the transition from laymen system to a professional system in Iceland?

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Preorganised Panel

## SESSION 3

# The H2020 HARMONIA project

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### Keywords:

climate change adaptation, risk management, European projects

In recent decades we have seen a progressive increase of risks due to both natural and human hazards. Climate Change has intensified this risk scenario, by increasing the number and frequency of extreme events and posing a serious threat to the stability of urban structures and urban life. Indeed, cities are the most vulnerable areas as they represent the physical places where most of the global population is –and will be– concentrated and due to the consistent number of strategic activities and assets. Considering the complexity of the topic that involves several different domains, different levels of action need to be analysed. For decades, scientific research has been studying the causes and patterns of the changes taking place on a global scale, increasingly seeking to perfect models for explaining and predicting future scenarios. Theoretical research has rapidly been joined by applied research, which has created a bridge between the technical disciplines and the field of decision-making. In this respect, the efforts of several European and international institutions, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the European Commission, have promoted the development of solid tools and guidelines to translate the advancement of knowledge into strategic adaptation measures for urban and non-urban contexts. However, the gap existing between general principles and local policies and politics is still challenging to be tackled. In particular, cities became the very centre of experimental adaptation politics and in many cases municipal and local governments are the first promoter of innovative policies, as they directly experience the urgency of a transformative approach, even if they often come up against the reluctance of the population which is not sufficiently informed, the lack of funds and the scarcity of specialized professionals. Within this scenario, the role of European research is precisely to establish vertical links between different levels of intervention and transversal links between similar situations and themes in order to create synergies and promote individual competencies within a framework of collaboration and exchange. The recently concluded European research programme, Horizon 2020 (H2020), has grabbed particular attention on expertise integration and on maximising the impact of research, through research paths specifically focused on the combination of theoretical and applied research such as the RIA actions (Research & Innovation Actions) which primarily aim to establish new knowledge and explore its feasibility in practical terms. In these kind of research projects usually a fruitful interaction among the research field, the industrial/technical domain and the decision-making realm can take place and has a crucial role in providing an effective science-policy interface. The proposed panel illustrates in general the role of European research as a bridge between research and local government policies and investigates the relevance of collaboration between different actors and the integration of

expertise in dealing with increasing risks and generalised uncertainty. Moreover, the practical case of HARMONIA project is presented and discussed between the coordinator (POLIMI-DABC) and other two engaged beneficiary partners (URBASOFIA and Milan municipality). They all have a significant previous experience in EU-funded projects and well represent the variety of contributions included in HARMONIA. The H2020 HARMONIA programme aims at leveraging existing tools and technologies to deliver an innovative Integrated Resilience Assessment Platform (IRAP) working on top of Global Earth Observation System of Systems GEOSS. The main objective is to overcome the current lack of a dedicated process of understanding and quantifying Climate Change (CC) effects on urban areas, while the expected outcome is a platform usable by researchers, citizens and local administrators with a Decision Support System to help policy making and adaptation processes. The heterogeneity of final users targeted for the platform is comparable to the variety of data collected to feed the algorithms: they include human health and wellbeing data, information on the urban structure and ecological system of the pilot cities involved, historical series of climatic data to build predictive models and citizen-based data to calibrate the platform according to local needs and specificities. The strong social component of the project is a key aspect and among the main innovative points of the project, as the technical tools of Earth Observation are usually difficult to be accessible for local administrators, even if they could provide a great input for local risk assessment and strategic planning. The discussants participating in the panel will bring to the attention the main points and expectations on HARMONIA project and will provide a practical example of multi-level research programme to overcome sectorization and promote interdisciplinary exchange. In particular, the project coordinator and panel proposer Prof. Dr. Julia Tzortzi (POLIMI- DABC) will discuss the differentiation of expertise in the formation of the research consortium and the structuring of the project to maximise a fully tailored result to the specific needs of each of the cities involved; URBASOFIA will provide an insight on the project stakeholder engagement plan, highlighting the need for a strong and pluralist inclusion of a wide social base to support successful adaptation strategies; and Milan municipality will present from within the barriers for adaptation policies and the expected benefits from a shared European project.

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## **TAKING ADVANTAGE OF H2020 HARMONIA PROJECT TO PUSH FORWARD MILAN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAM**

### **Keywords:**

urban adaptation, resilience administration, strategic planning

The city of Milan has been a pioneer in Italy in adapting administrative structures to the new challenges of climate change. In 2019, it was the first Italian city to establish an Urban Resilience Department and is the only city with a PGT (Territorial Management Plan) that specifically covers urban resilience improvement objective with dedicated targets related to climate impact reduction (Art.10). The Urban Resilience Department of the Municipality of Milan aims to strengthen the “resilience” of the city, i.e. to increase the ability to face the main environmental, social and economic challenges through the development of urban strategies based on data evidence and site-specific requirements. Joining the HARMONIA project allows a useful assessment and construction of awareness of the risks that the city of Milan faces, considered as starting points for the development of a strategy that helps the city to deal with them and keep itself on a development path. The Municipality of Milan therefore intends to pursue as a project output the development of a resilience strategy, systematization of existing actions and identification of new projects. Adopt a methodology that makes it possible to recognize and map risks, shocks and stresses that a city or a specific area or community must face and against which it must build adaptation tools. In this regard, the Urban Resilience Department has initiated the process of identifying and engaging stakeholders, according to the model relating to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Among the risks that the city of Milan intends to focus on within the project we can find flash floods, floods, heat islands and heat waves. Among the problems that the city of Milan has faced due to climate change we find heat waves, intense rains, extreme hailstorms, floods. The most relevant consequences are noted above all in the so-called weak population groups, such as the elderly and children. For this reason, it is now more than ever necessary to review the planning of the territory which has heavily compromised safety and the ability to absorb extreme events, now more and more frequent.

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## **CROSS-DOMAIN COLLABORATION FOR ADAPTATION STRATEGIES: HARMONIA CONSORTIUM AND EXPERTISE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Keywords:**

research consortium, adaptation policies, cross-domain research

The HARMONIA project simultaneously addresses three main objectives set by the European Commission for the Horizon 2020 research programme, namely the advancement of global observation systems and derived data management, the adaptation to Climate Change (CC) and the societal challenge of extending the base of awareness and participation in the climate challenge. The extent and complexity of the field of action is matched by an equally transversal and multidisciplinary consortium of 22 European partners from 10 European countries. Of these, 4 are technical universities that guarantee the scientific research base and adherence to the open access knowledge requirements of European research; 9 are SMEs with specific expertise in the fields of earth observation, risk assessment, meteorological analysis, participatory processes or data legal management; 9 are SMEs with specific expertise in the fields of earth observation, risk assessment, meteorological analysis or legal management; 4 research institutes bringing specific perspectives on health and well-being risks, on the impact of CC at the urban scale, on the overall analysis of climate change trends and other associated environmental risks; 1 NGO resulting from a collaboration between the Joint Research Centre and the European Agency for Sustainable Development and Eurointegration; and finally 4 municipalities acting as pilot cases to calibrate and test the tools developed within the project. The main novelty of the project is the combination of the social and technical components. In particular, the inclusion of parameters of human health and well-being alongside the parameters of environmental risks and possible damage to the urban structure, and the setting up of a participatory process that includes a broad base of stakeholders, makes it possible to bring the scientific discourse back to a tangible dimension of concrete interest for citizens. This paper discusses the importance of cross-sectoral and vertical integration of expertise to address climate change and promote sustainable development solutions in a non-sectoral way and to maximise the impact of research.

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## **HARMONIA PROJECT: PLURALIST ENGAGEMENT TO ENHANCE CITIES' CLIMATE CHANGE PREPAREDNESS**

### **Keywords:**

local impact, resilient cities, co-designed planning process

The influence of cities on Climate Change (CC) and related consequences on human beings cannot be underestimated. Therefore, effective and sustainable decision-making in urban planning related matters needs to have a strong participatory planning foundation, being inclusive and taking into account both the changing behaviours and the urban metabolism. The Harmonia project (H2020 EU, financed project) can help to face these open challenges as it aims at uniting the stakeholders around the common CC issues, through a co-design and co-participation process. The Harmonia Project allows the stakeholders not only to understand the impacts on their local environment but also to concretely visualise those issues through a Support System for improved resilience and sustainable urban areas. The Harmonia project enhances cities' preparedness to respond to specific predictions and protect their residents and assets, making cities more resilient towards climate change-induced risks. To achieve these goals, Harmonia is going to engage a wide-ranging of stakeholders at the local level, from experts to citizens. The stakeholders' engagement supports Harmonia Project not only to achieve sustainable collaboration with all those urban and regional actors affected and interested by the envisaged outputs but also to develop the Integrated Resilience Assessment Platform (IRAP) on real-life needs to provide high usability and efficacy. To strengthen this co-design planning process and shape a project that addresses very local territorial crisis, Harmonia consolidates its community by engaging stakeholders and citizens as an active observatory of CC phenomenon. Finally, the Harmonia Project aims to reach, attract and engage all key urban and regional stakeholders, especially in the topics where they can make a difference for inclusive and sustainable development processes at the scale of urban transformations.

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ICS-UL

## **THE EVOLUTION OF URBAN GOVERNANCE IN LISBON BETWEEN CONVERGENCE AND DIVERGENCE TRENDS**

### **Proximities and distances on the evolutionary dynamics of civic movements and urban administration**

#### **Keywords:**

urban governance, civic movements, city administration

Around the world, in parallel with the advent of the new digital era, cities are experiencing transversal and increasingly noticeable transformations. Creating and reinforcing various types of dilemmas, given the combination of the new dynamics and experimentations, the stalemates in some fundamental areas, and new expressions of social precariousness and dissatisfaction. In contemporary Lisbon, these dilemmatic combinations can also be understood in a growing manner. By one side, there are most pressing issues in city life – from climate change to social inequalities, from the digitalization of the economy and urban life to the formation of new cultures and communities. Concomitantly, there can be seen a steady although seemingly too organic or semi-strategic positioning of new urban public policies. Finally, there is an emerging generation of civic movements with increasing dynamism and social attention, albeit still with relatively fragile capacities for sound political influence. Although most of these dynamics have been fostered through reactive or protest expressions, some are now beginning to demonstrate new knowledge and organisational capacities, notably around most pressing urban issues such as housing accessibility, social inequalities, urban mobility or the quality of public space. The analysis developed involves a broad evolutionary framework of these issues in Lisbon. Focusing on an integrated conceptual framework; and concomitantly on three dimensions, each including specific methodologies for corresponding empirical analysis. By one side, looking at the ongoing changes in urban life, on the new civic movements developed in the city for the most recent decade, and on its reflections on citizenship and communitarian expression and capacitation. By other side, mapping most recent proposals for political and administrative innovation or reform, on the different urban political spaces and scales of the city. And finally, focusing on the evolution of the dialogues, interconnections and negotiations between local authorities, social movements and citizenship as a whole. The analysis identifies a set of key fields for deeper and clearer interpretation of contemporary urban governance evolution. Fields mostly related to the urban public spheres, to the reform of institutional and normative structures of administration and planning, to the evolution of social and political urban cultures, and more broadly in face of a growing involvement of new and strongly digitalized generations – in civic collectives, in political leadership, in academic as well as in entrepreneurial stances. Alongside the innovative processes occurring in each specific area, the analysis developed in Lisbon shows that some decisive lines framing the evolution of urban politics will certainly be based on the activation of both formal and informal collaborative processes of policy co-production amongst considerably distinct groups and universes.

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## **WILL COVID19 CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFORM LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE**

### **Keywords:**

local government reform, fiscal zoning, COVID-19 crisis

**Will the Changing Economic Geography Associated with COVID-19 Create an Opportunity to Reform Local Government Finance? The Case of Israel.** The COVID-19 crisis has accelerated growth in online shopping and remote work, creating a window of opportunity for long-awaited reforms in local government finance that address the need to reduce overreliance on taxes paid by retail establishments and offices. Such overreliance encourages fiscal zoning that creates an oversupply of land allocated for businesses, negatively affecting affordable housing and exacerbating inter-municipal fiscal disparities. Our study discusses the Israeli case of extreme municipal reliance on non-ad valorem property taxes paid by non-residential uses. It assesses whether a shift of local property tax burdens from business to residential uses is inevitable, and the role of the pandemic in overcoming barriers for reform, associated with Israel's multiparty coalitional government regime and diverse, divided society. The study begins with a quantitative examination of fiscal municipal data, revealing differential vulnerability to a possible decline in non-residential property tax revenues: most negatively affected are cities at medium levels of fiscal strength and peripherality. This is followed by a qualitative assessment of interviews, depicting views of various stakeholders towards reform and discussing the pros and cons of diverse alternatives that aim to mitigate distortions in the present system. We show that choices are likely to rely less on efforts to identify an (elusive) optimal alternative, and more on the ability to overcome barriers for implementation; largely because of the inability to predict the identity of winners and losers; the former are likely to remain silent while the latter will protest and decision-makers will pay a political price. Hence, debates over reform should emphasize these barriers rather than search for non-existing novel mechanisms. Steps may be restricted to small incremental, politically feasible steps, or opt at a broader change that depends on seizing rare political "windows of opportunity". These may consist of an emergency crisis context coupled with a stable government, enabling to fundamentally reduce the over-dependence of local government on business taxes and make housing more attractive from the point of view of local finance.

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TRACK 4

SESSION 4

**Governance in times of crisis**

### **SPATIAL GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING SYSTEMS AND THE SUSTAINABILITY OF SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE**

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#### **Keywords:**

spatial governance and planning systems,  
sustainable urbanisation and land use, ESPON

The attention on the sustainability of development processes and of the spatial transformations that they entail has grown incrementally in the last decade (Solly et al., 2021). Aiming at shedding light on the matter, the ESPON SUPER project (2018-2020) investigated, through quantitative and qualitative means, the actual sustainability of urbanization processes and land use practices in Europe and the capacity of spatial governance and planning systems to steer and manage them (ESPON, 2020, Cotella et al., 2020). Through an online survey the project gathered the opinions of 163 experts from 37 European countries (26 EU + 11 non-EU) in relation to these aspects. In particular, the respondents were required to discuss whether in their national context spatial development has become more or less sustainable since 2000, and to specify whether the main obstacles to the sustainability of spatial transformations have been political – i.e. depending on the lack of a more or less explicit political will – or technical – i.e. depending on the nature and effectiveness of the spatial governance and planning system and related instruments and practices. The results of the survey were then correlated with quantitative data from the Corine Land Cover database on land use change across European countries and regions from 2000 to 2018. The proposed contribution draws on the results of this activity and on the authors' previous research on the public control of spatial development (Janin Rivolin, 2017; Berisha et al. 2021) to develop a typology of spatial governance and planning systems in Europe in relation to their capacity to influence, in positive or negative terms, the sustainability of spatial development. Overall, the results of the analysis suggest that the latter is a function of different variables, which include the power relations between state and market actors that permeate the decision-making arena, the actual political will of the public actor to pursue spatial development trajectories that are more sustainable and the availability of spatial governance and planning instruments that are appropriate for this task.

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### URBAN EUROPE-RELATED ACTIVITIES BETWEEN INSTITUTIONALISATION AND CRISIS MODE

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#### Keywords:

local level, european union, covid-19

The process of Europeanisation (Graziano/Vink 2007) places local governments in a constantly changing environment that brings challenges, opportunities and constraints for the urban level (Hamedinger/Wolffhardt 2010). These circumstances raise three questions: First, what institutions and routines (Olsen 2009) have local governments developed to adapt to the process of European integration, to face its challenges and make use of its manifold opportunities. Second, how do these institutionalised procedures and routines shape whether and how municipalities pursue Europe-related activities (Guderjan/Verhelst 2021). We understand procedures and routines as the manner in which European work is organised and formally institutionalised in the municipalities (e.g., in the form of European Affairs Coordinators, European Affairs Departments or other forms). Third, we investigate how the Covid-19 crisis has been affecting these established routines. The paper presents fresh quantitative and qualitative data from a current research project focusing on the German case to examine the urban levels' role as the basic territory in the European multi-level-governance system. In our contribution, we theoretically examine, on the basis of four dimensions (uploading, ownloading, horizontal networking, communication) how Europeanisation affects the urban level, what activities municipalities have developed and routinely pursue to respond to the challenges of Europeanisation and to actively shape Europeanisation. In a first step of analysis, we empirically investigate the institutional and organisational conditions under which urban European activities are carried out in Germany. In a second step, we analyse the political and socioeconomic determinants that can explain the variance in municipal European activities between cities and municipalities in Germany by performing a multivariate data analysis. In particular, we will focus on the question whether the institutionalised procedures and routines in local government have an influence on the type and extent of urban European activities. In a third step, we examine the consequences of the Covid 19-pandemic for municipal Europe-related activities and whether the procedures and routines institutionalised in the cities and municipalities have helped to return to 'normal' municipal European work or whether the crisis resulted in the institutionalisation of entirely new routines.

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## **“BOUNCING BACK” TO LONGSTANDING URBAN ALLIANCES IN THE FACE OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS? EVIDENCE FROM METRO-BOSTON**

### **Keywords:**

climate adaptation, urban growth, urban regime, post-political, Boston

This paper uses a prism of urban theories to unpack rationales, research agendas, and ongoing planning efforts by exploring mechanisms of mobilization of resources and collaboration of urban actors around climate adaptation strategies in Metro-Boston. The paper reviews the literature on urban growth and regime theories and connects these with more recent theoretical strains in climate justice to analyze why and how urban actors cluster to face climate change challenges through adaptation.

Growth, regime, and post-political theories are instrumental in navigating contemporary challenges posed by climate change and inquiring about existing and construct different climate change politics. Two decades of climate justice literature have, in fact, demonstrated how processes and pathways of adaptation strategies have been continuously reinforcing the elitarian status quo by re-proposing dispossession cycles. Underpinnings of this conclusion stand on the large body of research inquiring about the connection between climate action and social justice, and pointing to the need for innovative roadmaps to reorient research toward the social dimension of adaptation.

By using stakeholder network mapping analysis and in-depth key-informant interviews, this paper explores how climate justice issues are strictly dependent on the social processes embedded in existing urban regimes whose mainstream climate adaptation agendas are set and maintained by prominent urban actors. More specifically, this research's empirical component analyzes a stakeholder network of 148 people, spanning public, private, non-profit, and academic sectors, and operating in Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, and Somerville (Massachusetts). The paper offers critical insights on the controversial nature of the content of these agendas in Metro-Boston and opens an arena to discuss both contents and social processes that could lead to more just efforts. It points out how existing small forms of diversity, inclusion, and participation alone are insufficient to intervene in the existing powerful alliances in the climate adaptation field and advocates for a more drastic re-imagination of the existing stakeholders' network if just outcomes are desired.

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## **DECONSTRUCTING RECENTRALIZATION: THE CENTRAL-LOCAL INTERACTIONS IN TIMES OF ILLIBERAL TURN IN POLAND**

### **Keywords:**

recentralization, local government, democracy

The paper intends to provide conceptual framework and methodological apparatus for investigating conflicts between central and local governments (LGs). The article has been inspired by the contemporary recentralization processes in Europe which are motivated both pragmatically (counteracting the economic crisis) and ideologically ('illiberal turn'). Empirically this research is based on the phenomena observed in Poland, however, its ambition is to provide a universal framework to analyze the central-local relations. By combining a theoretical concept of dimensions of political universum with the factors of Local Autonomy Index (Ladner, Keuffer and Baldersheim, 2016; Ladner et al., 2019) our analysis proposes two typologies to capture centralistic actions and local governments' counterreactions respectively. These typologies are then used to map the patterns of recentralization interplay in Poland.

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## **LOCAL POLITICS AND LAND USE. A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF NORWAY AND SWEDEN**

### **Keywords:**

local institution, land-use, Corine Land Cover

Sustainable development, land use and sprawl represent a critical front in global efforts to combat climate change as the planet continues to urbanize. However, prior studies have rarely examined the role played by political institutions in facilitating or hindering the preferences of land use-based interests. This article investigates land use changes in Sweden and Norway. We employ the political market framework to discuss the role played by local political institutions and actors in mediating the pressures exerted by interest groups in the political market for developable land (Keohane et al., 1998; Lubell et al., 2005; 2009). The key hypothesis argues that political institutions are permeable to the influence of land use interests, particularly those valuing the exchange value of land. The study describes the land use management systems in Sweden and Norway and shows satellite-based evidence illustrating the major land use changes during two periods of analysis (2006-2012 and 2012-2018). Using a Land Use Change Index (LUCI) calculated for each municipality and measuring the change towards more intensive land-uses in the years 2006-2018, we test the key hypothesis by employing spatial econometrics models. The evidence suggests that local political institutions interact with land-based interest groups to influence more-intensive landscape changes over the study period. Our paper provides important insights into the complexity that heterogeneity in political institutions and land use interests add to public policy aimed towards sustainable development.

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# Governance of transition

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New alliances, approaches, and a constellation of practices are emerging in contexts dense with un-responded societal needs and different in nature and forms of fragility. In their local manifestations, systemic crises (from pandemics to climate change) often reveal deep-seated societal problems, which require a profound shift away from socially and ecologically unsustainable practices. A groundswell of experiments has emerged in recognition of and response to the urgent need for transition. Such attempts may emerge to fill institutional and organisational gaps or to support institutional actors with limited capacity or power to activate transformative dynamics in the face of complex socio-technical challenges. Still, they might question the very way these challenges are defined and addressed, proposing alternative discourses and claiming different modes of action.

Within this perspective, Track 5 aims to reflect on sustainability transition, exploring what are its possible trajectories as observed in empirical and real-world settings. In particular, the track focuses on agencies shaping or activating transition dynamics and transformative resources at multiple levels. Also, it discusses the potentials and criticalities of transition governance models and approaches, particularly investigating the role of learning and experimentation. A further reflection revolves around emerging narratives and inspiring stories - from early evidence of transformative tensions to long-term consolidated systemic changes at the urban scale.

The track seeks to unveil under which conditions can fragile territories, cities and neighbourhoods contribute to identifying collective, local, and place-sensitive responses, e.g. related to climate-related and water risks, environmental and sustainability issues, as well as community and social vulnerabilities.

### SESSION 1

#### AGENCIES OF TRANSITION - actors, community and power

Chair: **Le Anh Nguyen Long**  
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**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**  
**ROOM 16 C03**

**Maria Cerreta, Laura Lieto, Chiara Mazzarella**  
Socio-spatial infrastructures as transformative resources in collaborative governance

**Valeria Monno**  
Exploring the transformative potential of collective actions for socio-environmental sustainability

**Dasom Lee, David J. Hess**  
Energy transitions and political conservatism: geopolitical context and political barriers

**Iolanda Bianchi**  
Commons-state institutions in new municipalist contexts: Naples and Barcelona

### SESSION 2

#### TRANSITION GOVERNANCE - models, resources and criticalities

Chair: **Irene Bianchi**  
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**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 9.00 - 11.00**  
**ROOM 16 C03**

**Emma Puerari, Jotte I.J.C. De Koning**  
Service governance and design for transformative inner areas

**Raffaele Giordano**  
System-thinking approach for overcoming the institutional fragmentation

**Dóra Hegyi**  
Exploring digitalisation driven opportunities to mainstream water sensitive practices in Berlin

**David Ludlow**  
New models of smart city governance transition

**Fritz-Julius Grafe**  
Fragile spaces of climate finance

### SESSION 3

#### INSIDE TRANSITION - tools, methods and perspectives

Chair: **Irene Bianchi**  
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**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**  
**ROOM 16 C03**

**Tosoni Ilaria**  
Impact potential of innovation-niches in fragile urban contexts: the case of Designscapes pilots

**Gremina Elmazi**  
Spatial narratives of a city in constant transition

**Justyna Slawska**  
Tradeoffs between local government and interest groups in land use changes in Poland

**Scira Menoni, Anna Faiella**  
Enhanced loss data for improved urban planning and management

### SESSION 4

#### TRANSITION EXPERIMENTATIONS - seeds of change

Chair: **Grazia Concilio**  
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**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 14.00 - 16.00**  
**ROOM 16 C03**

**Einar Braathen, Anders Eika, Svein O. Borgen**  
Living labs - a tool in urban transformation?

**Tieza Mica Santos, Dresden Leibniz**  
Transforming urban water systems through a Social Ecological Technological co-creation framework

**Lee Dahae**  
Public space management networks

**Elena Ferraioli, Giovanni Litt, Filippo Magni, Giulia Lucertini**  
Local framework and multilevel governance toward Climate transition strategy

**Sean Bradley, Israa H. Mahmoud, Alessandro Arlati**  
Integrated collaborative governance approaches towards urban transformation

SESSION 1  
**AGENCIES OF TRANSITION -  
actors, community and power**

## **SOCIO-SPATIAL INFRASTRUCTURES AS TRANSFORMATIVE RESOURCES IN COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE**

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### **Keywords:**

trust, collaborative relationships, generative values

This paper deals with the crisis of welfare and public services with a specific focus on non-governmental organization (NGOs) that developed practices of transformation and re-signification of public spaces and public facilities in two neighbourhoods of Naples, Scampia and Ponticelli. The two neighbourhoods are emblematic cases as for they exemplify public housing policies in the Neapolitan outer belt between the '70s and the '80s. Since the late '80s they have been affected by the crisis of management of a relevant part of the public material stock – subsidized apartments, public facilities, and open spaces – triggering processes of abandonment of buildings and the coalescence of material and social decay. Despite these similarities between the two areas, the presence of NGOs in the neighbourhoods has been characterized by relevant differences. We analysed the relation between the trajectories of urban decay, urban transformation and the role of the most relevant NGOs in the two cases (as for the activities they conducted and the public image that was created around them), to understand what the preconditions and the effects of their presence in the two areas have been. The paper intends to offer a contribution that, starting from the two research experiences, leads to a more general reflection on what types of transformative resources are available to NGOs in such contexts and how they are used to meet the sustainability transition; on what types of processes led by NGOs were able to contrast urban decay and even to reorienting institutional agendas in 'fragile territories'.

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## EXPLORING THE TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL OF COLLECTIVE ACTIONS FOR SOCIOENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

### Keywords:

socio-environmental vulnerabilities, collective action, transformative potential

In this paper, I propose a critical interpretation of forms of citizens involvement that are increasingly used to shape the transition of contemporary cities towards sustainability. For this purpose, I compare coproductive forms of collective action, and bottom-up, autonomous channels of activism in order to highlight their transformative potential in affecting the construction of more socio-environmentally just and sustainable urban space for vulnerable communities. This comparison is not designed to produce normative and conclusive answers on the topic, but rather it is thought to foster further reflection on these forms' capacity to trigger learning and produce new knowledge, within local communities and public administrations, about how to cope and fight socio-environmental vulnerabilities and injustices. The first part of the paper offers a survey of the debate concerning these forms of collective action in the light of their most recent transformations. In the second part, I outline a comparative framework using as a theoretical basis the concept of spatial justice. This last allows me to focus on both tangible and intangible effects of some practices of regeneration aimed at contrasting socio-environmental vulnerabilities and injustices. The comparison confirms that collective actions carried out within the paradigm of coproduction produce relevant material, tangible effects. However, they can be easily instrumentally used as a way to channel vulnerable communities' discomfort into a stream of actions that facilitate these communities' adaptation to unjust urban and regional transformations. Bottom-up collective actions characterized by a critical openness, dialectical and autonomous interactions with public institutions construct alternative discourses and narratives on socioenvironmental justice for a sustainable change. Although ineffective in producing "material" results in the short run, the intangible impacts of these generative collective actions can be relevant in producing a shift of regime towards more just socio-environmental urban transformations. The paper concludes by arguing that focusing on intangible effects is crucial to fight against socio-environmental vulnerabilities.

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## **ENERGY TRANSITIONS AND POLITICAL CONSERVATISM: GEOPOLITICAL CONTEXT AND POLITICAL BARRIERS**

### **Keywords:**

energy transitions, energy conservatism, political ideology

Groups with more conservative political ideologies have been known to show tighter political and economic connections with fossil fuel industries, which have historically made them more hesitant participants of energy transitions. The goal of this paper is to review the existing literature on how political ideologies have shaped people's views on energy transitions and to identify the geopolitical characteristics that lead to different attitudes towards energy transitions. The paper is divided into three sections: first, the key concepts first need to be defined. Political ideology concepts, such as conservatism, liberal, and progressive have contextual differences based on geographical region. Furthermore, clean energy, renewable energy, and low carbon energy are different types of energy transitions. All these concepts are clarified in the first section. The second section of the paper discusses the relationship between political opinion and views on energy transitions. Traditionally, in the US, people with more conservative political views or with Republican affiliations showed less personal concern for global warming and climate change compared to Liberals and Democrats (McCright 2015; Simon and Moltz 2021). Similar trends are also found in Western Europe, although in former Communist countries, such ideological divide was less evident (Hess and Renner 2019; McCright 2015). Nevertheless, the relationship between energy transitions and conservatism is not so straightforward. Clean energy conservatism movements have developed in the United States, which attempted to redefine clean energy policy with the conservative political ideology as the basis (Hess and Brown 2016). This section of the paper examines political relationships between conservatives and fossil fuel industries and their political effects. For example, fossil fuel and transportations, utilities, and other affiliated trade associations are the largest lobbying sectors in the US Congress (Brulle 2018). The paper ends with an outlook and recommendations for future research. This paper makes two scholarly contributions to the field of energy transitions: (1) it provides an overview of political conservatism and energy transition, and (2) by identifying the different geopolitical characteristics, the paper attempts to identify one of the political barriers to energy transitions.

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## **COMMONS-STATE INSTITUTIONS IN NEW MUNICIPALIST CONTEXTS: NAPLES AND BARCELONA**

### **Keywords:**

commons, public services, democratization

The transformation of local state institutions by way of the paradigm of the common (Laval and Dardot, 2015) – the creation of commons-state institutions - has become one of the strategies of new municipalist governments, an attempt to overcome two crises: the crisis of the privatized and the bureaucratic state form. Such strategy aims to take back the production and distribution of the “public” by the state, and democratize this process. The article analyses the discursive use and material implementation of the paradigm of the common in the transformation of local state institutions, and how contested meanings attributed to it by different actors may influence the definition of commons-state institutions. By adopting a qualitative-interpretative methodology based on a two-case comparative study, the article analyses two new municipalist contexts, Naples and Barcelona, and examines the common-inspired transformation of their local public services, respectively, water services and sociocultural facilities. The first case shows how, during the “Barcelona en Comú” government, local cultural facilities that had previously been provided by the local authority began to be managed by community organisations, through a new regulatory framework -“Patrimoni Ciutadà”-. The second case shows how, during the “Democracy and Autonomy” government, the privatized water services in Naples were re-municipalised, but with the establishment of a participatory governance structure. The article concludes by arguing that commons-state institutions are negotiated institutional configurations that emerge from the synthesis of the situated and experimental interpretation of the paradigm of the common that is shared by (different segments of) state and civil society actors, and whose governance needs to be adequately but openly codified for them to be more robust and enduring.

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SESSION 2  
**TRANSITION GOVERNANCE -  
models, resources and  
criticalities**

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## SERVICE GOVERNANCE AND DESIGN FOR TRANSFORMATIVE INNER AREAS

### Keywords:

design capacities, service governance in inner areas, transition activities

Current globalization trends pressure cities and regions to compete with one another for resources, services and population attractiveness. Such trends are resulting in the development of patterns that (i) have a negative impact on socio-ecological challenges (i.e. presence of essential services for the population, climate change dynamics, biodiversity degradation, pollinators decline), and (ii) tend to flatten diversity between territories, in terms of finance, information technologies, economic activities [1]. This paper considers inner areas [2] as fragile contexts that hold the potential of conserving and nurturing diversity, due to their intrinsic nature of being less (physically or socially) connected to central attractors and landmarks. Yet, research on inner areas has often identified their potential to create development patterns based on place-based culture, knowledge and practices, acting as niches for a broader transformation [3]. However, little is written on service governance and design within such successful stories. This work aims to explore the organizational dynamics of services as well as the related design skills needed for such transformation, focusing on those areas characterized by shrinking processes affecting the availability of services [4]. The paper will focus on a set of existing exemplary transformative case studies in two different European contexts (i.e. in Italy and in the Netherlands). In our analysis we will use the specific lens of the role of design corresponding to different transition activities (strategic, tactical and operational) [4] to study empirical evidences from the different contexts. (Service) design can play a role in transition activities at different levels: in tangible resources and outcomes, processes or methods, and design capacities or skills used by people involved at different organizational levels. The study will be based on a desk research study complemented by semi-structured interviews with key actors. The expected results are the creation of a set of lessons learnt to inspire future reflection on the roles of different actors and design skills needed in the development of transformative services within these particular fragile territories.

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## **SYSTEM-THINKING APPROACH FOR OVERCOMING THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAGMENTATION**

### **Keywords:**

nexus management, institutional fragmentation, system thinking

Several paradigms have been proposed in the scientific literature emphasizing the need for overcoming the silo-based approaches in managing environmental resources –and specifically water resources. Starting from the Integrated Water Resources Management up to the Water-Ecosystem-Food Nexus management, the focus has been on the detection and analysis of the interdependencies among the different ecological resources and ecological processes. Improvements in the design of intersectoral policies are still lacking. Interdependencies among resources have been often neglected in sectoral policies with the consequence of persistent trade-offs rather than the strengthening of synergies (Pahl-Wosthl, 2017). The nexus should be governed with a focus on the interaction between policy fields and not on policy fields in isolation. However, ecosystems are complex entities, typically not well-aligned with man-made institutional frameworks. Thus, the ability to match the scale and extent of ecosystems with appropriate structures of governance and, hence, contribute to the nexus resilience suffers from institutional fragmentations (Bodin, 2017). In this work we describe a system thinking based approach for mapping and analysing the complex web of connections among resources, processes and pressures characterizing a socio-ecological system. By comparing the ecological network, connecting resources and ecological processes, and the socio-institutional network, the developed method allowed us to detect the key fragmentations in the nexus management, and to suggest potential interventions. The method was adopted for enhancing the resilience of the WEF Nexus in the Donana protected area, one of the study areas within the EU funded project LENSES.

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## EXPLORING DIGITALISATION DRIVEN OPPORTUNITIES TO MAINSTREAM WATER SENSITIVE PRACTICES IN BERLIN

### Keywords:

Water Sensitive City, digital transformation, sustainable transition

Population growth and climate change put growing pressure on our critical urban infrastructure systems. Urban water is one of the sectors most at risk: extreme climate events (for instance flooding, drought) and water pollution pose increasing threat to urban environments and communities. Sustainable planning and water management approaches, green infrastructure solutions provide an alternative to complement conventional grey infrastructure, therefore improve the resilience of urban systems. Concepts such as the Water Sensitive City (WSC) framework have been extensively researched and gained recognition over the past years, however its widespread implementation often remains a challenge for cities (Wong et al., 2020). Urban sociotechnical systems are urged to transform and find ways to enable the rapid uptake and mainstreaming of sustainable, water sensitive practices. Digitalisation and smart city innovations have a major potential in accelerating this process (Mora et al., 2021), however, such systemic transformation requires integrated institutional frameworks and supportive regulatory mechanisms (Liu & Jensen, 2018). Looking through the lens of multi-level perspective (MLP), institutional and sustainable transition theories (Geels, 2002; Huxley et al., 2019), this paper reviews Berlin's policy landscape to understand where the German capital currently stands in the process of transforming into a Water Sensitive City and how digitalisation supports this endeavour. It analyses policies within the fields of digitalisation, water management and urban planning, with a particular attention to cross-sectoral, integrated policies. Furthermore, building upon this analysis, the paper aims to identify potential gaps and windows of opportunities in Berlin's local policy landscape and urban water governance.

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## NEW MODELS OF SMART CITY GOVERNANCE TRANSITION

### Keywords:

governance, interoperable, transition, digital and green transitions, open integrated and interoperable urban governance

The covid-19 pandemic has propelled cities and citizens through a decade of transformational process overnight, and consequently city transformations impact on city life and neighbourhoods driving both socio-economic and spatial transitions. This process has exposed the essential fragility of our cities and neighbourhoods in terms of exposure to an array of different risk factors, socio-economic, environmental, political as well as institutional. At the same time the pandemic has highlighted once again the importance of resilience and adaptability in city planning by throwing into sharp relief the deep limitations of existing urban governance, and therefore the urgency for new governance solutions. Consequently city planners across Europe and globally are facing a common challenge of how to realise these new solutions, to identify and effectively deploy the transformative resources available to support sustainability transition in this context of dynamic change. How to harness digital and green transitions to deliver simultaneously carbon neutral cities and “new normal” living neighbourhoods. The central research questions addressed in this paper concerns the specification and mobilisation of the transformative resources evident in the new governance models of smart city governance, and the effective fulfilment of the evident potentials for ICT enabled decision making process to transform urban planning. The paper will explore the authors engagement in pan-European research and Innovation actions, spanning more than a decade, to identify the conceptual frameworks and key dimensions of this governance transformation. A conceptual model of open, integrated and interoperable urban governance is presented that defines transition pathways to effective integrated urban planning solutions driven by full stakeholder engagement, fully demonstrated in the city pilot applications of the research process. The paper concludes that the interoperability component of the smart city governance model defines and drives urban planning strategies for digital and green transition that are applicable to all cities universally, and which are fully effective especially within the fragile conditions at the local level.

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## FRAGILE SPACES OF CLIMATE FINANCE

### Keywords:

climate finance, infrastructure, urban

The European Union increasingly pushes for a financialized response to the challenges of climate change within cities. New alliances between actors and shifting practices characterize an evolving space that is set to define urban futures across the Union. Climate and infrastructure finance have become sites of experimentation for new financial products and innovations. This process however, has often occurred “in the dark” with limited levels of transparency and often at the cost of cities, their citizens and their control over path dependencies for sustainability transitions. This paper aims to expose the frictions between this closed off top-down approach to sustainability transitions and the benefits of opening climate finance up to cities as fragile spaces that provide place sensitive readings of local dynamics that can inform better solutions for urbanites across Europe. This paper leans on empirical material gleaned from previous research on the cities of London and Milan in the context water infrastructure development. It makes the argument that understanding the fragility of these cities infrastructures and how they relate to their citizens is key for creating a more inclusive approach to climate finance in Europe.

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SESSION 3  
**INSIDE TRANSITION -  
tools, methods and  
perspectives**



## IMPACT POTENTIAL OF INNOVATION-NICHES IN FRAGILE URBAN CONTEXTS: THE CASE OF DESIGNSCAPES PILOTS

### Keywords:

challenges, innovation-niches, sustainability transition

Sustainability transition requires the synergic contribute of a multitude of factors acting at different levels and scales (Geels et al., 2004, Ernst et al., 2016; Geels, 2018). Addressing persistent socioenvironmental problems such as poverty, migrations, climate change, biodiversity loss, requires shifts to new conditions of socio-technical systems, which imply not just changes in technology or singular components of a system, but impact its entire architecture including embedded practices, policies, cultural meanings, infrastructures, business models...(Geels, 2018)These processes are inherently nonlinear and require the long-term commitment of a multitude of actors. Innovationniches are one of the key agents in these processes and those more connected and in a direct dialogic relationship with the contexts (Concilio et al., 2019). The contribute reflects on the potential role and impact of innovation-niches in fragile urban context starting from the experience of the Horizon 2020 project Designscapes and namely from the outcomes of an open call for pilot projects promoted by the project consortium. The call asked innovators from all over Europe to develop proposals targeting key urban problems focusing on one or more of the following six contemporary challenges: 1. Climate Change and Environmental Footprint; 2. Social Exclusion; 3. Economic Crisis; 4. Low Quality of Life; 5. Crisis of Democracy; 6. Crisis of Values. The analysis of the 100 funded projects allows to draw an overview on the different issues at stake and on conditions considered relevant by the promoter of the initiatives: e.g., key narratives, mobilized or needed resources, factors affecting the relation to the city and specific context of work, as well as principles of the initiative's governance design and its relation to constellations of actors and local or global networks. From the methodological point of view the call is also an attempt to operationalize the project theoretical framework, which identifies in the binomial challenges (problems, risks, crises)/innovation a relevant nexus to transition and proposes accordingly a context-sensitive analysis of initiative-based transformations (Turnheim et al., 2015).

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## **SPATIAL NARRATIVES OF A CITY IN CONSTANT TRANSITION**

### **Keywords:**

skopje, transition city, spatial narratives

Space is the best indicator of situations that occur in a place and it reflects its economic, political, or social situation. For this reason, reading space is a good method to understand the past and predict the future development of a place. On the other hand, a city that has gone through many spatial transitions contains several layers of the above mentioned. These transitions in space are especially characteristic of the 20th century and the period of modernism. A good example of such development can be mentioned cities that have gone through many political and economical evolutions, ideological changes and have been under the influence of many actors. For this reason, most of these cities and developments have similar traces shown in space. One of the cities going through such transitions is Skopje which is why in this paper will be narrated Skopje's spatial development through observations, spatial analyses, and literature reviews. This study will show a historical overview of the city's evolution during the 20 -century transition era, the actors that enhanced such changes, and the outcomes. By analyzing all the subjects that enhanced the changes, the outcome of the research will be space and its evolution until today. The narrative of Skopje can be learned by studying its space, its culture, society, ideological changes, and its spatial fragmentation. In this research, will be emphasized the story of Skopje as an example from which we can learn and benefit. Moreover, Skopje is shown as a sample city, one that shows similar characteristics with other places undergone spatial changes through the same period. This work aims to explain how such cities emerged and how they keep changing still. Among others, tends to shed light on the cities that are in a neverending transition cycle.

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## TRADEOFFS BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND INTEREST GROUPS IN LAND USE CHANGES IN POLAND

### Keywords:

land-use, local government, political institutions

Every day both at the local and global scale, we experience and try to mitigate the negative environmental, economic and social consequences of decisions about land-use changes. The importance of the topic is well recognized among public and private actors, which is reflected in the current political agenda. Public discourse is fostered by the constantly growing interest in this topic in academia – by 2015, there were roughly 9000 papers on land-use changes published, and only in the years 2015-2021 the number increased by another 6000. Well-developed theories explaining the phenomena which come from political and urban studies help to gain insights into the topic. However, they were mainly tested in urbanized areas. Hence there are missing answers to the questions of whether, and if so, to what extent these theories are helpful to explain land-use changes in non-urbanized areas. The dilemma posed is significant because property rights become more strict when the value or/and size of a resource is threatened. Therefore, this paper aims to fill this gap, and to this end, we apply comparative perspective between areas with greater resource scarcity and greater resource availability. With the above in mind, we embed our research in an innovative theoretical concept of the political market, which builds on interest group, public choice and property rights theories. In line with this concept, we assume that land-use changes are the physical outcomes of interactions between land suppliers (local government) and land demanders (interest groups). Introducing a market analogy to policy-making does not imply that the policy outcomes are simply the result of a balance between supply and demand. The perspective is more nuanced – local governments are perceived as moderators of interest group pressure set in a specific context. They favour those groups that can deliver greater political profits. The theoretical concept helps to answer the question: “What are the results of interaction between various interest groups and local governments for land-use changes in Poland?” The concept enables a comparative study between urban and non-urban areas by highlighting broad sets of policy inputs. The great advantage of the research is that it focuses on the actual policy outcomes rather than its declarative part. We use Corine Land Cover (CLC) data – the land-use changes observed in 2012-2018 using satellite images, and we intersect them at the municipal level in Poland. The choice of studied country is also of great importance as Central Europe is generally an understudied area in this topic, and the theoretical concept has not been tested in it before. For the purposes of this study, econometric models with the interaction term of interest groups and local government characteristics were developed for urbanized and non-urbanized areas. As assumed, the results show that the political market concept explains more than individual theories – local governments moderates the interest groups pressure. Moreover, in the space of interaction in urbanized areas, interest groups play a more important role in the observed changes meanwhile, in non-urbanized areas, the characteristics of local government have greater explanatory power.

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## **ENHANCED LOSS DATA FOR IMPROVED URBAN PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Keywords:**

climate change adaptation, information system, resilience

The EU Climate Law calls explicitly for improving the knowledge and informational base on which adaptation to climate change is strategized and developed. In this context we have worked in close collaboration with the EU-JRC in Ispra to develop a tool that will permit improved post disaster damage data collection and management. This is key for any effort to recover and reconstruct in a resilient manner in the aftermath of a disaster, to learn from past mistakes and align new constructions and urban development on ongoing changing hazardscapes. The contribution will illustrate briefly the work carried out in the Lode project funded by DG ECHO and comprising contributions and showcases from 7 countries and developing an IT system that is operational and based on the knowledge and expertise of a wide range of stakeholders that have been consulted and involved to provide their expertise and input. We deem that current planning and city management is too little driven by knowledge and information that is available and very dynamically changing and yet provided by relevant national and European services, to identify criticalities that may significantly burden in the future citizens and businesses. Too often locational decisions occur in hazardous areas or areas that will become hazardous as a consequence of environmental changes and/or buildings and infrastructures are designed with too little awareness of vulnerabilities that may be often avoided or reduced. Tools that are currently produced such as the one provided by the Lode project albeit outside the traditional repertoire urban and spatial planners are used to may become a precious resource for making cities and communities more resilient.

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SESSION 4  
**TRANSITION**  
**EXPERIMENTATIONS**  
**- seeds of change**

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## LIVING LABS – A TOOL IN URBAN TRANSFORMATION?

### Keywords:

living Labs , collaboration , food-system transformation

The paper provides a critical assessment of a H2020 project, “FUSILLI: Fostering the Urban food System transformation through Innovative Living Labs Implementation” involving 12 cities (1). “Living lab” is an increasingly popular concept. Scholars and practitioners have different definitions of the term. The first task of the paper is to assess to which extent and how the 12 cities apply the following three core characteristics of living labs: (i) Experimentation (ii) in close collaboration with users and “stakeholders”, (iii) taking place in a “real-life” environment (2). Deviations from this academic definition in some of the practising cities will be understood by using translation theory (3), which helps us understand how applications of new and trendy concepts are interpreted and designed differently in local contexts to be accepted. The main task of the paper is to address the living lab as a policy instrument, as a tool towards goals at a larger food-system transformation. By using program theory (4), the researchers have found out with the responsible designers and owners of a living lab: 1) What are the intended outcomes of their experimentation activities (their logical model)? 2) Why and under which circumstances may these outcomes create changes that will contribute to the goal of food system transformation (their “Theory of Change”)? 3) To what extent and how does “close collaboration” with users and stakeholders help in the implementation process to produce the intended outcomes and achieve the goals (and thereby being part of the Theory of Change)? Our hypothesis is that the latter dimension – the participation of users and stakeholders – may contribute, on the one hand, to adequate outputs of the experimentation activities; on the other hand, to a wider dissemination of learning effects and other outcomes of living lab experimentation and to the successful scaling up and scaling out of the more tangible outcomes of the Living Lab. Empirical sources: Living lab roadmaps from 12 cities in the FUSILLI H2020 project, field observation and interviews.

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## TRANSFORMING URBAN WATER SYSTEMS THROUGH A SOCIAL ECOLOGICAL TECHNOLOGICAL CO-CREATION FRAMEWORK

### Keywords:

urban water transformation, social-ecological system, sociotechnical system

This paper introduces a novel framework development and accompanying toolkit for governing urban water systems transformation (UWST). Water governance is a key priority in rapidly evolving urban regions and cities facing significant pressure such as climate change, land-use transformation, and population growth. The multidimensional nature of urban water is characterized by the coupled social, ecological, and technological systems inextricably meshed with urban systems. For instance, water-intensive industries and urban sprawl encroaching on adjacent river basin significantly alter resource availability and the hydrological cycle. However, prevailing governance paradigms influenced by techno-centric perspectives of hydromechanics, management, and engineering cannot adequately capture and address this complexity. The discipline-bound ontologies and epistemologies, which also direct real-world governance and policy agenda tend to offer blueprint solutions to address urban water challenges. The implication for water governance being that it overlooks important geographic, temporal, and cultural contextual factors, among others. Employing conventional linear theories and approaches often leads to strong technological and institutional path dependencies and therefore perpetuates systemic risks and failures. Given the clear inadequacies of current water transition governance paradigms, this paper puts forward the Transformation Mosaic Framework (TMF) and Urban Water Transformation Compass (UWTC) as a means towards a critical re-orientation of fundamental UWST's ontological and epistemological assumptions. The TMF and UWTC are a diagnostic framework and application toolkit based in complementary, transdisciplinary, co-design, and co-creating approaches. Transdisciplinary co-creation allows for cross-pollination of diverse knowledge bases and cognitive frames to be represented in the study of UWST. It contributes to new modes of knowledge production and context-sensitive responses to resilience and sustainability challenges. Furthermore, the TMF and UWTC synthesize and leverage an array of ontologies and epistemologies, anchored on the scientific legacies of the Social-Ecological Systems (SES) and Sociotechnical Systems (STS) frameworks. By marrying SES and STS, the TMF also bridges ecology and technology interface specific to urban water systems in explicit recognition that these are co-evolving systems. These are decisive features that guide scholars and practitioners in assessing synergies and trade-offs that emerge during the evolution and implementation process, often defined by spatial, temporal, as well as socio-economic context.

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## **PUBLIC SPACE MANAGEMENT NETWORKS**

### **Keywords:**

public space management, governance network, network theory

Public spaces are essential elements of cities as they offer several benefits. While the significance of public space is widely recognised, contemporary public spaces are often criticised for being either over-managed or undermanaged. Yet, there is a lack of knowledge and academic debate on how best to deliver public space management. This is a crucial question though, especially in times of uncertainties (e.g. due to the pandemic, climate change). Indeed, modern problems are complex. They are not amenable to simple solutions, nor can they be solved by a single entity. Hence, a collaborative approach has gained importance. This research aims to examine public space management through the lens of network theory. Based on a case study in Berlin, Görlitzer Park, it analyses the current practice of collaboration in public space management and discusses whether and how collaboration has improved the local situation. The park has been the site of violent incidents and drug-related crimes. Several attempts have been made to improve the situation, yet, the problems have remained. In 2018, a park council was newly introduced which consists of eleven people living in the neighbourhood. In addition to that, there are multiple actors involved in the park management including district office, police, security company. The research analyses the collaboration between stakeholders by identifying the network structure and discusses factors that have contributed to better park management. Several methods are used including in-depth interview, document analysis and social network analysis. The interim findings suggest that the network in general is not decisive; there are other factors that lead to successful park management. The research gives important insights into how to manage public space in light of expected and unexpected challenges.

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### LOCAL FRAMEWORK AND MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE TOWARD CLIMATE TRANSITION STRATEGY

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#### Keywords:

climate transition, urban resilience, territorial governance

Our societies are currently facing urgent global crises due to climate change and biodiversity loss, which are causing and will increasingly cause irreversible impacts in the future. For this reason, in recent decades, adaptation and mitigation measures have become increasingly important, both because of the physical need for territories to identify sensitive responses to the sustainability challenge and because of the growth of collective awareness on climate-related risks. Despite numerous and increasing efforts, Italian administrations at various levels often find it difficult to effectively activate transformative dynamics because of many strategic and technical gaps. The Climate Transition Strategies promoted (CTS) by the Call for ideas “Strategia Clima” of Fondazione Cariplo tried to compensate these gaps and to support the implementation of urban transition policies. To respond effectively to the need for urban contexts to adapt to climate impacts and to promote development and management models capable of increasing territorial resilience, the Call has brought to the definition of four CTS: two carried out by single municipalities (Brescia and Bergamo), two by aggregations of municipalities (West Brianza and Mantua). The example of partnerships is particularly significant in demonstrating the effectiveness of this strategic tool since they can provide a broader context for action, increase the effectiveness of actions and optimize resources. The common methodology implemented for both processes led to the adoption of: - organic and well-defined coordination structure; - updated and cross-cutting knowledge framework; - shared vision and strategic objectives; - synergic framework of actions; - mainstreaming of planning instruments. Through the technical framework and the methodology implemented, the CTSs can activate inter-municipal transformative actions through the mainstreaming of planning tools, the construction of a medium-long-term vision, and the identification of concrete and widespread actions to be implemented in the territory. These documents, coordinated and shared by the administrations with the stakeholders, can also give stability, coherence, and continuity to adaptation processes involving different stakeholders and sectors of the PA. Finally, they favour the implementation and multidisciplinary of policies for territorial resilience on a large scale that would otherwise be difficult to achieve.

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## INTEGRATED COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE APPROACHES TOWARDS URBAN TRANSFORMATION

### Keywords:

nature-based solutions, shared governance, urban transition

Within the framework of CLEVER Cities – Horizon 2020, Milan, London, and Hamburg are putting in place nine Urban Living Labs (ULLs) for implementing Nature-based Solutions (NBS) in order to tackle urban transformative changes in deprived neighborhoods. Through observational case study analysis, this research aims to identify new integrated collaborative governance approaches that prove to be more complex and adaptive than traditional governance approaches. Herein, ULLs are intended not just as a vehicle for place-based urban regeneration, but also as a starting point for collaborative governance. In this article, it is considered how cocreation pathways may lead to innovation in current local governance structures and achieve transformational change. Specifically, we analyze the resulting collaborative governance models from the post-processing of the CLEVER Cities experiences (from 2018 ongoing until 2023) that helped fertilize the pathways for urban transition and regeneration. In each city, a co-creation process has been initiated with municipalities, public institutions, private actors, civil society, and citizens to support the effective urban regeneration processes that respect each city's context. In response to local context such as existing social structures and local institutional arrangements, different organizational governance models evolved accordingly. Following a Multi-Actor Perspective (MAP), within each of the three cities, the range of integrated collaborative governance models that have emerged is examined. The first phase of the co-creation process aimed to establish the so-called Urban Innovation Partnership (UIP), which were comprised of local clusters of stakeholders and were formed using a more appointed partnership model. During the co-design and subsequent phases, each city's ULLs developed their own collaborative governance model based on the context and the envisioned NBS to be implemented with local stakeholders. Future research will look at implemented co-governance models within the different phases of cocreation (co-implementation and co-development) that followed in order to comparatively assess a possible trend for change over time of collaborative governance towards urban transition.

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# Sustainability as a challenge, within an integrated perspective

## TRACK CHAIRS

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During the last decade, particularly in the previous years, European and National strategies and efforts for urban, rural, and regional sustainable development, and the associated academic discourse, have mainly focused on dealing with sustainability challenges. The focus has been on Green Strategies, considering climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies as the main priorities. Since then, encouraging scientific results have come from different disciplines; however, a strategic and integrated vision and solutions based on complementary expertise are often still neglected.

Within this framework, the UN 2030 Agenda with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) timely posed different opportunities and questions on how and to what extent territories are facing sustainability challenges, giving new impetus to interdisciplinary policy, planning and practices within an integrated perspective.

The track aims to address the topic within the general objective of the Conference, encouraging contributions to analyse sustainability and its solutions, such as Nature-Based Solutions, as a significant policy challenge within a context of growing fragilisation. Therefore, the track will discuss the major criticalities and opportunities, contradictions and potentials related to various sustainability dimensions. Contributors will deal with the topic of the localisation of SDGs, from the global to the local perspective, as well as with the goals of the localisation process, by investigating how to transfer international policies of sustainability to local agendas and successfully address and assess sustainability in the governance, planning and implementation of tangible measures in cities and regions. Moreover, they will question the topic of NBS implementation to tackle sustainability challenges both in policies and practices by exploring how local governments promote greening strategies (e.g., NBS) within a coherent and solid framework of shared values and goals. A concern of these contributions will be how the societal and environmental impacts and the numerous co-benefits of NBS can be defined, measured and monitored. The track will also show experiences and insights from local and regional sustainability policy design and planning practice by asking contributors to show how evidence-based policymaking and decision-making processes are supported and promote urban and regional sustainability. Eventually, the track will highlight that NBS and greening measures are unique opportunities to promote interdisciplinary approaches, including a broad spectrum of competencies in local governance and planning, and increase complexity in decision-making routines. For instance, addressing adaptation, mitigation, and biodiversity challenges together through NBS requires the ability to coordinate and manage sound interdisciplinary perspectives, both in theory and practice. Contributions will therefore promote a discussion on how local governments' open decision-making and planning include these new skills, as well as managing complexity. Finally, the track invites a reflection on the actors who are ultimately responsible for planning and designing for the sustainability of cities and regions.

## SESSION 1

### Stakeholders' engagement and needs

Chairs: **Eugenio Morello,**

**Andrea De Toni**

*DASU - Politecnico di Milano*

**THURSDAY 16/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**

**ROOM T02**

**Anna Domaradzka, Mikolaj Biiesaga, Magdalena Kolodziejczyk**

The right to a healthy city - from residents' needs to better planning

**Mick Lennon**

Creating user-responsive greenspace for health and well-being

**Maryam Khatibi**

Exploring new forms of urban housing through a transdisciplinary research approach

## SESSION 4

### Sustainability as a challenge

Chairs: **Andrea De Toni,**

**Eugenio Morello**

*DASU - Politecnico di Milano*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 14.00 - 16.00**

**ROOM T02**

**Magdalena Roszczynska-Kurasinska, Anna Domaradzka**

Grassroots circularity. The potential of local community for implementation of circular solutions

**Mariana Madeira, Sara Moreno Pires, Alexandra Polido, Sérgio Barreto**

Assessing sustainable development through the "Doughnut economics": the case of Portugal

**Rita Santos, Sérgio Barreto, Hugo Almeida**

Impact of European structural and investment funds (ESIF) on development in Portugal

**Melissa Pang, François Golay, Claudia R. Binder**

Urban neighbourhood boundaries and their impact on urban sustainability assessment and research

**Mariella Annese**

Regenerating urban housing in transition

## SESSION 2

### NBS in place (in urban environment)

Chair: **Danielle Sinnett**

*University of the West of England*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 9.00 - 11.00**

**ROOM T02**

**Valeria Vitulano, Carolina Giaimo, Giulio Gabriele Pantaloni**

Integrating green infrastructure into spatial planning

**Dalila Sicomo**

Addressing sustainability challenges in port cities through nature-based solutions

**Elgar Kamjou, Mark Scott, Mick Lennon**

Green inequality in a context of conflict in informal settlements

**Veronica Gazzola, Scira Menoni**

Critical infrastructures: challenges ahead for urban and spatial planners

**Zhihui Ren, Gerald Mills, Francesco Pilla**

Research on the heat mitigation potential of vegetation in street canyons a focus on European cities

## ROUNDTABLE

### Integrating sustainable goals, strategies and actions into spatial planning

Chairs: **Andrea De Toni,**

**Eugenio Morello**

*DASU - Politecnico di Milano*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 16.20 - 18.00**

**ROOM T02**

## SESSION 3

### Territorial planning and sustainability at landscape and regional scales

Chairs: **Maria Chiara Pastore,**

**Livia Shamir**

*DASU - Politecnico di Milano*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**

**ROOM T02**

**Linda Zardo, Massimiliano Granceri Bradaschia, Denis Maragno, Francesco Musco**

Understanding the renewable energy-ecosystem services nexus through a GIS-based trade-off analysis

**Silvia Ronchi, Guglielmo Pristeri, Viviana Di Martino, Andrea Arcidiacono**

Strategic objectives and green infrastructure for landscape regeneration: the experience of Lombardy

**Abdallah Jreij**

Mitigating biodiversity impacts of new sport venues through nature-based solutions

**Silvia Ronchi, Mattia Brambilla**

Agriculture, biodiversity and landscape: an ES-based planning for inner rural areas

CHAIRS

**Eugenio Morello**

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TRACK 6

SESSION 1

# **Stakeholders' engagement and needs**

## THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY CITY - FROM RESIDENTS' NEEDS TO BETTER PLANNING

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### Keywords:

NBS, nature-based solutions, blue-green solutions, health, right to the city

This paper will focus on presenting the results of international research and projects carried out in the field of public health and residents' wellbeing. Those results will be presented within the framework of the right to the city perspective (Lefebvre 1968), with an emphasis on the importance of residents' participation in shaping a healthy future for our cities. We will discuss the right to healthy living in the city (Corburn 2009), designing for health through nature-based solutions (Frantzeskaki 2019) and local potential for problem-solving for residents in the area of health and quality of life. We start with theorizing health as one of the fundamental rights (WHO 2002) and a prerequisite of political rights and wellbeing of urban citizens. We then focus on discerning health-related needs of different groups of urban residents and summarize findings concerning physical and mental health relation with different qualities of urban environment. In this context, we introduce new 'planning for health' methodologies - based on Blue Green Solutions - developed within euPOLIS and HEART projects funded by the European Commission (Bozovic et al. 2017). Both projects focus on the impact of green and blue spaces on people's health and wellbeing, in a wider context of community livability (Wagner, Caves 2012). To conclude, we propose a livability model based on social, economic, environmental and health-related indicators, which allows us to comprehensively evaluate the impact of nature-based interventions in our pilot cities.

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## CREATING USER-RESPONSIVE GREENSPACE FOR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities) focuses on making cities inclusive and sustainable. Subsequently adopted, the UN's New Urban Agenda (Habitat III) commits signatories to 'promote safe, inclusive, accessible, green, and quality public spaces...for social interaction and inclusion, human health and well-being'(UN, 2016: 6). Attempting to meet these objectives in conditions of pandemic-prompted change has accelerated a focus on NBS when seeking to localise the UN's broad programme for cities. Much of these efforts have centred on urban greening strategies. These are frequently concerned with the distribution of 'good things' as a measure of an equitable distribution of opportunity, such as proximity to accessible green space or the provision of facilities like playgrounds. Often neglected is the actual role these 'good things' serve in providing people with the opportunity to realise their aspirations (Lennon et al., 2017). The ultimate consequence of this may be the formulation of initiatives aimed at enhancing health and well-being that have little effect due to their lack of responsiveness to the desires of the communities they are supposed to serve (Lennon, 2019). In response, this paper will present and discuss an evidenced-based approach aimed at helping planners and designers support user desires. It will do so by outlining a method informed through the integration of two theoretical perspectives: one grounded in political philosophy (Capability Approach) and the other in environmental psychology (Affordances Theory). How this method can help urban practitioners create more responsive environments will be outlined through a description of this method's deployment in case study research conducted in Ireland.

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## EXPLORING NEW FORMS OF URBAN HOUSING THROUGH A TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH APPROACH

### Keywords:

housing, fragility, transdisciplinary

The study investigates three collective residential settings of the housing cooperatives of Zurich in Switzerland through a transdisciplinary research approach, which offers a participatory method to co-produce context-dependent knowledge with the academic and non-academic stakeholders in urban housing research. The qualitative empirical data of the research is gathered through thick housing narratives of the inhabitants, a gaming metaphor tool, online surveys and semi-structured interviews with academic stakeholders, coupled with document and socio-spatial analyses of the case studies during the Covid-19 lockdown in Switzerland. Pandemic as a crisis, which cannot be controlled by borders creates a suitable environment for the exploration of resilience and fragility of the urban spaces and communities. Subsequently, scholars call for a transdisciplinary built environment research as a hybrid research tool that corresponds to regeneration of the postpandemic world. The value of the study lies in developing participatory research approaches in urban housing as an element of methodological development in order to establish a platform of joint knowledge production between academics and urban dwellers to enable a people-powered approach. The results of the study highlight that the new generation of housing cooperatives of Zurich as a social housing incentive apply strategies such as innovative apartment-housing typologies, functional mix and social mix as tools for cohesive urban densification purposes. While new housing typologies and novel forms of housing such as the cluster-concept apartments and the hall-concept apartments are practiced in small scale in Zurich, the spatial activation of intermediate housing spaces through these innovative typologies and forms have resulted in optimal usage of residential spaces, functional resilience, hybridity and temporariness of housing spaces, social cohesion of the residents and sustainable transition of resources and space in a larger scale. Nonetheless, points of conflicts challenge the adequacies and inadequacies of these housing settings. Lastly, to localize the UN's Global Agenda 2030, sustainable development goal (SDG) 11, and the UN's Agenda 21 (1992) of Human Right to Adequate Housing as the basis for developing sustainable housing, generating more inter- and transdisciplinary context-specific knowledge in urban research and practice are needed to re-conceptualize how to design more inclusive contemporary cities.

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SESSION 2  
**NBS in place**  
**(in urban environment)**

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## **INTEGRATING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE INTO SPATIAL PLANNING**

### **Keywords:**

spatial planning, urban regeneration, green infrastructure

Starting with the assumption that spatial planning in Italy represents an activity of land government that establishes frameworks to coordinate policies and actions and, especially at this time, to give coherence to projects funded by national programs (such as National Recovery and Resilience Plan - PNRR), the general aim of the contribution concerns the investigation of the innovation prospects of the national spatial planning system. In order to design the regeneration of contemporary cities and territories in a sustainable way, the concept of Green Infrastructure has the potential to integrate the multiple functions and services of urban green spaces – extending beyond the exclusively ecological dimension – into a reference frame to be included in a renovated local plan. While an extensive production of EU strategies and scientific literature about GI has been consolidated, on the other hand, urban planning practice still struggles to deal with it in a concrete way, with difficulties to translate into specific planning tools and practices. Local governments will be able to implement a real green transition and assume GI as a spatial planning primary content only if they will be supplied with a new national model that makes own both strategic and regulatory components, adaptable to their specific contexts. Therefore, the contribution lays the foundations to explore the key features of the new form and contents of the general planning instrument, where shared overall principles constitute the structure of the territory and guide the regulatory dimension of the interventions and transformations in a synergistic way. To accomplish this, the analysis of local and international case studies on GI planning contributes to learn from the most recent and innovative experiences. The potential outcomes will clarify whether and how, for the foreseeable future, the GI strategy can be one of the structuring design criterion to guide actions and policies of the urban plan towards perspectives of wellbeing, equity and environmental quality.

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## **ADDRESSING SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES IN PORT CITIES THROUGH NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS.**

### **Keywords:**

antifragility, port-cities, nature-based solutions

Port cities are fragile settlements that face multiple challenges and risks related to anthropogenic climate change effects and additional stresses due to geopolitics and economics dynamics. In order to face some of these demanding situations –such as adaptation, mitigation and biodiversity challenges– nature-based solutions (NBS) are spreading, adding evidence of the need for a sustainable relationship between spatial and urban planning, communities, nature and the marine environment. This paper aims to identify what kind of nature-based solutions are currently and could be applied in maritime and port-city areas through case studies and to define what are the major challenges and limits of applicability in the Italian context. Deepening the contemporary ‘Building with Nature’ approach by EcoShape and Deltares, a model developed especially in the Northern European area, the contribution aims to compare and discuss existing case studies through a matrix model that puts together different aspects that allows the solution to be settled (e.g. roles of the stakeholders involved in the process, planning tool and framework, combination with other soft measures, timescale). The creation of sustainable cities and communities, together with the promotions of actions to fight climate change crisis, are amongst the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 11 and 13). Ports are artificial landscapes built in favorable sites to trade and to travel and port cities play a crucial role in encouraging sustainability policies and measures both at local and global scale. For this reason, to analyse successful experiences of nature based solutions put into practice and compare them within a broader framework will help better understand how to address sustainability in the local governance, planning and implementation of tangible measures in order to improve resilience and antifragility in such strategic type of cities.

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## **GREEN INEQUALITY IN A CONTEXT OF CONFLICT IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS**

### **Keywords:**

green inequality, informal settlements, green infrastructure

The fragility of cities has been highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic and recent climate change impacts across the world. Nature based solutions, and the green infrastructure approach in particular have been advanced through greening strategies as ways to enhance the resilience and sustainability of cities. Such approaches are well developed and studied in the global North. However, there is a comparative dearth of research on how they operate in the global South. Of specific note is the relative lack of attention afforded the role played by green infrastructure planning in generating conflict within the informal settlements of global south cities. This paper helps redress this deficit by drawing on learning from an in-dept case study of an informal settlement within the Tehran Metropolitan Area of Iran, a location often neglected in international urban research. Here, the residents of the case study are fighting to claim their rights to remain in their self-built settlements constructed over generations and maintain their livelihoods in the context of municipal designs for their removal and replacement with accessible public gardens deemed more appealing to the residents of the broader city. Mobilising an analysis of documents, observational data and 44 interviews with a cross-section of residents, scholars, activists, NGO members and planners, this paper describes how the marginalisation of those views held by the residents of informal settlements in the policy and politics of local governance generates inequalities reflected in the use of green spaces that actually reduce rather than enhance the quantum and quality of green infrastructure in the area.

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## **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURES: CHALLENGES AHEAD FOR URBAN AND SPATIAL PLANNERS**

### **Keywords:**

critical Infrastructure, territorial implication, protection and resilience

The planning and programming of critical infrastructures such as water, power, gas, and other lifelines have been traditionally divorced from urban and spatial planning for a number of reasons. This divergence that briefly consists in diverging and non-communicating authorities in charge, decisions taken pose serious challenges for both. On the one hand the construction of key components of critical infrastructures are confronted with fierce local opposition that may consistently delay operations, on the other the realization of networks and plants may significantly alter landscapes and also challenge urban development and redevelopment. In principle it would make sense that the two are aligned and accommodated within a common framework but this is not the case neither from a legislative nor from an operational perspective. In the last years we have worked on the topic of critical infrastructures, and in particular in this paper we will focus on the territorial implications of power and telecommunication services and on their safe provision taking into consideration territorial hazards and vulnerabilities. Speaking about territorial implications we mean on the one hand the impact that certain hazards may have on the functioning of critical services and on their physical integrity, on the other we imply the need for orchestrating the development of certain plants and parts of networks with cities' development and redevelopment. An interesting example of application is provided by datacenter that constitute nowadays a very critical component of digital systems with increasing dependency on cloud services worldwide. Two draft of new European directives are on the table and foreseen for approval within this year to tackle on the one hand the resilience of critical infrastructures as a sector and on the other telecommunication and cyber security. In both cases the physical protection and resilience has to consider the potential impacts of climate change and cascading events.

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## **RESEARCH ON THE HEAT MITIGATION POTENTIAL OF VEGETATION IN STREET CANYONS A FOCUS ON EUROPEAN CITIES**

### **Keywords:**

vegetation, street canyons, European cities

Due to global climate change, heatwave events are increasing in frequency and intensity, particularly in urban areas, posing a serious threat to public health. Since 2013, the European Commission has devoted particular attention to Nature-Based Solutions for improving human health and adapting to climate change (Faivre et al. 2017). As a result, an increasing number of researchers have undertaken studies of outdoor thermal stresses in cities. These studies have used modelling and observational studies to analyze the weather and urban contexts that create thermal discomfort, often using the urban street canyon to represent common outdoor environments to which citizens are exposed (Lee, Mayer, and Kuttler 2020; Li, Ren, and Zhan 2020). The research presented here is a metadata analysis of work completed on the use of vegetation to mitigate urban heat stress. This study reviews 70 peer reviewed papers, published during 2016–2021, that involve greening interventions to improve the outdoor thermal comfort of street canyons in European cities. An initial search is undertaken by using specific keywords in online search engines, such as “thermal comfort”, “street canyons”, “urban greening”, “vegetation”, and then the paper titles, abstracts, full papers were reviewed in turn to exclude the irrelevant papers according to the aim of this paper, such as excluding the studies that are carried out in cities outside Europe. The majority of published studies has been conducted using ENVI-met software which simulates microscale urban environments, assesses outdoor discomfort and can incorporate various greening design scenarios. Research has been completed across six Koppen climate types but 77.1% were completed in just two climate types: temperate oceanic and Mediterranean. The topics have explored specific features of vegetation, such as plant height, plant crown, leaf area density (LAD), leaf area index (LAI), planting patterns, vertical greening and roof greening as mitigation tools; 50% of the roof greening studies are carried out in the Cfb climate zone. Overall most research has focused on thermal discomfort and its alleviation in a single climate zone. Further research is necessary to consider the efficacy of greening strategies across climate zones to facilitate knowledge transfer. Design guidelines that can be adapted to different regions and climates are needed as a reference for addressing climate change based on green solutions in European cities.

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TRACK 6

SESSION 3

**Territorial planning and  
sustainability at landscape  
and regional scales**

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## **UNDERSTANDING THE RENEWABLE ENERGY-ECOSYSTEM SERVICES NEXUS THROUGH A GISBASED TRADE-OFF ANALYSIS**

### **Keywords:**

renewable energy, ecosystem services, trade-off

Climate change mitigation is still a daring challenge to solve. Despite the EU regions reached many 2020's targets, both in terms of decarbonization and production of renewable energy (RE), in the light of the latest European Green Deal and the new decarbonization needs, further energy production from RE is needed and regional planning has to cope with it. The upscale of RE production at regional level can potentially trigger trade-offs between RE production and natural assets' goods and services provision (1,2). Thus, if these trade-offs remain unsolved the operativity of regional energy plans and the sustainability of RE can be compromised (3). In order to address such challenge, this study aim for the integration of the ecosystem service (ES) approach in the regional energy planning, which is a promising research field (4). In fact, while academic scholarship has progressed in the ES trade-off analysis – including RE production – in practice the inclusion of such approach is still lacking. Therefore, by addressing this gap at the interfaces of Science-Policy-Action, the aim of this work is to bridge theory and practice by integrating the ES concept in the RE strategies and plans at regional level. In particular, the study analyses the RE-ESs tradeoffs of the Regional Energy Plan of the Veneto Region (IT). Through a GIS-based approach, the study addresses the available land suitable for RE production - i.e. solar and agricultural biomass. Suitability analysis considers both legal constraints, defined by of the regional energy plan, and the RE-ES trade-off analysis. The study presents insights about to which extent the inclusion of ES trade-off analysis provides useful information for RE-related strategies and plans. In addition, the methodology to map trade-offs can be replicated and potentially adjusted to other contexts aiming the identification of suitable non-regret areas for RE production.

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## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR LANDSCAPE REGENERATION: THE EXPERIENCE OF LOMBARDY

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### Keywords:

ecosystem services, landscape planning, multi-scalarity

The abstract returns the methodological and operational results of ongoing research activity to define landscape regeneration strategies for the Lombardy region, in North-western Italy. In particular, such strategies were shaped according to two different activities carried out within a synergistic, coordinated process. The first activity concerns the development of a territorial recognition framework gathering data on the diverse landscape structural elements in order to outline qualitative planning objectives. Among the selected structural elements, there are the hydro-geo-morphological components, the environment and ecosystems, the rural system, the urbanised areas and the historical heritage sites. The qualitative objectives were defined at a landscape-scale recognising 57 geographical units in the Lombardy region, with the aim to create an intermediate level between the large-scale scenario and planning processes at the local scale, and therefore to support and promote territorial governance. The second activity, carried out in parallel with the previous one, is related to deploying a regional Green Infrastructure (GI) based on Ecosystem Services (ES) provision. The GI design is nowadays a topic of great importance for landscape planning, since it may act as a driver for strategies, actions and solutions (also nature-based) to preserve and protect the territory and natural capital. The adoption of an ES-based approach for defining GI is pivotal for setting strategies that consider the multiple interactions between ecosystems and people –very relevant in multifunctional landscapes –and the multi-scale nature of contemporary territorial dynamics, in which micro-and macro-scales are often intertwined. The combination of the two above-described activities allows promoting and better-addressing regeneration interventions for landscape enhancement and qualification. In addition, recognising risk factors and territorial vulnerabilities, such as abandoned, disused or underused areas, allows activating local regeneration policies guided by a strategic vision defined at the landscape scale. The contribution sums up achievements, issues and challenges that emerged during the adoption of this methodology, aiming to reflect on its opportunities, replicability and possible future developments.

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## MITIGATING BIODIVERSITY IMPACTS OF NEW SPORT VENUES THROUGH NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS

### Keywords:

sustainability, sport mega-events, biodiversity

Over the course of the last three decades, sport facilities are receiving an exponentially increased attention regarding their environmental impact, in particular on the areas where they land. Some sport activities, specially winter sports but not only, are highly dependent on key natural resources (i.e. mountain areas, snow, frozen lakes...), in other words they are naturebased sports. A study supported by the IOC (International Olympic Committee) confirmed that poorly-designed sports venues can have a longlasting impacts on the environment, by altering landscapes, disturbing wildlife and increasing pollution (Brownlie, 2019). However, the same study stresses the fact that careful screening and attention to the context and design of the new venues built for sporting events can avoid negative impacts on nature. The international Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in partnership with the IOC, released in 2019 a guide designed to help integrate biodiversity considerations into sports venues, in order to minimize their impacts on nature. This guide presents a step-forward for decision makers to integrate biodiversity considerations into every stage of development, but most importantly to prevent environmental damage when possible or to implement corrective measures in some possible cases. It is important to note that new sport venues are often part of bigger urban development projects, in particular when they are in the context of sporting mega-events. Hence, their construction impact on the biodiversity of their milieu can be magnified when assessed with their associated supporting facilities, infrastructure and services. Recently, many new sport facilities started adopting innovative solutions, in some of the cases nature-based, (i.e. green walls and green roofs, roof-top beehives, special bricks that provide nesting or roosting sites for birds and/or bat, etc...) in order to mitigate their impact on the biodiversity and on the environment. The aim of this study will be to challenge the role that nature-based solutions (NBS) can play in order to mitigate the impacts of new sport venues and associated supporting projects, on the environment of their milieu.

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## AGRICULTURE, BIODIVERSITY AND LANDSCAPE: AN ES-BASED PLANNING FOR INNER RURAL AREAS

### Keywords:

climate change, territorial vulnerability, agroecosystem

Ecosystem Services (ES) supply in agricultural landscapes is key to socioeconomic activities of rural areas, and depends on landscape structure and management practices adopted within farming systems. Agricultural intensification has caused the collapse of several species belonging to various European taxa (e.g., birds, insects, wildflowers) once abundant in rural areas, which today no longer find suitable conditions because of mechanized practices, high chemical inputs and dramatically simplified landscapes. Biodiversity conservation and the maintenance of sustainable agricultural activities are inextricably linked, and both are severely threatened by the effects of climate change, which can interact with other human-induced pressures and changes. Climate change (CC) is particularly impacting many agroecosystems and mountain areas, which are experiencing higher warming rates than sites at lower elevations. CC influences the supply of ES and many wild species are also progressively impacted, with several implications on territories that have become increasingly vulnerable to different forms of risk. Investigating the effects of CC and other environmental modifications on natural capital in complex, marginal agricultural landscapes is of utmost importance to address issues like food security, sustainable development, and other key socio-ecological issues such as abandonment and depopulation, soil erosion, biodiversity loss, and landscape quality. The strict links between agriculture, biodiversity and landscape require a multi-function perspective, considering the potential cascading effects of changes occurring to one of those components of the system. An ES-based, spatially explicit, approach for landscape/territorial planning, allows a comprehensive consideration of all components based on assessments/mapping of different current/potential functions. Such an approach can effectively support the definition of actions, strategies, and monitoring programs to enhance ecosystems, conserve biodiversity, and improve the socio-ecological system. We will discuss the multi-faceted relationships between agriculture, biodiversity, landscape and climate, and the consequent strategies to enhance resilience and ES provision in Oltrepò Pavese, a region included in the National Strategy for Inner Areas. Oltrepò Pavese is particularly suitable for investigating the effects of climate change on biodiversity and ES in rural landscapes, thanks to the elevational gradient and the occurrence of mosaic landscapes. Results from this study will likely be beneficial for other inner areas too.

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TRACK 6

SESSION 4

## **Sustainability as a challenge**



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## **GRASSROOTS CIRCULARITY. THE POTENTIAL OF LOCAL COMMUNITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CIRCULAR SOLUTIONS**

### **Keywords:**

social sustainability, grassroots initiatives , built heritage

Prolonging the utility of products is the main aim of circular economy which is often a challenge to consumers of goods. The treatment of old buildings is a perfect example. Nowadays, still the solution that thrives is to demolish an old structure and erect a new one, instead of refurbishing an often-dilapidated building. Such a solution fails to reflect on other aspects of investment than costs – environmental, social and cultural. The local communities are aware of this failure, however, despite the importance of grassroots initiatives, they seem to be understudied in the context of the circular economy (Geissdoerfer et al., 2017). We suggest defining this local potential for implementing circular solutions as grassroots circularity. The potential for adoption of new solutions depends on many factors like trust, diversity and openness. In our work we study the dimensions of grassroots circularity and offer insight on how it can be diagnosed. We use a mixedmethod approach. First, we conducted a qualitative analysis of in-depth interviews and documents regarding the adaptive reuse project. Second, we conducted the quantitative study in which we tested the tool measuring the potential of local communities to embrace the change that circular economy brings. Here, we merge the specificity of circular economy with the social sustainability concept. We discuss 1) the dimensions of social system to become proactive and 2) the effect of adaptive reuse projects on these dimensions. The tool for measuring grassroots circularity will be presented and discussed.

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## ASSESSING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE “DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS”: THE CASE OF PORTUGAL

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### Keywords:

sustainable development indicators, doughnut economics, Portugal

The evaluation and monitoring of sustainable development has gained relevance in recent years, particularly through the use of indicators. Methodologically, there are several options to consider, namely, to understand and define the concept that it tries to assess, the conceptual frameworks used, the top-down or bottom-up approaches to define the indicators, the criteria for selecting indicators, among others. Influenced by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the need to urgently consider the “Planetary Boundaries” framework (Steffen et al.2015), Raworth (2018) introduced the concept of “doughnut economics” as an alternative to (sustainable) development assessment models. Following the assumptions of the “doughnut economics” model, the present work aims to evaluate the importance and feasibility of applying it to the Centro region of Portugal as a tool for evaluating, planning, and promoting regional sustainable development. Therefore, it intends to structure a proposal to assess the Centro region development trajectories and discuss it with regional actors in a holistic perspective. Thus, this investigation fits perfectly with the goals of track six - “Sustainability as a challenge, within an integrated perspective”. Data collection methods include document analysis, semi-structured interviews (to policy makers and regional public officers) and one focus group (with regional quadruple helix actors from the public sector, private sector, research and education, and civil society). Preliminary results show that there is a vision and commitment to monitor territorial dynamics, as well as an effort to involve regional stakeholders in decision making processes for strategic documents towards the sustainable development of the region, which are factors that enhance an eventual application of this tool to a better understanding on the regions' main challenges.

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## IMPACT OF EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS (ESIF) ON DEVELOPMENT IN PORTUGAL

### Keywords:

European funds, sustainable development, regions of Portugal

The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) are financial instruments that promote convergence of regions. In world increasingly aware about limited resources and climatic change, the strategy Europa 2020 encourages the European Union's strategy for smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth [2]. Since 2014, Portugal has received more than €29.4 billion in investment [3]. Despite the large amount of funding, there has been an insufficient assessment of the impact this investment had on Portuguese development. The research presented here aims to assess the impact of ESIF on regional development in Portugal. Relevant development variables were identified based on an interdisciplinary vision that integrates economic, social, and environmental dynamics [4]. These variables seek to align the ESIF objectives with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The data collected presented a breakdown of Portugal's 308 municipalities (7 regions), and a time horizon of the last decade. From the collected data, development indicators were constructed. The analysis methodology used algorithmic statistical techniques such as Data Mining and Data Envelopment analysis (DEA) [5]. Specific research were carried out when the interconnections between the variables justified it. Preliminary research results make it possible to identify the real impact of the ESI Funds on the sustainable development of regions and on people's lives. The relative positioning of municipalities (regions) is monitored using graphic elements. Policy makers find in this methodology and its results relevant information support that supports more conscious decision-making. The best practices can be replicated, and the less promising ones corrected, accelerating the effective pursuit of the ESIF and SDG objectives.

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## **URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARIES AND THEIR IMPACT ON URBAN SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT AND RESEARCH**

### **Keywords:**

neighbourhood, local scale, sustainability assessment

In the face of global environmental change and growing urbanisation rates (EC-JRC 2018), our interest in building sustainable cities is greater than ever. In Europe, urban population growth – due to urban migration – is expected to significantly increase across major cities based on projections to 2030 (EC-JRC 2018). In urban sustainability transitions, effective sustainability assessment (SA) tools to measure and track progress are essential. Over the last decade, there has been increasing evidence showing the relevance and importance of local (neighbourhood) scale approaches to urban SA (e.g., Kropp and Lein 2013; Sharifi and Murayama 2015; Pang et al. 2022). Yet, the notion of locality remains ambiguous and the way in which these spatial boundaries are drawn can have a substantial impact on subsequent analyses (Krupka 2007) – which in turn can have an impact on urban development policy and decision-making. Here, with Geneva as our case study, we aim to further investigate the influence of neighbourhood boundaries on urban SA; and to better understand the role of a neighbourhood within a larger urban system with respect to urban sustainability. We present two approaches used to establish local neighbourhood boundaries in Geneva. The first defines so-called theoretical neighbourhood units based on an objective, data-driven approach (Pang et al. 2022). In contrast, the second approach identifies subjective, perceived neighbourhood boundaries established by Geneva residents through a spatially explicit web survey. In this paper, the theoretical and perceived boundaries are analysed both against and alongside each other to answer two main research questions: (i) How much do theoretical neighbourhood boundaries reflect lived (perceived) neighbourhoods; what are the implications for urban sustainability research? and (ii) What does sustainability mean for the urban neighbourhood and how relevant are perceived neighbourhood boundaries – in contrast to theoretical boundaries – for local scale urban SA? Based on existing and new results, the implications of the choice of the local unit (where to measure) for conceptualising and assessing urban sustainability (what to measure), as well as more practical considerations for urban planning and policymaking, are discussed.

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## REGENERATING URBAN HOUSING IN TRANSITION

### Keywords:

housing, regeneration, ecological transition

If the health crisis has further marked the map of inequalities, recognizing residential neighborhoods as the main site of inequalities (Coppola et alii, 2021), at the same time the European policy focus on ecological transition has put cities and public and private residential assets at the center of a new attention (Urban@it 2021). The orientation of National Policies (PNRR) to the ecological transition is centered on the issue of reducing energy needs, but this interpretation does not address the central issue of housing fragilization. Working in residential settlements just to improve the consumption of scarce resources it is not enough, rather it is necessary to restore new "urban" habitats, in which the ecological balance is achieved through the proper use of resources, with the construction of new cycles of use and therefore with the definition of new lifestyles, capable of affecting even the "immaterial" issues of living. The thesis to demonstrate is: rightly innervated with ecological aspects, can the transition really put the inhabitants back in phase with the living context and in relation to each other, within an eco-system represented by the urban settlement? Starting from an examination of the most recent national policies (PINQUA, Programma Sicuro Verde e Sociale) the contribution aims to reflect: - on the character of innovativeness and experimentation proposed by these policies (if it is present), - on the changes that they can generate in the ordinary practice of the plan and the project, - on the ability to ridefine the Urban Regeneration giving centrality to ecological issues.

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## ROUNDTABLE

# **Integrating sustainable goals, strategies and actions into spatial planning**

The challenges we face today to make cities and territories more sustainable are many and varied. Starting with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined in the 2030 Agenda and through the creation of national and local strategies and frameworks in line with the global goals, cities and regions are analysing and measuring their contribution to the global objectives and targets. Among the several challenges, the localisation of the global Goals in the spatial planning practice still remains largely unexplored.

Relying on the recent experience of two up-running projects in Milan, namely 'ForestaMi', the Urban Afforestation project in Milan metropolitan area, and 'Aree Produttive Aree Pro-Adattive' (AP+A), the chairs of the round table will briefly introduce the challenges and lessons learnt faced in localizing the SDGs in the real practice of planning and the monitoring of action towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Among others, the round table aims to discuss the following issues:

What challenges are researchers and policy makers facing at the global, national and local level to localise the SDGs?

Is it possible to contribute to the ambitious global targets at the local scale, quantifying the contribution in a robust way?

# Material welfare, inequalities and territorial fragilization

## TRACK CHAIRS

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*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**Gaia Bacciola**

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**Giuliana Costa**

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**Carla Tedesco**

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The growth of inequalities in urban areas has been accelerated and amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in the impoverishment of sections of the population that were previously above the poverty line. Reduced employment opportunities, particularly for temporary workers and the small self-employed, have also made parts of cities that were not once considered peripheral more fragile and made previously non-peripheral people vulnerable. The pandemic has also highlighted the many shortcomings and fragmentation of local health and social services, schooling, and material welfare and welfare policies. We are faced with a changed framework in which it is necessary to rethink urban policies, adapt them to the changes that have taken place and possibly improve them in the light of the challenges that await us today and in the near future.

The track welcomes contributions that address various issues, such as how social and spatial inequalities manifest themselves today in urban contexts or how and to what extent peripheries have changed. Moreover, contributors are invited to reflect on new socio-spatial fragilities of significant sections of the population, as well as on actions needed to tackle these phenomena in a structural and coordinated manner.

The track's contributions will also explore possible bottom-up forms of welfare that envisage citizens' involvement and participation. Eventually, the track will invite reflections on the development of future policies (in various fields) aimed at supporting material welfare and reducing old and new socio-economic inequalities.



## SESSION 1

### Housing and neighbourhood

Chairs: **Agostino Petrillo, Gaia Bacciola**

*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**THURSDAY 16/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**  
**ROOM T03**

**Antonin Margier**

The involvement of business elites in the management of homelessness

**Filippo Maria Faini**

Arbitrariness and renegotiation of ad hoc housing policies: a perspective through Roma camps

**Chiara Lodi Rizzini**

Collaborative housing: a new solution to improve housing inclusion?

**Christoph Zangger**

Help thy neighbour: Neighbourhood relations, subjective well-being and trust during COVID-19

## SESSION 2

### Accessibility and services to overcome fragilities

Chair: **Carla Tedesco**

*IUAV*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 9.00 - 11.00**  
**ROOM T03**

**Ana L. Britto, Suyá Quintslr, Patricia Finamore**

Access to water supply in Rio de Janeiro Metropolitan Area: policies to reduce inequalities

**Cristiana Mattioli, Bruna Vendemmia**

Education and mobility to deal with territorial fragility

**Benedetta Brun, Lara Ivana Maestripieri**

Addressing women social and physical barriers in public space: the case of barcelona

**Sofia Sokolova, Alina Rusinova, Kira Kolomina, Anna Volykhina**

The high human capital facilities in Ural region (Russia)

## SESSION 3

### Migrations and multiethnicity

Chairs: **Agostino Petrillo, Gaia Bacciola**

*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**  
**ROOM T03**

**Maryam Karimi, Federica Zardo**

Service accessibility as a socio-economic resource for migration integration

**Susanne Søholt, Marit E. Ruud**

How did the pandemic challenge access to information in multiethnic Oslo?

**Rui Carvalho**

Social capital in diverse and low-income European neighborhoods: the importance of interethnic ties

**Robert Barbarino, Hanna Seydel**

The post-migrant perspective in participatory urban development

## SESSION 4

### Inequalities, conflicts and inclusiveness

Chair: **Carla Tedesco**

*IUAV*

**SATURDAY 18/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**  
**ROOM F1**

**Filippo Borreani**

Exploring Up Town: an ethnography of the smartest and greenest district in Milan

**Andrew Tallon, Rob Atkinson**

Designing an inclusive growth strategy: a case study of Bristol's one city plan

**Nicolò Molinari**

Welfare crisis and new spatialities of conflict. The case of the Yellow Vests in France

**Marta Polec**

Street performances in leveling the tensions between city wealth and poverty

CHAIRS

**Agostino Petrillo**

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TRACK 7

SESSION 1

**Housing and neighbourhood**

## THE INVOLVEMENT OF BUSINESS ELITES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF HOMELESSNESS

### **Keywords:**

business elites, homelessness, Portland

Although the influence of local urban elites on urban planning is well established in urban studies and geography (Lobao et al. 2014), the ways in which business and property owners take part in the management of homelessness has received far less attention. This article focuses on Portland (OR) in the United States as a means of understanding the motivations that underlie the role of the private sector and its impact on public policies. To this end, I focus on the support by Portland's downtown Business Improvement District of homeless outreach programs, and on the funding of two homeless shelters by business elites / philanthropists. I argue that although public authorities have different views on the actions to be taken to end homelessness, business elites often manage to bring initially-reluctant public authorities to support their projects in what might be termed a forced-march cooperation. I also highlight the versatility of the private sector and business elites' participation in homelessness management, given that the outreach programs they support and the homeless facilities they fund provide services for the homeless while simultaneously removing them from visible public space. In this sense, the involvement of business and property owners is also a way for them to protect their own interests.

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## ARBITRARINESS AND RENEGOTIATION OF AD HOC HOUSING POLICIES: A PERSPECTIVE THROUGH ROMA CAMPS

### Keywords:

Roma camps, urban segregation, housing policies

The urban increasingly resembles a space of indistinction, a camp exploded on a global scale [Diken & Laustsen, 2005]: people constantly face the potential of their own political-material displacement. This form of sovereign abandonment is connoted as socio-spatial segregation, defining marginality as a natural and incontrovertible condition. For this reason, it is important to reconnect segregation to arbitrariness – a context of conflict. From time to time, it produces spaces where vulnerabilities can arise, reaffirm or destroy themselves. In this way, it will be possible to appreciate the agency of abandoned people involved in the processes of segregation, increasingly present in contemporaneity. We will focus on spaces considered exceptional [Agamben, 1995], extreme, able to reveal externally imposed and “naturally” linked stereotypes, such as ethnicity, poverty and ways of living [Bauman, 2004]; spaces distinguishable even in the indistinction. In detail, the analysis will focus on gypsy urban areas [Picker, 2017], emblematic result of eugenic and racializing policies, which in any case do not trap the political agency of the inhabitants. This paper will investigate the recent developments in housing and welfare policies addressed to Roma, a galaxy of minorities [Dell’Agnese & Vitale, 2007]. We focus on two case studies: the “Sinti Village” in Via Vallenari (Mestre, Italy) and the Roma Camp in Saint-Martin-d’Hères (Grenoble, France), both involved in re-discussion processes. It is expected to observe that the inclusive accompaniment of players (horizontal, not hierarchical) does not lead to definitive solutions, but can recognize a centrality to those who are too often marginalized in the production of their spaces. This overturns the image often attributed to “camps” (segregated spaces) as static devices and relocates everything to a horizon of possibilities, which is evident on the local and situated scale. This does not want to sugarcoat the political and material drama of vulnerable populations, but that the renegotiation of ad hoc housing policies can concretely offer outlets beyond finalism - beyond a priori standardization or differentialism of welfare policies.

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## **COLLABORATIVE HOUSING: A NEW SOLUTION TO IMPROVE HOUSING INCLUSION?**

### **Keywords:**

housing inclusion, collaborative housing, housing policy

In the last years collaborative housing (CH) has been frequently seen as a solution to improve housing affordability and social inclusion of vulnerable people (Costa e Bianchi 2020; Czischke 2017), people whose fragility is not just a matter of income, but depends also on other personal conditions (i.e. age, occupation, disability). This trend is particularly clear in Italy, where we can see the spread of top-down CH projects oriented towards social inclusion, to the point where people speak of collaborative social housing, and “co-social housing” (Ruiu 2015), making the boundary between social housing and CH very blurry. But what are the main characteristics of CH oriented towards social inclusion? What the advantage and disadvantages to live in CH for vulnerable people? What role can CH play in the system of housing policies and the welfare state? Can it become an instrument for extending housing welfare to a broader range of beneficiaries? This study is based on the analysis of the principal literature on the topic and a comparison of 28 collaborative housing case studies in Lombardy and Emilia Romagna utilizing mixed data collection and analysis techniques. The study also includes a review of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Results show that CH is effective in encouraging not only housing inclusion but also social inclusion of vulnerable people and improving “the stock” of affordable housing, thanks to partnership between public and private actors. Nevertheless, it has implication on social protection, for example leading to a distinction between ‘desirable’ and ‘less desirable’ applicants (Costarelli et al 2020), compromising right to housing for more fragile people who cannot be as easily activated (Tosi 2019) and exacerbating territorial differences in the right to housing.

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## **HELP THY NEIGHBOUR: NEIGHBOURHOOD RELATIONS, SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING AND TRUST DURING COVID-19**

### **Keywords:**

neighbourhood effects, neighbourhood relations, well-being

Neighbourhoods and neighbours are important sources for people's life chances and well-being (Ludwig et al. 2012, Bonomi Bezzo et al. 2021). Their importance is highlighted in times of crisis, such as the COVID-19 pandemic when social confinement measures restricted the scope of action and support of many to the local community: Neighbours helped vulnerable and at-risk groups by providing small services and a sense of community (Zetterberg et al. 2021). Using panel data from Switzerland, this study investigates how and for whom relations with neighbours changed to the better or worse during the pandemic. In a second step, changes in subjective well-being and trust in other people, both of which dropped considerably during the pandemic and while social confinement measures were in place, are linked to changes in neighbourly relations. The results show that the negative impact of the pandemic on people's subjective well-being and trust was much less pronounced for those who improved their relations with neighbours in that time, stressing the importance of local networks for community resilience. Given the importance of local action and support during the pandemic, it comes as no surprise that neighbours were a much more influential source for people's subjective well-being and trust than other, spatially more dispersed networks, namely friendship and online networks that had only a minor influence. At the same time, people with more resources prior to the pandemic in terms of education and money as well as women and those in urban centres were more likely to improve neighbourly relations. Consequently, this study finds evidence for a social and spatial gradient in subjective well-being and trust during the crisis that partly works through changes in neighbourhood networks. Testing for potential bias from endogenous regressors and robustness analyses by means of placebo regressions that apply the models to pre-COVID times further show that the documented effects are indeed attributable to changes induced by the COVID-19 pandemic and the corresponding social confinement measures. Consequently, the results of this study stress that supporting community resilience can be a powerful approach to help people, especially the elderly and at-risk groups, to get through times of crisis (LaLone 2012). Moreover, they also highlight the importance of studying not only 'objective' but also subjective measures of well-being in neighbourhood effect studies.

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SESSION 2  
**Accessibility and services  
to overcome fragilities**



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## **ACCESS TO WATER SUPPLY IN RIO DE JANEIRO METROPOLITAN AREA: POLICIES TO REDUCE INEQUALITIES**

### **Keywords:**

water, inequalities, policies

In the Rio de Janeiro Metropolitan area (RJMA) social and spatial inequalities concerning access to water and sanitation are still very important. The unequal distribution of water reflects a core vs. periphery pattern. In some poor peripheral areas households have no access to water or are submitted to low quality of services, especially the intermittent supply (Britto, Maiello, Quintslr, 2019) Among the poor who have access to water, there is a high degree of nonpayment of water bills. Since access to water in Brazilian cities in poor areas remains out of quality standards, users show low willingness to pay (Narzetti, Marques, 2021). In the RJMA periphery, due to social conditions, many households are unable to pay regular tariffs. During the Covid pandemic, the public company responsible for the services adopted measures such as suspension of disconnection of low-income users. However, since 2021 the access to water of those poor dwellers is facing new challenges. At one side, an important change on the water utilities policies in the context of neoliberal reforms leading to the privatization of public services. At the other, the increase in poverty indicators due to the economic context and the impacts of the COVID. The average income of the poorest 40% has decreased 50.6% in the first year of the pandemic in the RJMA (Salata and Ribeiro, 2021), exacerbating social fragility of significant sections of the population and, consequently, their ability to pay water bills. This paper draws on urban water political ecology (Swyngedouw; Kaika, Castro, 2002) and on water and neoliberalization (Furlong, 2010) literature to explore existing and new water welfare policies needed to reduce the burden of water expenses for people living in poverty and provide universal access. The analysis will track disconnection policies, social tariff policies to make services more affordable for poor households, and the possibility of a minimum amount of water free of charge, for those who live in extreme poverty and cannot afford to pay anything for service.

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## EDUCATION AND MOBILITY TO DEAL WITH TERRITORIAL FRAGILITY

### Keywords:

territorial fragility, education, accessibility

Several studies show that access to education is a fundamental citizenship right that has to be guaranteed to decrease social inequalities at a national level. Good accessibility to education is a crucial element to fight early school leaving and related phenomena of depopulation, youth unemployment, precarious work, and social exclusion, thus processes of territorial fragilization. COVID-19 pandemic has amplified public debate on this topic, showing the strong relation of dependence between the education system and public transport. Indeed, during these last years, the main criticality for the educational system has been the management of generally separated and sectorial issues and spaces, with the necessity to centralize decisions to the Prefects and to test supralocal, integrated forms of governance. The paper focuses on the nexus between mobility, schools, and educational poverty. In Italy, while schools of the first degree have a capillary territorial diffusion, the distribution of secondary schools is planned according to the principle of spatial concentration, without dedicated public transport. They are typically localized in the main urban centres, while in marginal territories 80% of youth need to move to a different municipality to reach the closest high school. Similar conditions may be found on the outskirts of important urban centres where 86% of municipalities lack high schools. This situation is made worse by the specialization of educational paths, the lack of effective public transport, the low accessibility capability of youth which results in very complex mobility practices. The distance from high schools and travel time can influence school choice and attendance, in particular regarding the most fragile social groups and territories. Therefore, accessibility to high schools represents a crucial field of study to evaluate territorial welfare, growth, and mobility policies, at a supralocal scale. The bibliographic research identifies main issues, while case studies analysis observes two different, yet comparable fragile territories. In particular, we analyze the suburbs of the metropolitan areas of Milan and Naples through interviews with school principals, surveys to students, data analysis, and direct observation. Finally, the work suggests possible strategies and policies to fight territorial inequalities in access to secondary education.

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## **ADDRESSING WOMEN SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL BARRIERS IN PUBLIC SPACE: THE CASE OF BARCELONA**

### **Keywords:**

gender planning, superilles, gender equality

The World Bank in 2020 recognized many of the issues that women face as inhabitants of the city. Many of these issues manifest themselves both physically, through architectural barriers of various kinds, and socially. Furthermore, the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, combined with the countless welfare cuts made since the 2008 crisis, has had a catastrophic and disproportionate effect on the female population, further widening the gender gap. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to investigate from where the occurrence of such barriers originates. The analysis shows that the main factors influencing women's lives in the cities are the gender stereotypes still associated with women's social role, the hypersexualization of their bodies, and urban planning that fails to recognize the multiplicity of their needs. In particular, much importance is given to gender-based violence as it negatively affects the perception of belonging to the public space, further marginalizing the victims. In this context of recovery, it becomes therefore necessary to change the tools of analysis and begin to consider the world in an intersectional way, assessing what the possible patterns of oppression and discrimination might be, if one or more identity characteristics are taken into account. To understand how this process could be carried out, we analyzed the superilles project implemented since 2017 by the municipality of Barcelona. Thanks to its participatory design, the project allowed the creation of spaces that are inclusive, challenging the modus operandi of urban planners. Thanks to a bottom-up space design, the community managed to re-design public spaces questioning contemporary gender roles, thus narrowing the gender gap as a result.

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## THE HIGH HUMAN CAPITAL FACILITIES IN URAL REGION (RUSSIA)

### Keywords:

public facility location theory, high human capital facilities, Ural Cities

The location of human high capital facilities is based on the dichotomy of Soviet urban planning and the Past-Soviet market of social facilities in Russia. During the urban planning process in the Soviet Union, the number of social high-quality establishments was regulated by Building Rules and Regulations II-60-75. In the post-Soviet period new agents and companies run human-oriented facilities. In this paper, we discuss the location of human high capital (facilities) establishment in the Russian context of public facility theory [Teitz, 1968]. The concept of human high capital facilities is based on Bourdieu's theory of capital conversation [Bourdieu, 2007] and Maslow's pyramid [Maslow, 1943]. There are education centers, culture facilities (libraries, centers etc), tourism infrastructure, creative company offices (establishments of production IT equipment, media companies, craft studios etc) and historical places. We used spatial analysis and statistic of facilities for explaining location externalities. The high-capital human facilities were analyzed in 6 cities, located in the Ural region - Ekaterinburg, Chelyabinsk, Perm, Nizhny Tagil, Kurgan, and Tumen. We discovered some fascinating patterns in the distribution of HHCF. For instance, the number of HHCF enterprises in new areas is greater than in Soviet built-up areas. In the future, we would like to explore this direction. Also the research has shown that the increased density of HHCF facilities is associated not only with the population, but also with the existing image of the city. We plan to deepen our knowledge in this area and develop other factors of the city identity that correlate or even influence the density of HHCF facilities. The data also indicated the huge potential for HHCF in a number of spheres that open new directions for development of a post-Soviet Ural city.

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TRACK 7

SESSION 3

## **Migrations and multiethnicity**

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## **SERVICE ACCESSIBILITY AS A SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESOURCE FOR MIGRATION INTEGRATION**

### **Keywords:**

public administration, service accessibility, public welfare services

Access to basic public services is the core of fostering a healthy, inclusive, and sustainable society and it is essential to equitable redistribution of wealth and social cohesion. Lack of access to public services has an enormous impact on lives and socio-economic status, especially on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of society. Among these groups, migrants face more critical obstacles to access and interact with public services due to the language comprehension within the framework of the administrative procedures and documents as well as the complexity of the procedures they address. Drawing on the research framework of easyRights, an EU Horizon 2020 project, and a qualitative dataset of interviews, focus groups, participant observations, and surveys on service (as-is and what-if scenarios), this paper examines a large landscape of problems and obstacles that migrants face while interacting with services and procedures in four different European cities, namely Palermo in Italy, Larissa in Greece, Malaga in Spain, and Birmingham in the UK. Through empirically grounded research, the paper first examines how the critical problems and obstacles such as language barrier, bureaucratic complexity, and discrimination behavior create a relevant set of socio-economic impacts for migrants, public administrations, and society as a whole. Afterward, the relevant direct and indirect socio-economic impacts have been identified as procedure failure, time cost, need for support for third actors, psychological stress for migrants, lack of integration, and eventually engagement by informal and often illegal organizations. Finally, the paper sheds light on how the improvement of public service accessibility supported by policies can reduce socio-economic inequalities and to what extent accessible welfare services mobilize migrants' socio-economic status and make the migration integration process smoother and faster.

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## **HOW DID THE PANDEMIC CHALLENGE ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN MULTIETHNIC OSLO?**

### **Keywords:**

Covid-19, riskcommunication, Covid-19, riskcommunication, immigrants

On 12 March 2020, the Norwegian government implemented strong and invasive measures towards the population to prevent the spread of COVID- 19. A precondition for compliance with the mostly voluntary measures was that everyone received understandable and for them relevant information that they trusted, and that it was possible to translate the advice to own life situation. In the spring of 2020, the spread of the infection increased more in the immigrant population and in immigrant-dense districts, than in the rest of the population (Indseth et al., 2021). This was particularly evident in Oslo, where a third of the population has immigrant background. It became clear that the national dissemination of information in Norwegian through national information channels did not reach all parts of the immigrant population. A number of risk communication measures (Gamhewage, 2014) were developed by the state, city and city district levels. The measures involved civil society, immigrant organizations and individuals/communities difficult to reach to tailor the message to make it accessible, trustworthy, relevant and possible to comply with. This implied social mobilization, ability to maintain cultural values even if practices had to be changed, and communication in languages and through channels familiar to the target groups. Experience has shown that vertical and horizontal cooperation and cooperation between public actors and civil society at all levels facilitated risk communication, and thereby people's possibilities to adapt. The hierarchical information structure had to be broken down to the lowest levels and to include civil society. Ongoing local level involvement and public civic cooperation stand out as a precondition to prepare for future capacity for risk communication in multiethnic urban settings.

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## **SOCIAL CAPITAL IN DIVERSE AND LOW-INCOME EUROPEAN NEIGHBORHOODS: THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERETHNIC TIES**

### **Keywords:**

ethnic diversity, multiethnic neighborhoods, social capital

European cities have been receiving growing numbers of international migrants in the last decades. This has led to a rising number of studies looking at the effects of immigration-driven diversity for the material and social livelihoods, and the cohesion of European neighborhoods. Many such works have found a negative association between diversity and social capital/cohesion, mainly in low-income and socioeconomically disadvantaged communities. In other words, this means that ethnic diversity can enhance social and spatial fragilities in previously vulnerable areas, heightening already existing material, social and territorial inequalities in proximate, local contexts. Yet, importantly, those works have also underlined that such negative effects may be moderated by the quality of social, and especially interethnic, contacts with neighbors. But existing studies have tended to consider solely one dimension of social capital/cohesion (usually trust), and measure interethnic contact as casual (weak) ties or using attitudinal variables. I expand this literature by uncovering what types of interethnic contact (strong ties, weak ties, conflictual interactions) affect which dimensions (belonging, solidarities, safety, collective efficacy) of social capital/cohesion. I utilize data from a survey applied to the migrant and nonmigrant residents of fifteen ethnically diverse, low-income neighborhoods located in five European cities (Bilbao, Spain; Lisbon, Portugal; Rotterdam, Netherlands; Thessaloniki, Greece; Vienna, Austria). Computing logistic regression models predicting various dimensions of social capital/cohesion, I find that: (a) weaker interethnic ties are positively associated with stronger local attachments, while having no effect on collective efficacy, safety or trust; (b) strong interethnic ties have a positive effect on all dimensions of social capital/cohesion measured; (c) conflictual interethnic ties are associated with lower neighborhood attachments, but do not markedly impact other dimensions of social capital/cohesion; (d) the previous impacts are stronger for connected migrants, as compared to both non-migrants, and migrants without interethnic ties. The findings highlight the importance of viewing interethnic ties and social capital/cohesion as multifaceted concepts. These (and other) results will be discussed in light of how they increase our knowledge on how inequalities in economic and social capital are expressed in diverse, proximate local (fragile) neighborhood contexts, and which groups are affected the most.

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## THE POST-MIGRANT PERSPECTIVE IN PARTICIPATORY URBAN DEVELOPMENT

### Keywords:

post-migrant, urban development, participation

Multiculturalism is an influential policy agenda in Western participatory planning (Fincher et al., 2014). It structures participation by highlighting the difference between ethnocultural groups and aims their equal access in the planning process. In contrast to multiculturalism, the “post-migrant perspective” (Foroutan, 2019) is a theoretical approach from German migration studies that has been introduced recently in the field of planning and urban studies (Wiest, 2020). The post-migrant perspective tries to overcome the migrant-native divide by a boundary blurring of ethnocultural categories, without neglecting their power and importance in society. It pays attention to hybrid identity formations of individuals in public participation, which can be involved through an “in-between” (Bhabha, 2004) of shared positionalities around a multitude of categories like class, milieu, age, gender, or lifestyle. Using a post-migrant perspective, we analyze how notions of normality of migration have been articulated by participation practitioners from local administrations and civil society actors in the German cities Berlin and Wiesbaden. Therefore, we conducted 42 semi-structured expert interviews in both cities and analyzed them via Grounded Theory Coding. The research was part of two experimental and transformative real-world labs (Schäpke et al., 2018) within the research project INTERPART – intercultural spaces of participation. In our paper we show, how the stigmatizing migrant-native divide has been questioned, and how a postmigrant “in-between” that did not emphasize ethnocultural belonging and sedentariness as distinguishing features in participation, but identities based on class, age, and neighborhood to realize more inclusive ways of participatory urban development. We want to contribute with our paper to the discussion on how participation can be organized to address people in a more inclusive way, to improve conception and design of future participation processes.

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SESSION 4  
**Inequalities, conflicts and  
inclusiveness**

## **EXPLORING UP TOWN: AN ETHNOGRAPHY OF THE SMARTEST AND GREENEST DISTRICT IN MILAN**

### **Keywords:**

smart and green urban imagery, social class, urban change

This contribution focuses on the construction and gradual settlement process of new residents in a residential district in the north-western suburbs of Milan, called “Cascina Merlata/Up Town Smart District”. The district bases its business strategy on smartness (domotics, neighbourhood apps), greenness (green spaces, sustainable houses) and the prospect of becoming the residential part of an important hub dedicated to technological and bio-medical innovation. This area is built next to a large peripheral neighbourhood, consisting mainly of public housing. The neighbourhood was built during the Italian economic boom years as an experimental development plan for working-class families, but also ‘new middle class’. In this empirical context, the research investigates the relationship between two peripheral spaces that are spatially close but distant in terms of social composition and designed at two different moments in the complex relation between capitalism, space, and the city. On the one hand, the urban development of the historical area is linked to the social compromise and conflicts between capital and labour typical of the post-war period, and is now facing processes of impoverishment, loss of social cohesion, but also generational change. On the other, the smart district has characteristics that can be ascribed to soft forms of “smart-and-green gated communities”, is equipped with “global” infrastructures and inhabited by a population less historically and socially linked to the city of Milan. In addition to these elements, the empirical case study can be seen as a privileged point of view to develop some critical reflections on the centre-periphery relationship (in terms of dependence and independence from the centre) and on the possibility of analysing peripheralization processes also as political outcomes of social contracts, in a dynamic relationship with the cultural and economic transformations of capitalism.

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## **DESIGNING AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH STRATEGY: A CASE STUDY OF BRISTOL'S ONE CITY PLAN**

### **Keywords:**

inclusive growth, Bristol One City Plan, governance

The City of Bristol's One City Plan (BCC, 2019a) and the supporting Bristol Inclusive Growth Strategy (BCC, 2019b) explicitly set out to design and provide the framework for the development and implementation of a 50- year Inclusive Growth Strategy. The One City Plan claims to be a 'coproduction' based on extensive consultations over an 18-month period with organisations from the private, community and third sector. What the two documents are explicitly set out to do is to locate themselves within a wider discursive framework of Inclusive Growth. This discourse is a 'global' one emanating initially from the Global South (see Lee, 2019) but from the late 2000s was taken up and articulated by organisations such as the OECD (2018) and European Union (European Commission, 2010) in relation to the Global North the issues societies there face both as a result of the ongoing processes of globalisation and the impacts of the 2007-2008 Crash. Moreover, it has been taken up by a number of other cities within the UK (see Beel et al., 2017) such as Manchester, as well as by cities in the US and Australia. However, inclusive growth lacks a clear definition (see Lee, 2019). The OECD defines it as: "...economic growth that creates opportunity for all segments of the population and distributes the dividends of increased prosperity, both in monetary and non-monetary terms, fairly across society" (OECD, 2014, p.80). It is also important to bear in mind that the dominant discourse within the EU is that of the need to enhance Europe's global competitiveness; here the overwhelming emphasis is on improvements in innovation and productivity to enhance competitiveness. In this paper we aim to analyse how the City of Bristol, drawing on these wider notions, has defined inclusive growth and designed a long-term strategy along with a framework, including a reformed governance system and modes of inclusive participation, to implement this strategy, address deeply entrenched social and economic inequalities and foster territorial cohesion.

### **References**

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## **WELFARE CRISIS AND NEW SPATIALITIES OF CONFLICT. THE CASE OF THE YELLOW VESTS IN FRANCE**

### **Keywords:**

spatial inequalities, yellow vests, welfare crises

Today we face processes of planetary urbanization that unfold far beyond cities: the “city” is dissolving in a complex galaxy of different territories, from the near hinterland to the far one. (Brenner and Schmid, 2011) To understand how spatial inequalities manifest themselves in this fragmented landscape, it’s crucial to keep one’s eye trained on forms of conflicts and their spatial reconfiguration. Considering struggles and the spatial dynamics in which they are formed, is pivotal for grasping the ongoing processes of growing inequalities, and the way they open into new kinds of contradictions: producing dispossession and emancipatory impulses. I propose to point out how the territorial transformations linked to the processes of fragilization have produced a constellation of peripheries that recompose themselves in movement-moments. It’s imperative that these two aspects are thought through together: when struggles explode, we are able not only to read the contradictions of current processes in them, but also to foresee their trends. (Kipfer and Dikeç, 2019) This paper will investigate how the welfare crises that France is facing have been highlighted from below by the Yellow Vests. The processes of suburbanisation at the basis of the social pact that provided access to house ownership for the lower-middle classes came into contradiction with the inability of a retreating welfare-state to provide services that would guarantee physical and social mobility. (Jeanpierre, 2019; Lussault, 2019) The Yellow Vests’ phenomenon has also illuminated the how the reconfiguration of production processes is peripheralizing certain middle-sized cities and their archipelagic regions, these areas are facing a shrinkage that is harbinger of new spatial inequalities. (Depraz, 2017) Presenting an investigation of the spatial aspects of the Yellow Vests, this paper aims to highlight how France is facing new socio-spatial fractures and, at the same time, how this phenomenon has brought to a temporary recomposition of different peripheries. A recomposition based on the circulation of spatial practices that have produced new imaginaries and forms of life, partly autonomous and partly advancing a demand for the reshaping of welfare.

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## **STREET PERFORMANCES IN LEVELING THE TENSIONS BETWEEN CITY WEALTH AND POVERTY**

### **Keywords:**

busker, performance, informal

An informal street show is a rich, diversified phenomenon, common especially for bigger cities around the world. It plays a crucial role of sharing the experience of different cultures, audiences and artistic attitudes. Among diversified advantages of such activity, there is especially the one of promoting social inclusion and coexistence of diversity in urban sphere. The support for the unprivileged groups and societies may be present both in the public policies concerning the regulations for buskers, as well as in their activity – usually informal, bottom-up, non-commercial, inexpensive and democratic. The paper is a result of ethnographic research in the field of humanistic management, concerning the informal activity of street performers. The ethnographical research was conducted since 2012 to 2021, mainly in in Poland. The aim of the paper is to present the unappreciated role of complex activity of buskers. First of all, the findings show the current place of street shows in developing urban sphere by including the commercial and public ambitions of local authorities. Secondly, informal street shows may turn out to be more sustainable for the local environment than street festivals. Finally, the activity of buskers has an economical aspect, since it is followed by their personal experiences and entrepreneurial ambitions.

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# Fragile heritage sites in a globalizing world

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Cultural heritage has become increasingly connected to globalisation flows – from mass tourism to the involvement of transnational actors, networks and institutions such as UNESCO, international experts, policy knowledge-sharing networks, with a growing call for heritage-based narratives, projects, and solutions. The COVID-19 pandemic illuminated many of these trends by ultimately slowing down or halting them. This situation provides an opportunity to reflect on critically, and perhaps even improve, the local/global links of heritage sites, their tangible and intangible cultural heritage, in urban contexts and beyond. Within this framework, the track welcomes a variety of research approaches and methods. The multiple issues addressed by the contributors include actors, policies and projects connecting local cultures and identities to global flows through processes of recognising, appreciating and valorising heritage sites and practices. Moreover, some contributors reflect on governance issues and regulation of heritage policy and cultural offerings responding to internationalisation goals or standards or city branding, including potential side effects in terms of Disneyfication, touristification, gentrification and more. The track is further concerned with the role of international players and initiatives (UNESCO WHS, cultural and other types of mega-events such as the European Capital of Culture) for the preservation/transformation of historical cities and landscapes.

Within the context of transnational cooperation networks focusing on heritage experts and policy makers, the track will promote a reflection on the nexus between global experts and local heritage knowledge, as well as on how international actors collect and use information and meanings regarding local places and their customs.

Eventually, the track promotes a multiscale understanding of landscape heritage, focusing on transborder and transnational aspects (e.g. Alpine region, Balkan region) and aims to investigate the welfare policies needed today to reduce old and new socio-economic status inequalities.

The track welcomes contributions, including theoretical discussions and reflections based on case studies or other methods of investigation, from all quadrants of Europe or other situations relevant to the topic.

## SESSION 1

### Pre-organised Panel: Challenging models, methods and tools to overcome fragile (world) heritage sites

Chair: **Zachary M. Jones**  
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**THURSDAY 16/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**  
**ROOM T01**

**Sara Ghirardini**

The paradox of fragility. Territorial stalemate in UNESCO buffer zones of non-urban sites

**Pamela Duran-Diaz, Maria Estefania Gioia, Lucia Pesci**

Our World Heritage-Sustainability approach to overcome the fragility of European World Heritage

**Maria Estefania Gioia**

Addressing local communities and capacity making when planning with World Heritage

**Ruba Saleh**

Innovative circular cultural tourism solutions

## SESSION 4

### Pre-organised Panel: Representation and ontology of coastal landscapes between global change and local values

Chair: **Davide Del Curto**  
*DASStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 14.00 - 16.00**  
**ROOM T01**

**Giambattista Zaccariotto**

The image of landscape archipelago as a conceptual device of re-composition

**Samaneh Nickayin**

Loss of Arctic landscape and Trans- Arctic shipping development

**Antonio Longo**

The landscape as a conceptual device of recomposition: the case of the lagoon between veneto and friuli

**Giulia Maria Mezzalama**

Urban Heritage as a driver for health equity

**Antonella Contini, Valentina Galiulo**

Memory in space: metropolitan heritage and education

## SESSION 2

### General SESSION

Chair: **Nicole De Togni**  
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**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 9.00 - 11.00**  
**ROOM T01**

**Zachary M. Jones, Stefano Di Vita, Davide Ponzini**

Mega-events in transition: changing drivers for cities, cultural policy and heritage

**Diamantino Raposinho**

A survey on cultural heritage public policies in World Heritage Cities & preliminary results

**Ludovico Centis**

Preserving the fathomless. The contested legacy of the Manhattan Project

**Kaiyi Zhu, Tianchen Dai**

Controversial Heritage: Caught between collective memories and post-colonialism

**Antipas Papageorgiou, Aristotelis Antoniou, Alzbeta Rejentova, Paolo Toto**

An open platform for cultural heritage discourse

**Alessandro Raffa**

UNESCO Vinery cultural landscape and climate change. The operational atlas of Colline del Prosecco

## SESSION 5

### Pre-organised Panel: Unpacking the global/ local nexus in world heritage sites: a pragmatic approach

Chair: **Davide Ponzini**  
*DASStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 16.20 - 18.00**  
**ROOM T01**

**Matteo Basso**

Global/local frictions in heritage-based narratives and policies

**Remi Wacogne**

Connecting sites: what does World Heritage site management consist in? Insights from Veneto

**Ilaria Rosetti**

Participation in WH Cities: Governmental perspectives and their implications

**Francesca Giliberto**

International approaches vs local practices in World Heritage Cities

## SESSION 3

### Pre-organised Panel: Heritage fragilities in globalised mega events

Chair: **Davide Ponzini**

**Zachary M. Jones**

*DASStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**  
**ROOM T01**

**Enrico Tammarchi, David Atkinson**

Maritime heritage, port city 'stigma' and a cultural mega event: Hull UK City of Culture 2017

**Joanna Sanetra-Szeliga**

Opportunities and threats of employing heritage in ECOC programmes

**Marina Rotolo**

Heritage as creative material

**Evanthia Dova**

Heritage fragility and political contestation in Pafos, Cyprus

Preorganised Panel

## SESSION 1

# Challenging models, methods and tools to overcome fragile (world) heritage sites

**Keywords:**

Networks, Heritage innovation, Human-centered approaches

Since the 1972 World Heritage Convention, the heritage field has recalled “a gradual shift of attention from the material objects of conservation policies to the system of values they represent for society” (Bandarin 2019, p.6, in Roders and Hasebe 2019). World Heritage discussions have slowly evolved from seeing heritage as an object of conservation towards understanding it as a process influenced by social-environmental-economic dynamics evoking the relationship between territories and their local communities’ awareness- shaping about World Heritage conservation as a system of values and its use for sustainable development purposes. Focusing on the struggles to integrate UNESCO’ s World Heritage designations with their local contexts, in particular in making the leap from the global to the local framework, it is crucial to involve local communities as active stakeholders while enhancing more inclusive, innovative and creative models, methods and tools when dealing with World Heritage interpretation and management. However, despite theoretical evolutions, when coming to practice, the fragility of our World Heritage becomes evident when considering the number of World Heritage Sites or Sites in National Tentative Lists in which the local communities’ awareness about the role of World Heritage faces weak institutional capacity and/or the World Heritage Sites are threatened by conflict dynamics such as urbanization, unsustainable tourism, and climate change, among others.

At the verge of the 50th Anniversary of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this special session recalls conference track n. 8 about “Fragile heritage sites in a globalizing world” aiming to critically reflect about the challenges and opportunities of strengthening the role of World Heritage for local communities. Consequently, this special session proposes a discussion about networks’ creation, challenging narratives and management approaches enhancing institutional capacity and the role local communities for better global-local interactions when dealing with World Heritage in urban contexts. To do so, the session’s participants present a series of examples, methods and models to overcome “fragile” contexts when building innovative heritage networks.

Opening the session, Maria Estefania Gioia, who moderates the discussion, presents challenges and opportunities of integrating innovative heritage management with local communities through the case studies of the World Heritage Sites of Matera in southern Italy, and Mantua and Sabbioneta in northern Italy. To do so, she recalls the interweave between existing governance, projects and actor’s coalitions, and the role of challenging narratives and management approaches to overcome fragility dynamics. Arch.

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Gioia holds a master on Architectural Preservation, and she is currently PhD candidate in Urban Planning, Design and Policy at Politecnico di Milano. She is a member of Our World Heritage - Sustainability Team, and she has recently presented in UNESCO World Heritage Canopy Platform the case study of Mantua and Sabbioneta.

Afterwards, Pamela Durán Díaz presents the barometer for sustainable management of World Heritage, built upon a global call for case studies launched and analyzed in the context of the 2021 Sustainability Debate of Our World Heritage movement. In particular, the discussion focusses on examples extracted from European cases struggling to overcome a “fragile” global-local relationship, as well as the role of the case studies call and Our World Heritage to give voice to “citizens, academics, NGOs advocating to protect heritage, support knowledge based decision-making, promote better governance and engage civil society” (Our World Heritage, 2021). Dr. Arch. Durán Díaz holds a PhD in Urbanism, a postdoc in Sustainable Management of Cultural Landscapes, and is currently appointed as a scientific researcher at TU Munich. She is co-convenor at Our World Heritage - Sustainability Team.

Lastly, session participant Ruba Saleh presents the role of innovative circular cultural tourism in the framework of the EU Horizon 2020 project Be.CULTOUR: culture beyond tourism towards human-centred heritage innovation networks. The discussion highlights targeted deprived, remote or over-exploited heritage sites taking into account challenges and opportunities of post COVID-19 pandemic scenarios. Dr. Arch. Saleh holds a PhD in Planning and Public Policy, and currently works at ICHEC Brussels School of Management as lecturer and researcher. She is currently conducting research under the framework of H2020 project Be.CULTOUR and coordinates the C-SHIP (Cultural Entrepreneurship) professional training project. She is a member of Our World Heritage, New Heritage Approaches Team, bringing into this special session the discussion about the role of innovative models in terms of governance, partnership, financing and decision-making when building human-centred and circular economy tourism in World Heritage sites.

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## **THE PARADOX OF FRAGILITY. TERRITORIAL STALEMATE IN UNESCO BUFFER ZONES OF NON-URBAN SITES**

### **Keywords:**

buffer zone, territorial fragility, heritage management tools

This contribution, part of a wider ongoing PhD research, focuses on the heritage-related territorial fragility in areas surrounding non-urban WHS, due to the inefficacy of current UNESCO preservation tools, and specifically the misuse of buffer zones. Starting from the current critical approach to heritage values, and from the widening vision of heritage that in the last twenty years has increasingly included territorial dynamics, the argumentation adds a contribution to the international debate on the relation between cultural heritage and territoriality, with specific concern on the Italian situation in comparison with other cases, European and beyond. It questions the role of the main tools implemented by UNESCO for the management of the relation between heritage core and its surroundings; the more recent institution of management plan (compulsory for any WHL site since 2004), theoretically fostering the inclusion of local dynamics and actors in valorisation policies, is dramatically conflictual with the older institution of buffer zone, which defines a passive respect area aimed at excluding external threats for the preservation of heritage integrity. Moreover, none of these tools, though involving different disciplines and expertise, consider design and architectural transformations in the development of strategic interconnections between heritage sites and their surroundings. The inefficacy of UNESCO safeguard tools, reflected in local policies through a rigid mechanism of constraints, often affects the physical state of heritage-related places, resulting in conditions of marginalisation, lack of spatial care, isolation of heritage sites. Paradoxically, a tool established to protect heritage fragility becomes a fragilizing element itself. First framing the argument theoretically through a double aspect of literature review (both academical and institutional), the contribution then presents a set of case studies, selected to highlight the evolution and the implementation of buffer zones, in relation with territorial management policies and fragility issues.

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## OUR WORLD HERITAGE-SUSTAINABILITY APPROACH TO OVERCOME THE FRAGILITY OF EUROPEAN WORLD HERITAGE

### Keywords:

stakeholder engagement, policy review, sustainability and fragility

With the world in crisis, subject to threats ranging from pandemics to armed conflicts, climate change, natural disasters and more, the fragility of World Heritage is more evident than ever. In this ever-changing context, UNESCO World Heritage Convention is turning 50 years in 2022 and is in urgent need for a scientific-based participatory policy review. Furthermore, an improved understanding and practice of interpreting, assessing and managing development in World Heritage sites is urgently needed to remedy this situation. The OWH Sustainability Team made a global call for case studies in February 2021. Over 134 applications were received from different types of stakeholders (site managers, independent researchers, academic institutions, NGOs, etc.) and 50 countries of the 6 world regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Arab States, Europe, Latin America and North America). For a first assessment round, 51 global case studies were selected to exemplify good practices, challenges and opportunities in the sustainable management of heritage sites. The selection was also made to be representative of all world regions and typologies of World Heritage Sites (including sites on the Tentative List). The following 11 European sites were selected and analysed:

- The Sassi and the Park of the Rupestrian Churches of Matera, Italy.
- Bursa and Cumalikizik: the Birth of the Ottoman Empire, Turkey.
- Town of Bamberg, Germany.
- Rjukan-Notodden Industrial Heritage Site, Norway.
- Genoa: le Strade Nuove and the System of the Palazzi dei Rolli, Italy.
- Priorat-Montsant-Siurana Mediterranean Mosaic Agricultural Landscape, Spain.
- Hala Sultan Tekke and the Larnala Salt Lake Complex, Cyprus.
- Renaissance Monumental Ensembles of Úbeda and Baeza, Spain.
- Mahmutbey Mosque Kastamonu, Turkey.
- High Coast/Kvarken Archipelago : Kramfors (SE), Örnködsvik (SE), Vaasa (FI), Västernorrland County and Ostrobothnia, Sweden and Finland.
- Frontiers of the Roman Empire in Cumbria, England.

The selected Case Studies further participated in a 5-month assessment process that included a 2-stage evaluation phase, a regional workshop, and open global debates. The OWH-Sustainability approach to European Heritage evidenced the need for all round sustainable protection of heritage sites, not only on paper, but in implementation, requires policy changes that actually work in consultation and benefit of local communities, for which we provide recommendations.

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## **ADDRESSING LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND CAPACITY MAKING WHEN PLANNING WITH WORLD HERITAGE**

### **Keywords:**

institutional capacity, local-based planning, World Heritage narratives

The complex and multilevel planning frameworks dealing with UNESCO World Heritage designations recall as many planning dynamics as World Heritage designations interacting with local contexts are. However, when studying planning and management dynamics of World Heritage in fragile urban contexts is it crucial to notice how World Heritage designations as top-down episodes of planning have left behind local communities when promoting circumstantial projects due to expertise interest or funds availability without improving local communities' awareness-shaping about the role of World Heritage as systems of values and its uses for local development. Aiming to discuss challenges and opportunities of integrating World Heritage designations with projects, actor's and processes enhancing the 'capacity making' of local communities, this paper recalls how the evolution of the heritage concept (Choay, 1992 in Bandarin, 2012) and the World Heritage framework have struggled to transform a World Heritage designation into a process strengthening the active role of local communities in the interpretation and management of World Heritage Sites while considering World Heritage for local development. To illustrate this statement, this paper focuses on the role of the Historic Urban Landscape approach (UNESCO, 2011) in the last 10 years to integrate World Heritage management and local-based planning episodes by recollecting challenging interactions between governance, narratives, and partnerships. To do so, two World Heritage sites in the Italian Scenario are inquired, Matera in southern Italy and, Mantua and Sabbioneta in northern Italy. Methodologically, this paper explores how challenging people-centered project narratives are present (or not) in these World Heritage sites 'management plans.

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## INNOVATIVE CIRCULAR CULTURAL TOURISM SOLUTIONS

### Keywords:

innovation, cultural entrepreneurship, cultural tourism

During the presentation, the speaker will describe the process of selecting innovative circular cultural tourism solutions for deprived remote, peripheral or deindustrialised heritage areas. She will also explain how these solutions will be developed during the Hackathon of H2020 project Be.CULTOUR and designed into close-to-market projects during Be.CULTOUR acceleration programme. 6 Pilot Heritage Sites and 16 Be.CULTOUR Mirror Innovation Ecosystems will participate in the Hackathon. 19 applications will be selected to participate in Be.CULTOUR Hackathon which will take place in Brussels from 7 to 9 September 2022. Selected applicants will be given the opportunity to access the Be.CULTOUR Accelerator, a training programme of 4 months in which they will have the possibility to develop their innovative solutions to a close-to-market stage. Starting from the challenges linked to the targeted deprived, remote or over-exploited areas, the speaker will illustrate how the selected participants will develop circular cultural tourism services and/or products that will focus on creating attractive destinations taking into account post COVID-19 pandemic scenarios.

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TRACK 8

SESSION 2  
**General session**

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## **MEGA-EVENTS IN TRANSITION: CHANGING DRIVERS FOR CITIES, CULTURAL POLICY AND HERITAGE**

### **Keywords:**

mega-events, cultural policy, heritage

Despite the proposed 'certainty' in hosting global mega-events, there has long been issues of uncertainty surrounding the planning and implementation of what have until now essentially been mega-projects. Cultural mega-events are by no means immune to the many negative effects of the ongoing global pandemic but have shown themselves to be more adaptable to new regulations than sport mega-events. Considering the increased uncertainty surrounding the planning of mega-events as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, this paper examines how an accompanying cultural component – e.g. the Cultural Olympiad – may help cities 'fill in the gaps' as events like the Olympics transition to diverse and multiple existing spaces that require a new thinking about impact and long-term legacy. As demonstrated by existing research, such events can have a strong impact on urban heritage and new approaches to planning and hosting them should be aware of the impact on heritage. This paper reviews two past examples to reflect on the potentiality of a future case. The successful 2012 London Cultural Olympiad is used as an antecedent example to review more precisely what kind of relationships to expect between the Olympics and the Cultural Olympiad, utilizing both alternative and established heritage spaces alike. The Milan Expo 2015 also shows how a city can use a mega-event to address growing uncertainty through the expanded role of a cultural programme as seen in Expoincittà. The paper concludes by examining some of the learnings for Milan and the wider Olympic region in the future 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Olympic Games. This paper aims to identify the emerging role for culture to play in not only supporting the upcoming Olympic Games but serving as well as one of the enduring legacies during this period of mega-event transition as they interact with cities, cultural policy and heritage in new ways.

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## **A SURVEY ON CULTURAL HERITAGE PUBLIC POLICIES IN WORLD HERITAGE CITIES – PRELIMINARY RESULTS**

### **Keywords:**

public policies, world heritage cities, cultural heritage management

This paper aims at presenting the preliminary results of the survey intitled 'The implementation of cultural heritage public policies in World Heritage Cities' which was sent to World Heritage cities worldwide during the year 2020. More than 200 cities were contacted, and 61 cities answered the survey. There were several objectives for this survey: to map the models of heritage management in these cities, with regards to the different levels of government involved and the kind of organizations involved, whether public or private; to know the main outputs and outcomes of heritage management policies; to analyze the different variables that influence the implementation of heritage management policies at the local level, using the 'Integrated implementation Model' of Winter (2012) as theoretical guidelines. This paper can advance new light on the current state of cultural heritage management around the world, with a special focus on the European continent. Although there are many differences between the various cities surveyed, we can create a new template for assessing the organizational and interorganizational arrangements for cultural heritage management in World Heritage Cities, which we'll be presenting alongside with the main outputs and outcomes of cultural heritage management policies in these cities.

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## **PRESERVING THE FATHOMLESS. THE CONTESTED LEGACY OF THE MANHATTAN PROJECT**

### **Keywords:**

nuclear, energy, collective, memory, patrimonialization

While the Manhattan Project, the U.S. government program that developed the first atomic bomb during World War II, only lasted from 1942 to 1946, its physical and cultural consequences have defined, and will continue to define, the debate about global energy for centuries – if not millennia – to come. The vastness of the acreage of land involved in the project and the essentially infinite life of the toxic byproducts the project produced are equally impossible to grasp, a fact that radically subverts both contemporary notions and perceptions of what a monument is and many preservation paradigms. The Manhattan Project National Historical Park, established in 2015 and including three sites in Los Alamos, NM, Oak Ridge, TN, and Hanford, WA, represents the most controversial contemporary preservation effort ever undertaken in North America. The park took many years to be approved, for it engendered fierce public debate and political clashes as a result of the thorny questions it raised by revealing the existence of opposing attitudes about how we ought to approach nuclear energy, the preservation of landscape, and the creation of memorials meant to embody or express collective memory. The Manhattan Project National Historical Park is a very important case in cultural preservation and production, or, to use a different term, patrimonialization. Few other examples could reveal quite as clearly that collective memories are multiple and that these coexist, and that decisions about the conservation of the past are always fraught with debate between counterposed groups and the pursuit of disparate interests and are the fruit of a dynamic process that often involves conflict. The Manhattan Project Park exemplifies how both sacralization and banalization are obstacles to discussion, and how patrimonialization is particularly interesting when it is evidence of the conflictual process of appropriation of sites and national history. Weaving together three different yet complementary strands of research – a theoretical approach, extensive fieldwork and archival research – the goal is to interrogate the ways in which we conserve, memorialize, and commemorate, and discuss the challenges involved in constructing the cultural and legal infrastructure required for the creation of a Manhattan Project “monument.”

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## **CONTROVERSIAL HERITAGE: CAUGHT BETWEEN COLLECTIVE MEMORIES AND POSTCOLONIALISM**

### **Keywords:**

controversial heritage, port city culture, heritage discourse

Dynamic development of heritage scope and definition has brought about an unprecedented confusion and hollowness in heritage discourse. Influenced by globalisation, the emphasis on cultural heritage is arising in local policies, legislations, or governance of various countries, for cultural branding and profits seeking through heritagization and cultural heritage tourism. However, local citizens' cognition and appreciation does not always align with the political appeal and propaganda of each sovereign state, in particular in areas with the experience of colonialism, post-colonialism, and territorial conflicts. Port cities, where transnational exchanges have frequently occurred through maritime cultural and material transfer, see the fusion or heterogenization of various values, civilizations, and regimes. According to the research of UNESCO heritage terms, it notices that the interest of UNESCO World Heritage Centre is about maritime trade, defence and colonial practices in port cities, while it largely ignores built heritage for dwelling, leisure, or religious purposes (Dai and Hein and Baciu, 2021). This finding is also in line with the situation of Shanghai, the global largest port city. Being the most prominent urban product in Shanghai's postcolonialism period, lilong housing almost appear every corner in the city's former International Settlement and French Concession, representing import of foreign forces by the circular of goods, techniques, labours, ideas, money, and etc. By exploring the listed historic lilong neighbourhood Bugaoli (Cité Bourgogne) that was invested by the French company Société Internationale d'Épargne in the 1930s, this article identifies some contradictions. First, both state and local heritage-related authorities have marginalize the trace of post-colonial practices when Shanghai initiatively listed its modern heritage built during treaty port era. Second, local residents' attachment to their living space is closely aligned with their attitudes and involvement with Shanghai's treaty port history, and not always in line political strategies (Zhu and Hein, 2020). Third, the divergence between the government and the public create challenges for modern heritage conservation and regeneration for a sustainable urban landscape. Living spaces are important for sustaining human civilisation. This article defines architecture and areas resembling such situation "controversial heritage", addressing the necessity of exploring such phenomenon in global heritage discourse.

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### AN OPEN PLATFORM FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE DISCOURSE

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#### **Keywords:**

mapping heritage, collaborative data exchange,  
linking World Heritage stakeholders

The conflict between the desire to modernise large metropolises and the desire to preserve the artistic, historical and cultural heritage has always represented a considerable problem for the municipalities. Bad management of the heritage, inaccurate reading of the context, lack of knowledge and flawed urban planning can inflict enormous damage on the legacy that has been handed over to us from the past, often irreversible damage. The need for digitizing data and archiving could be transformed into an exceptional tool for connecting all different users and sectors of cultural heritage into a “Global heritage” interaction and communication.

Following the aforementioned guidelines, our aim is the development of an interdisciplinary crowdsourcing platform, which will include and support data ranging from a simplified level to a more expert audience. Having in mind the global scene, it follows the structure of cartography and mapping in order to collect all possible heritage sites (from less to well known). Everyone could edit the mapping system by adding new heritage sites and data (e.g. pieces of scholarship, 3D-models, tourism, information), taking advantage of the digital age’s communication possibilities. In a simplified schema, by clicking a site, you will be able to reach all the available data that exists on the archive and get in touch with the contributors. Having in mind the future heritage sites that will be mostly identified in the urban fabric, mapping heritage is more than essential.

Taking Vienna’s historical centre as an example of a world heritage site, the platform tries to respond to the new needs of mapping the changes and the route of a historical site that tries to harmonise to the new needs of a modern technological urban centre. The stakeholders along with the institutional help of the Technical University of Vienna will contribute to the platform / map, where over-layering data from different sectors will be collected, giving a holistic approach to each cultural site. Communities - as public institutions, private businesses and people interested in (heritage) culture - alongside with the University will be both part of this effort: archiving, and thus preserving the collective memory.

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## **UNESCO VINERY CULTURAL LANDSCAPE AND CLIMATE CHANGE. THE OPERATIONAL ATLAS OF COLLINE DEL PROSECCO**

### **Keywords:**

UNESCO vinery cultural landscape, climate change, fragility

Viticulture has been particularly sensitive to climate changes throughout human history, building traditional vinery landscapes of extraordinary beauty and deeply adaptive, showing their antifragile attitude in time. However, the shift from a labor-intensive to a resource-intensive viticulture, the spread of vine monoculture, infrastructural, settlement and tourism pressure, depopulation, abandonment, the effects of pandemic and today's greater climatic variability, has made these kinds of landscapes more fragile. Some of them, mostly European, have been included in the World Heritage list by UNESCO as cultural landscapes for both the tangible and intangible values they express, building a globally-relevant network of sites which could represent a diffused experimental laboratory on vinery cultural landscape, heritage, climate change and sustainability. In the last two decades, the variability and uncertainty associated with climate change has roused inside the heritage studies a debate which has influenced UNESCO and its advisory bodies positions, policies and conservation practices, overcoming a vision of 'stability under threat' and redefining the concepts of Outstanding Universal Values, Authenticity and Integrity of these 'living landscapes.' Approaches oriented towards adaptation, resilience and, although not explicitly, antifragility, emerged, opening up to possible sustainable and innovative development scenarios, which requires new approaches, methods and tools. A cultural vision of climate change and concepts like transformative continuity and living heritage may open new operative perspectives. In this theoretical framework, the UNESCO vineyard cultural landscape of the Colline del Prosecco di Conegliano e Valdobbiadene (2019), due to its peculiarities, has been selected for a methodological experimentation, inspired by the aforementioned concepts, on mapping patterns of fragility inside its UNESCO boundaries, with a focus on the relationship between heritage, climate change and sustainability. The operational dynamic atlas, which will be the applicational output of this experimental process, is conceived as an interdisciplinary multi-temporal, multi-spatial and multi-users platform which intends to support shared proactive heritage-based adaptation strategies to climate change impacts, intersecting local/global dimension, scientific and traditional knowledge, top-down and bottom-up approaches; involving public administrations, stakeholders and local communities and groups.

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SESSION 3

# Heritage fragilities in globalised mega events

**Keywords:**

fragility, heritage, cultural mega-events

Urban heritage is increasingly mobilised within cultural mega events (Jones, 2020), as these schemes engage more and more with local cultures, values and meanings. The nature of these initiatives as internationally visible global events and devices to affirm hybridised neoliberalisms (Brenner et al., 2010) nonetheless raises a number of challenges facing urban heritage (Jones and Ponzini, 2018; HOME, 2021; Purchla, 2022). This special session involves planners, architects, and other social scientists from across Europe with the aim to discuss a range of dimensions of fragility and antifragility of urban heritage within mega events and their legacy. Within the framework of these events, the session explores opportunities for heritage conservation, threats of physical damage, issues of politicisation of heritage and its role within intercultural dialogue, the changing meanings attributed to heritage, the production and circulation of heritage narratives.

Enrico Tommarchi, planner by training and Lecturer in Town Planning at London South Bank University, has been researching culture- and event-led regeneration in maritime port cities, and the role of heritage within mega events. Taking Hull UK City of Culture 2017 as an example, he looks at the fragility and antifragility of maritime heritage that are exposed within cultural mega events aimed at counteracting processes of territorial stigmatisation linked to the decline of local maritime economies. In Hull, a port city in Northern England suffering from long-term socio-economic decline, particularly due to the decline of the local fishing industry, event organisers and cultural organisations engaged with heritage in unprescribed and 'spectacular' ways, changing perceptions of Hull's maritime heritage assets, as well as of the city's image more generally, but also reframing narratives of its maritime past.

Evanthia Dova is a Lecturer in Architecture at Neapolis University Pafos, and she looks at the links between the physical fragility of heritage and its political contestation in the case of Pafos (Cyprus) and the European Capital of Culture 2017. The long-lasting political troubles of Cyprus have had a strong imprint on its urban space. The displacement of large populations between the northern and the southern part of the island after 1974 has left extensive urban areas empty, derelict or underused. This is clearly manifest in the center of Pafos, which comprises a large number of Turkish Cypriot properties, some of them emblematic of the city's bi-communal urban and cultural history. The evident neglect of the city core, a result of political and social disruption, created a condition of fragility in terms of social cohesion and economic development, but also in terms of heritage vulnerability, as rundown buildings reflected

the fading collective memory of the city. The wide remodeling of Pafos' urban core, on the occasion of hosting the European Capital of Culture activities in 2017, attempted to reverse this abandonment, exploit the spatial heritage capital for cultural purposes and stitch a tattered urban fabric back together. Using the case of Pafos, we aim to discuss the heritage and cultural dimensions of environmental fragility and critically assess the experience of taking advantage of a mega-event to revisit dissonant heritage and catalyze urban transformation.

Marina Rotolo, an architect with a PhD in architecture, and currently Associate Professor at ENSA de Bretagne and Associate researcher at the UMR AUSser n°3329 CNRS MCC, questions heritage representation based on the case of Matera, European Capital of Culture in 2019. More specifically, her paper focuses on a flagship project of the cultural year: the I-DEA project, Institute Demo-Ethno-Anthropology. She discusses the vision of heritage carried by this new labelling, particularly with regard to the material and immaterial resources that it mobilises. She shows that this project reveals a shift towards an alternative form of cultural places. Indeed, it questions the concept of museum more specifically, the ecomuseum - and proposes a new artistic approach. In this perspective, the I-DEA moves away from the spatial dimension to favour a decontextualised approach that uses digital technologies to reinterpret local heritage. From then on, we can observe a reversal of the representation of heritage through cultural labelling. This conception of heritage is also rooted in a context of globalisation of cultural production where material and immaterial archives become a material to be mobilised among other possible supports. This approach transforms heritage into an object of consumption and production at the service of a city that is part of the network of attractive cultural metropolises.

Joanna Sanetra-Szeliga, Assistant Professor at the Cracow University of Economics and interested in the socio-economic potential of culture and cultural heritage, makes use of Wroclaw 2016 and examples from other European Capital of Culture to reflect on the role of heritage in these schemes. A mega-event of European Capital of Culture (ECoC) presents host cities with an opportunity to tackle unresolved heritage issues, including renovation and revitalisation problems as well as working through dissonant heritage. Both of which can be observed, for example, in the case of ECoC Wroclaw 2016. The Spaces for Beauty programme focused, i.a., on cultural and heritage infrastructure, while some of the Backyard Door projects encouraged civil engagement and embracing the city's complicated past (it became a Polish city again in 1945 with a total change of population and 70% of its material fabric damaged). The threat with such a mega-event, however, is a temptation to use it to just create marketing brands and attract tourists with a superficial approach to heritage issues (disneylandization and touristification of heritage). The aim of the presentation is to present an analysis of employing heritage for ECoC programmes, using a modified SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) method, where opportunities and threats are discussed using a PESTLE (Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal and Environmental) approach. As some of the heritage problems are site-specific, Wroclaw 2016 will be used as the prevailing case study and example. It will be supported by examples from other ECoCs including Maribor 2012, Kosice 2013, Pilzen 2014 and Kaunas 2023. The data for the analysis has been collected within the HOMEE (Heritage Opportunities/threats within Mega-Events in Europe) project and other desk research of the author.

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## **MARITIME HERITAGE, PORT CITY 'STIGMA' AND A CULTURAL MEGA EVENT: HULL UK CITY OF CULTURE 2017**

### **Keywords:**

cultural mega-events, maritime heritage, stigmatization

External perceptions of many formerly wealthy port towns and cities across the UK have gradually turned across the second half of the twentieth century to preconceptions about these places as being 'problematic', due to the socio-economic decline caused by the restructuring of local maritime economies. This has led to a more distanced attitude in relation to local maritime history, heritage and narratives. However, the fragility and antifragility of material and immaterial maritime heritage in these cities are exposed within cultural mega events aimed at counteracting processes of territorial stigmatisation linked to the decline of local maritime economies. Maritime heritage assets and narratives become both resources in processes of city branding within global interurban competition and endangered aspects of their past. In Hull, a port city in Northern England suffering from long-term socio-economic decline, particularly due to the decline of the local fishing industry in the 1970s (Byrne and Ombler, 2017; Wilcox, 2021), event organisers and cultural organisations engaged with heritage in unprescribed and 'spectacular' ways (Culture, Place and Policy Institute, 2018; Tommarchi and Bianchini, 2020; 2022). Their interventions sought to change perceptions of Hull's maritime heritage assets, as well as of the city's image more generally, but through this process they also reframed narratives of Hull's maritime past. Since 2017, the city has reinvested substantially in maritime heritage, such as in the case of the Hull: Yorkshire Maritime City project. This paper outlines and explores the fluctuating place of the maritime in a City of Culture event, and the aspects of fragility and antifragility of maritime heritage that are mobilised, exacerbated, negotiated or promoted through such events and their legacy.

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## **OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS OF EMPLOYING HERITAGE IN ECoC PROGRAMMES**

### **Keywords:**

European Capital of Culture, heritage, PESTLE analysis

A mega-event of European Capital of Culture (ECoC) presents host cities with an opportunity to tackle unresolved heritage issues, including renovation and revitalisation problems as well as working through dissonant heritage. Both of which can be observed, for example, in the case of ECoC Wroclaw 2016. The Spaces for Beauty programme focused, i.a., on cultural and heritage infrastructure, while some of the Backyard Door projects encouraged civil engagement and embracing the city's complicated past (it became a Polish city again in 1945 with a total change of population and 70% of its material fabric damaged). The threat with such a mega-event, however, is a temptation to use it to just create marketing brands and attract tourists with a superficial approach to heritage issues (disneylandization and touristification of heritage). The aim of the presentation is to present an analysis of employing heritage for ECoC programmes, using a modified SWOT (Strengthes, Weaknesses, Opporutnities and Threats) method, where opportunities and threats are discussed using a PESTLE (Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal and Environmental) approach. As some of the heritage problems are site-specific, Wroclaw 2016 will be used as the prevailing case study and example. It will be supported by examples from other ECoCs including Maribor 2021<sup>2</sup>, Kosice 2013, Pilzen 2014 and Kaunas 2023. The data for the analysis has been collected within the HOME E (Heritage Opportunities/threats within Mega-Events in Europe) project and other desk research of the author. A part of the proposed panel Heritage fragilities in globalised mega events.

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## HERITAGE AS CREATIVE MATERIAL

### Keywords:

heritage, european capital of culture, museum

The paper questions heritage representation based on the case of Matera, European Capital of Culture in 2019. More specifically, the paper will focus on a flagship project of the cultural year: the I-DEA project, Institute Demo-Ethno-Anthropology. We will discuss the vision of heritage carried by this new labelling, particularly with regard to the material and immaterial resources that it mobilizes. We will show that this project reveals a shift towards an alternative form of cultural places. Indeed, it questions the concept of museum - more specifically, the ecomuseum - and proposes a new artistic approach. In this perspective, the I-DEA moves away from the spatial dimension to favour a decontextualised approach that uses digital technologies to reinterpret local heritage. From then on, we can observe a reversal of the representation of heritage through cultural labelling. This conception of heritage is also rooted in a context of globalisation of cultural production where material and immaterial archives become a material to be mobilised among other possible supports. This approach transforms heritage into an object of consumption and production at the service of a city that is part of the network of attractive cultural metropolises.

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## HERITAGE FRAGILITY AND POLITICAL CONTESTATION IN PAFOS, CYPRUS

### Keywords:

European Capital of Culture, urban regeneration, Turkish-Cypriot properties

The long-lasting political troubles of Cyprus have had a strong imprint on its urban space. The displacement of large populations between the northern and the southern part of the island after 1974 has left extensive urban areas empty, derelict or underused. This is clearly manifest in the center of Pafos, which comprises a large number of Turkish Cypriot properties, some of them emblematic of the city's bi-communal urban and cultural history. The evident neglect of the city core, a result of political and social disruption, created a condition of fragility in terms of social cohesion and economic development, but also in terms of heritage vulnerability, as rundown buildings reflected the fading collective memory of the city. The wide remodeling of Pafos' urban core, on the occasion of hosting the European Capital of Culture activities in 2017, attempted to reverse this abandonment, exploit the spatial heritage capital for cultural purposes and stitch a tattered urban fabric back together. Using the case of Pafos, we aim to discuss the heritage and cultural dimensions of environmental fragility and critically assess the experience of taking advantage of a mega-event to revisit dissonant heritage and catalyze urban transformation.

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SESSION 4

# Representation and ontology of coastal landscapes between global change and local values

**Keywords:**

coastal landscapes, cross-scalar planning, Heritage

“Action has meaning only in relationship, and without understanding relationship, action on any level will only breed conflict. The understanding of relationship is infinitely more important than the search for any plan of action”.

Jiddu Krishnamurti

Coastal landscapes are far from passive and static grounds. Being subject to the atmospheric, material, and ecological exchange between land and water systems juxtaposed by the flow of human activities, their image is perhaps better defined by change rather than permanence. Continuous processes of erasure and formation shape the plurality of images that co-exist in time and space, defined by seasons, weather (extremes), and forms of inhabitation between intensively urbanised areas and the wilderness. Their aesthetic, cultural, and ecological value lie exactly at this flux and the fragility of it, and yet, the overriding of climate, economic and socio-political drivers at global scale depicts a different scale of disruption. How to preserve heritage value, cultural identity and the very nature of places defined by the flow of natural forces when these are potentially overwritten by traces and the systemic impact of human activities. What are the limits of heritage conservation in face of global change and local losses? In a similar reading, reflecting on the essay by Stefanie Hessler *Prospecting Ocean* (2019:27), how to represent and act on “the slow and uncontrollable violence that goes beyond the boundaries of landscape and can only be approximated from a position of situatedness and planetary”. When depicting the impermanent physical and aesthetic qualities of cultural and natural heritage sites as the glaciers in southeast Iceland, the fjords in western Norway, the Wadden Sea in north Netherlands, and the Venetian Lagoon in northeast Italy, an inventory of losses (Schalansky, 2018) can be traced and narrated over time. These losses, or the fading away of material and ecological relations, topography and scenery that define such landscapes, point to the necessity of developing potential cartographies (Ait-Touati, Arènes and Grégoire, 2019) as new forms of cross-scalar temporal representation and articulation, and a revision of the ontology of coastal landscapes.

In the era of globalisation, when all planet is urbanised and planners’ debate “Planetary Urbanisation”, economists discuss “Global City”, ecologists describe planet’s biodiversity hotspots connections, and climate changes warns “global” crisis, it might be necessary to shift the paradigm of planning and design to an adequate scale of challenges, searching for the articulation between cross-scalar natural forces

and human flows acting on site. In prospect for the future of planet, with the burgeoning of next billion people, under the pressure of climate change and implosion/explosion of planetary urbanisation, the panel seeks to foresee new potential and strategic areas that had led to further urbanisation around coastal heritage sites in Iceland, Norway, the Netherlands, and Italy. To guarantee the right understanding of relationships between the planetary and the situated, the concept of “global” might be introduced to understand the interconnection between small scale change and its global drivers.

In the nineteenth century, Patrick Geddes- Scottish biologist, sociologist, geographer, philanthropist, and pioneering town planner, introduced the concept of “region” in architecture planning. Geddes’ central argument was that physical geography, market economics and anthropology were related, yielding a “single chord of social life [of] all three combined”. Therefore, the interdisciplinary subject of sociology was developed into the science of man’s interaction with a natural environment: the basic technique was the regional survey, and the improvement of town planning as the leading practical application of sociology.

Talking for instance about the Icelandic context, where most of the concentration occurs in coastal areas, it is essential to have a megaregional approach to ensure the accuracy of planning and design for the upcoming phases of urban growth, natural and cultural conservation. The expansion of cities has generated a new scale of urbanisation, called megaregions. Megaregions are economic actors that derive from Regionalism policy, where political and financial forces are concentrated in specific regions, creating large networks of metropolitan areas where governance, infrastructure, and land use are planned at a regional urban scale.

Images of night lights are helpful to demonstrate the human settlements around the planet. Icelandic night NASA’s image indicates that the main infrastructure and settlements are located around coastal areas, while the island’s interior – the so-called central highlands – is rugged. Compared to coastal areas, there is a lack of any sign of permanent settlement in the inner central area. This area is high in elevation, sparsely vegetated, cold with volcanoes, icecaps, and hot springs. The coast of Iceland is not only a discontinuous urbanised space that must be approached as a megaregional context from an economic and socio-political perspective, it is also a landscape of cultural and (extraordinary) natural value in constant change. The panel will discuss the potential impact of large-scale projects and global change altering the fragile water-land relationship defining the aesthetic, ecological and cultural value of glaciers in southeast Iceland, the fjords in western Norway, the Wadden Sea in north Netherlands, and the Venetian Lagoon in northeast Italy: their cross-scalar and plural representation, ontology and meaning.

The panel is formed by a research forum on landscape architecture and territorial studies composed by four scholars representing Iceland, Norway, the Netherlands, and Italy. Samaneh Nickayin is a Landscape Architect and Lecturer at Landbúnaðarháskóli Íslands (LbhÍ) / Agricultural University of Iceland (AUI). Giambattista Zaccariotto is an Architect and Urbanist and Associate Professor at AHOOSlo School of Architecture and Design, Institute of Urbanism and Landscape, Norway. Taneha Kuzniecowa Bacchin is an Architect and Urbanist and Assistant Professor of Urban Design Theory and Methods at the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands. Antonio Longo is an Architect and Urbanist, Associate Professor of Architecture and Urban Studies at DASTU Politecnico di Milano, Italy.

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## THE IMAGE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHIPELAGO AS A CONCEPTUAL DEVICE OF RE-COMPOSITION

### Keywords:

archipelago, landscape, memory

Linked to panel submitted by S.Nickayin, T.Kuzniekov Bacchin, G.Zaccariotto, A.Longo. In Lofoten, Norway, visible is the turn of the landscape of fishing villages into an unceasingly remodelled space in the last decades. A diachronic reading of the landscape in Svolvær, reveals the radical upscaling of man-made land surfaces and, in turn, the downscaling of water surfaces due to filling of sea areas such as inlets, bays and expanses of water between scattered islands as to convert them to land uses such as harbours and commercial areas. As a result, the landscape changed from a fine grain archipelago to a coarse grain peninsula. Underlying the spatial process of transformation is the transition from a many-sided, labour-intensive and household-oriented production to specialized, capital intensive and market-oriented production and a spatial planning practice that conceptualizes landscape in terms of 'capacity'. The illustrated loss of landscape morphology, that is of the past form and image, as a visual picture, of the inhabited landscape, goes along not only with the decrease of landscape, ecological and social functioning. Our hypothesis is that at risk is the disappearance of the archipelago as the figure of the collective imagination, i.e. the mental image or idea that captures the collective meanings or identities associated with that particular Norwegian landscape and not another. The role of these images is to guide the planning process for the whole coastal landscape, to inspire design scenarios and legitimize specific urban design projects. Evidence of the 'fading out' of the archipelago as a possible operative planning concept is the contents of descriptions and projections produced by local authorities. Making the landscape readable is a precondition for spatial planning and design projects. Here readability refers both to the visual image and to the mental image of the coastal landscape as instrumental to conceptualizing new territorial orders and forms that while adapting to the continuous mutation of modes of living can ensure continuity with the memory of the places.

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## LOSS OF ARCTIC LANDSCAPE AND TRANS- ARCTIC SHIPPING DEVELOPMENT

### Keywords:

Arctic landscape, megaregionalism and globalization,  
trans-arctic shipping route

Today, due to globalisation, the humanity attempt to manage the planet as a “whole” system. In the era of Planetary urbanisation and “Global City”, our daily life depends upon the world’s network of mega-infrastructure for the movement of people and goods. These global connectivity networks are impressive; however, from the perspective of environmental impact is destructive. While climate change warns “global” crisis, it created opportunities in the North Atlantic region to foster a new Trans- Arctic shipment route. The loss of Arctic Ice and landscape has been seen as an opportunity to shorten the route between Europe, Asia and North America. The global economic drivers take advantage of one of humanity’s most sorrowful and bitter losses- The Arctic Landscape. The Finnafjord Project is a new landmark deep seaport in the North Atlantic Ocean to transship crossing the North Pole capturing the Asia-Europe route. The location is in Finnafjord (Icelandic: Finnafjörður) in North-East Iceland. This project provides an opportunity to critically reflect how far our global fragile heritage sites are adapting to the greediness of the Anthropocene era.

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## THE LANDSCAPE AS A CONCEPTUAL DEVICE OF RECOMPOSITION: THE CASE OF THE LAGOON BETWEEN VENETO AND FRIULI

### Keywords:

coastal landscapes, cross-scalar planning, heritage

The paper is part of a panel which proposes a reflection on the representation and ontology of landscape between global changes and local values with reference to coastal environments. In these human landscapes, extreme environmental and climatic changes are particularly evident both on a local scale in relation to local communities and on a global visibility and impact, especially where there is a shared recognition of value. The panel proposes the comparison of conditions that are distant and separate but similar in their relationship with the landscape (role of communities, primary economy, evidence of change and impacts of climate change, recognized heritage).

The hypothesis that the comparison tests is:

- that there is a strong gap between three different classical ways of conceiving the landscape: the environmental and geographical one, the cultural and symbolic one (which can also live and detach from reality by identity), the sensitive, perceptual one. (Council of Europe 2001-16, Jakob 2018)
- that the sensitive and perceptive conception of the landscape can play a fundamental role in the redefinition of objectives and methods of radical design, able to recompose the three modes of conception of the landscape (Schalansky 2018, Cosgrove 1985)
- that in this way it is possible to bring into contact, within a new level of awareness, the evidence of phenomena with the cultural and symbolic representation that communities express, so as to produce new forms of care and production of landscape (Burkhardt 2015, Waldheim 2016)

Similarly, to the other cases/landscapes analyzed, the comparative reading is based on: historical character and formation of the examined context; consolidated cultural landscape and recognized elements of heritage; evidence of change through the most recent perceptive and poetic readings; scenarios and trajectories of possible radical change.

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## URBAN HERITAGE AS A DRIVER FOR HEALTH EQUITY

### Keywords:

cultural heritage, urban heritage, health

A growing body of scientific studies has found evidence of the contribution of the Culture to the promotion of good health and the prevention of a range of mental and physical health conditions. The WHO Regional Office for Europe and its Member States recognize the importance of culture in shaping health and well-being throughout the life course. Cultural Heritage (CH) has become increasingly connected to social challenges with a progressive shift of paradigm from a costly and onerous sector to an effective resource for the new health strategies. No more simply considered as a fragile resource to be protected and a cost for the society, the new paradigm of culture heritage implies an act of acknowledgement: recognition of CH as a proactive and creative sector that is relevant to the needs of communities actively contributing to society. The recent COVID pandemic has enhanced the fundamental role of cultural heritage experiences in supporting the global wellbeing at a time of crisis. Museums are not the only heritage spaces to have offered wellbeing-focused programmes; the pandemic period has enhanced the adaptive and resilient properties of different forms of heritage in relation to urban public and open spaces. By refocusing on personal health and wellbeing, urban heritage sites can explore new operational models that will help to make them more sustainable, and less fragile, in the longer term. The paper aims to demonstrate the potential of Urban CH to make a positive impact on mental health and consequently, highlights the need of considering CH in reference to a new model of healthcare - a new cultural welfare - focused on salutogenic and cross-sectoral approaches. The paper provides evidence on some pioneering Italian and European knowledge and practices from effective interventions and case studies that have used CH to promote health, improve health behaviours, or address health inequalities and inequities, specifically focusing on a range of different groups especially disadvantaged minorities.

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## MEMORY IN SPACE: METROPOLITAN HERITAGE AND EDUCATION

### Keywords:

metropolis, heritage, SDGs1212

COVID-19 has provided a wake-up call in the education context for the uniqueness of the metropolis understanding [1]. MSLab proposes addressing cultural and natural heritages' role in planning, designing and managing the 21st-century Metropolis as a critical review of conservation regulatory prescriptions relating to urban heritage and landscape governance [2]. Understanding cultural diversity engaging and training new generations to understand and protect the inherited values of our living and shared heritage will sustain the past's plural legacy. Promoting cultural heritage and diverse forms of expression are essential prerequisites for metropolitan citizenship's awareness, allowing Metropolitan leaders and policymakers to generate a sense of place and belonging, build up social capital, and enhance metropolitan development' Sustainable Goals. Many cities are adopting cultural policies, realising the central role that cultural heritage in all its forms can play in contributing to stability, vibrant urban cultures and histories, quality of life and job creation, particularly in the context of globalisation. The project explores the relationships between heritage and the Metropolis. In the frame of HERITOPOLIS (UN-Habitat's proposal), MSLab's project defines specific concepts and tools to understand metropolitan heritage in the context of socio-political transformations and economic change. Interpreting and managing Metropolis generated gigantic amounts of data is the challenge of the digital era regarding how the city and the citizens may benefit from a better understanding to achieve sustainable, resilient, secure and safe metropolises constructing the culture of metropolitan living. Through a systemic Metropolitan Cartography open-source tool [3] and its connection with the new multiple cultural identities expression, we integrate the layout of the past into the contemporary metropolitan structure, transforming past's fragments into a part of the metropolitan system, which is fundamental for the regeneration of vulnerable areas. Metropolitan Cartography's Built Maps [4] made of signs/indexes of relationships marked on the ground become signs of a mental map at the metropolitan scale. Through a deep understanding of the need for metropolitan work, the resilience of metropolitan citizenship is founded. We study the Metropolitan Milan Area and its value for Europe. The goal is the metropolitan region figurability as the legibility [5] of the metropolitan structural matrices. We explore if technology could provide a translation mediation code for mutual cultural recognition, creating a cultural identity in the metropolitan process.

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Preorganised Panel

## SESSION 5

# Unpacking the global/local nexus in world heritage sites: a pragmatic approach

### Keywords:

World Heritage sites, sustainable development, governance

This special panel session focuses on the critical interplay between global and local dynamics in heritage sites inscribed in the UNESCO's World Heritage List. In fact, the management, planning and governance of these particular (and fragile) heritage sites of worldwide relevance is the result of a hybridization of standardized global principles and regulations, and local interpretation of heritage meanings and policy implementation. On the one hand, this session explores the role played by UNESCO and other heritage and non-heritage organisations in setting specific international goals, recommendations, policy guidelines and governance requirements. On the other, it discusses how the global/local nexus is affected by contemporary dynamics of change such as increasing touristification, marketing of local cultures, identities and landscapes for economic purposes, inconsiderate developments, and gentrification processes. Particular attention is paid to the (more or less explicit) conflicts generated by the friction between global and local heritage-based narratives, and between different priorities for local economic development (also through tourism promotion), conservation of heritage sites, and improvement of citizens' quality of life.

This panel discussion contributes to track 8 (Fragile Heritage Sites in a Globalizing World) by presenting a reflection based on (mostly European) case studies and an ever-growing literature on these topics. Key themes are: a) the global/local interplay in fragile World Heritage sites in historic urban environments, cultural landscapes and beyond; b) the suggestion of possible policy recommendations for a more sustainable planning practice in such contexts. The panel session consists in the following four contributions. Francesca Giliberto (University of Leeds, UK) examines the "heritage versus development dilemma" through the lens of a 21st century international approach to urban heritage conservation, management, and development. She highlights how, following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations (2015), UNESCO and ICOMOS – among others– have issued a series of ground-breaking documents to advocate for the importance of heritage for sustainable development, and have provided guidance on how to take concrete measures at the local level in that sense. She critically discusses the discrepancies between the global narratives and recommendations suggested in these documents and their local implementation focusing on the two World Heritage Cities (WHCs) of Florence (Italy) and Edinburgh (UK). She sheds light on effective practices and existing challenges by examining their management systems and urban regulatory frameworks in particular. Finally, she provides recommendations to rethink and reframe current urban heritage management

practices for more sustainable WHCs, based on critical insights from “PRAXIS: Arts and Humanities for Global Development”, a research project led by the University of Leeds.

Matteo Basso (Iuav University of Venice, Italy) challenges the dominant and essentially positive rural imagery conveyed by the successful inscription of the Prosecco Hills of Conegliano and Valdobbiadene (Italy) in the World Heritage List. Through a qualitative analysis based on planning documents and interviews with key actors, he emphasizes frictions and contradictions existing not only between global and local heritage-based narratives and initiatives, but also between different values and territorial aspirations. He underlines how the massive vineyard expansion generated by the Prosecco’s global demand has generated environmental impacts and health consequences triggered by the use of chemicals, and thus a growing discontent among locals. These challenges, together with the impacts of the vineyard expansion on the cultural landscape and a set of recommendations formulated by the World Heritage Centre, have resulted in diffused conflicts among different actors. In this context, Basso questions the role of ordinary planning tools in addressing more effectively the interactions between vineyards and urban settlements, as well as between heritage and development.

Ilaria Rosetti (University of Antwerp, Belgium) focuses on participatory processes in managing WHCs, and their multiple roles with regard to sustainable urban development. International organisations acknowledge their relevance in official documents, promoting collaborative, inclusive, and equitable heritage processes at national and local levels. In turn, much research work has investigated the challenges and opportunities of implementing participatory heritage practices in WHCs. Different actors’ perspectives have been analysed, including local authorities and other organisations, practitioners as well as local communities, emphasising the role of governing bodies –especially elected ones– in decision-making processes. Still, although they play a key part in the identification and allocation of resources and in the prioritization of policies and actions, such actors’ perception of participatory heritage practices has been little explored. To address this gap, a mayors’ workshop was organized during the 2017 XIV World Congress of the Organization of WHCs, whose findings are discussed in Rosetti’s contribution. Beyond evident commonalities and differences, she analyses the challenges, both internal (weaknesses) and external (threats), that are perceived to hinder the implementation of participatory heritage practices in WHCs, as well as their implications for the quality of participation and sustainable heritage practices.

Finally, Remi Wacogne (Iuav University of Venice, Italy) identifies key highlights emerged from the three previous contributions, i.e. that stakeholders involved in processes related to WH sites act according to sensibly different agendas and procedures. Drawing on the experience of the “support to the coordination of UNESCO sites of Veneto” carried out by a research group of Iuav with a formal agreement with the Veneto Region, his contribution presents an application of the actor-network theory (ANT) in this dynamic context. Through a renewed mapping of actors and agencies involved in processes related to WHS, further practical implications for planning and public policy at the local, regional, national and international levels, are highlighted.

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## **GLOBAL/LOCAL FRICTIONS IN HERITAGE-BASED NARRATIVES AND POLICIES**

### **Keywords:**

heritage-based narratives, Prosecco Hills, sustainability

This contribution investigates the interplay between global forces and local dynamics in a rural area, recently recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where the globally known Italian Prosecco wine is produced. Specifically, the aim is to reflect not only on the frictions and contradictions between global and local heritage-based narratives and initiatives, but also between different values and territorial aspirations: economic development, promotion of tourism, landscape conservation, the citizens' demand for a higher quality of life. Such contradictions have recently become evident in the diffused conflicts that have emerged as a consequence of a massive vineyard expansion generated by the Prosecco's global demand, a growing discontent of locals for the related landscape and environmental impacts (as well as the health impacts triggered by the use of chemicals), a set of regulations imposed by UNESCO for the preservation of the local heritage. In general terms, the contribution seeks to challenge the dominant and essentially positive imagery about the rural – from which the successful heritage-based narratives draw inspiration – also recognizing the urgency, for urban planning, to re-frame the urban/rural dichotomy. In a globalizing premier wine-region such as that of Prosecco, the priority is today not simply to protect the countryside from the growth of cities, but also to manage the negative impacts of agro-industries on urban settlements. The unsustainable development trajectories in the Prosecco Hills, from both an environmental and social perspective, call indeed for a general reflection on the role of ordinary planning tools in addressing the interactions between vineyards and residential zones more effectively. To what extent are ordinary planning tools managing these interactions? What role can spatial planning play in balancing, in a more sustainable way, the expansion of vineyards and the local populations' needs in terms of quality of life? To answer these questions, this study adopts a qualitative research method based on the analysis of planning documents and interviews with key actors.

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## **CONNECTING SITES: WHAT DOES WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT CONSIST IN? INSIGHTS FROM VENETO**

### **Keywords:**

World Heritage sites, governance, sustainable development

As often emphasized, UNESCO's World Heritage programme stands out for its global relevance as much as for its local impacts. At the same time, such impacts are heterogeneous and their assessment uneasy, inasmuch stakeholders involved in processes related to World Heritage sites (WHS) act according to sensibly different agendas and procedures: local, regional and national governments, civic organisations, tourism operators, heritage experts – including those working for, or in collaboration with, the World Heritage Center itself –, and so on. What is meant by WHS' management is thus less clear-cut than generally assumed. Drawing upon the experience of the 'support to the coordination of UNESCO sites of Veneto' carried out by a research group of IUAV through a formal agreement with the Veneto Region, this contribution presents an application of the actor-network theory (ANT) to WHS management. It provides an accurate mapping of actors and agencies involved in processes related to WHS, and proposes a pragmatic approach to a field often investigated primarily through documents (such as international recommendations or management plans) rather than in terms of social dynamics. Further practical implications for planning and public policy at the local, regional, national and international levels, are then highlighted.

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## **PARTICIPATION IN WH CITIES: GOVERNMENTAL PERSPECTIVES AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS**

### **Keywords:**

World Heritage Cities, participation, mayors

Participatory heritage practices can play multiple roles in achieving sustainable urban development. They are advocated as an expression of rights-based approaches, as a driver of multiple sustainability goals, and as an enabling factor of a sustained transformation towards sustainability-oriented heritage practices. International heritage organizations acknowledge these roles in their regulatory documents, promoting collaborative, inclusive, and equitable heritage processes at national and local levels. In this context, World Heritage (WH) cities offer a peculiar environment to observe how international, national, and local dynamics, actors, networks, and regulations interact. Much case studies-based research investigated the challenges and opportunities of implementing participatory heritage practices in WH cities, often revealing the perspective of local communities, organizations, practitioners, and other groups of stakeholders. Recent research stressed the key role that public actors, particularly political ones, have in decisionmaking processes, especially in the identification and allocation of resources and in the prioritization of policies and actions. However, little research has explored governmental actors' perception, mainly focusing on specific cases, and without comparing their perspectives across regions. To address this gap, a mayors' workshop was organized by a team of researcher, including the author, during the 2017 XIV World Congress of the Organization of WH Cities to unveil the perception that WH cities' representatives have of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) of participatory heritage practices in their urban areas. Research findings revealed strong interconnections among the different SWOT elements, as well as commonalities and differences among WH cities worldwide. This presentation focuses on the analysis of the challenges, both internal (weaknesses) and external (threats), that are perceived to hinder the implementation of participatory heritage practices in WH Cities. Participation itself, regulation, resources, awareness, and communication are among the most mentioned fragilities across regions. Particularly, participation appears as the most mentioned element across the entire SWOT. The interconnection among these factors and their implications for the quality of participation is discussed, reflecting on their implications for a sustained transformation towards sustainability-oriented heritage practices.

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## INTERNATIONAL APPROACHES VS LOCAL PRACTICES IN WORLD HERITAGE CITIES

### Keywords:

sustainable development, urban conservation, heritage management

The “heritage versus development dilemma” has been central to the international debate on urban heritage conservation, management, and development in the 21 centuries. In the past three decades, international heritage organisations have taken the lead to overcome this persisting dichotomy by publishing a series of international policy documents, recommendations and guidelines. In particular, following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations in 2015, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) – among other international organisations – have issued a series of ground-breaking documents to advocate for the importance of heritage for sustainable development. They have also provided guidance on how to take concrete measures at the local level, supporting the implementation of a holistic, integrated, flexible, and participatory approach to heritage conservation in strategies for sustainable urban management. National and local policymakers, institutions, practitioners, and local residents are called on to implement this approach on the ground. What has been the impact of these international texts at the local level? How far do urban heritage practices depart from international guidance? This paper critically discusses the discrepancies between global narratives and recommendations and their practical implementation on the ground. Focusing on the two World Heritage cities of Florence (Italy) and Edinburgh (UK), it also reveals effective practices and existing challenges by examining their management systems and urban regulatory frameworks. Finally, it provides recommendations to rethink and reframe current urban heritage management practices for more sustainable (World Heritage) cities based on critical insights from ‘PRAXIS: Arts and Humanities for Global Development’, a research project of the University of Leeds.

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# University, urban research and public engagement

## TRACK CHAIRS

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In the face of current socio-spatial challenges, accentuated by the ongoing pandemic, researchers and HEIs are asked to rethink their public role and exchange with other societal actors. In Europe and worldwide, open science and an “engaged university” model are being experimented with both by individual researchers and several academic bodies, nurturing innovative multi-stakeholders research contexts such as Urban Living Labs. According to such a vision, public engagement (PE) is seen as a structural element, being incorporated into research, knowledge production, knowledge exchange, and teaching and society-oriented actions.

This transition towards inclusiveness opens up promising perspectives of more accessible, usable, and tailored processes of knowledge production for societal and territorial change. Nonetheless, it also meets some obstacles (including cultural ones).

It poses several challenges since it requires the university to overcome its traditional boundaries, invest in new agendas and adapt methods, tools and formats to the competencies and expectations of non-academic stakeholders. This also applies to urban studies, in which PE offers innovative perspectives and insights on different territorial challenges. While the mutual benefit of PE is already appreciated (although often uncertain), further testing, inquiry and consolidation are needed to evaluate impacts on both academic practices and territories.

The track aims to reflect on Public Engagement in urban studies as a tool to improve research on territorial fragility and social inequalities. It will address, in particular, some issues, such as the nature of “inclusive research processes” in the field of urban studies and the possible tools to promote co-research and co-design in increasingly complex societies. Moreover, the track will investigate how PE can contribute to renewing how academic knowledge is produced, verified and shared by asking how PE can approaches (e.g. citizen science) contribute to filling the knowledge gap on urban fragility.

The track aims at shedding light on the role of living labs and akin formats in bridging universities and communities and how engaged universities can contribute to balancing socio-spatial inequalities. Therefore, the track will investigate the role played by urban pedagogy in supporting new skills for territorial fragility.

Contributors will reflect on how such a model can improve the social impact and common perception of university at a local/urban level by considering the direct benefits of PE for urban researchers. In other words, they will deal with the question: How can PE actions be fully recognized by the academic community as an added value of (urban) research? Eventually, the track will reveal the kind of adaptations, innovations and investments needed at the institutional level to pursue an engaged university model.



## ROUNDTABLE

### Exploring how universities can contribute to post COVID-19 recovery in their city

Chair: **Robin Hambleton**  
UWE

**THURSDAY 16/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**  
**ROOM 16 C02**

**Robin Hambleton**  
UK – Co-creation in a UK city - the Bristol One City approach

**Le Anh Long**  
The Netherlands – Growing citizens: Involving students in city-making

**Cristiana Rossignolo**  
The engaged university within/inside neighbourhoods in Torino: roles, approaches and challenges

## SESSION 4

### The role of the university in the transformation of the city

Chairs: **Francesca Cognetti**,  
**Alice Ranzini**  
*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 14.00 - 16.00**  
**ROOM 16 C02**

**Jean-Philippe De Visscher**,  
**Aniss Mezoued**  
Fostering commons-oriented planning with Research through Design, the work of the BSI-BCO

**Alexandru Dragan, Marius Matichescu**  
The role of universities in local coproduction of cultural projects: Timisoara 23 Capital of Culture

**Erica Mangione**  
University led socio-spatial transformations: the case of Turin, Italy

**Uta Leconte**  
Openness and the problem of representation in European built environment higher education

**Stefano Simoncini, Luca Brignone**,  
**Carlo Cellamare, Marco Gissara**,  
**Francesco Montillo, Serena Olcuire**  
Unidentified territorial object: the university public engagement to the test of the (possible) urban transformations in Rome

**Silvia Gullino**  
Online learning and digital inclusivity: more than just a laptop

## SESSION 2

### Theoretical reflections on the role of university

Chairs: **Francesca Cognetti**  
*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*,  
**Cristiana Rossignolo**  
*Politecnico di Torino*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 9.00 - 11.00**  
**ROOM 16 C02**

**Francesca Bragaglia**  
The engaged university as an intermediary actor: the case of Auroralab in Turin

**Carlo Cellamare**  
Care of people and service to the territories

**Alwall Jonas**  
The university engaging in a marginalized neighbourhood: the case of Malmö University and the Herrgården area in Malmö, Sweden

**Davide Fassi, Virginia Tassinari**  
Exploring the role of university for public engagement: the Off Campus NoLo case

**Vanessa Hellwig**  
Microgeographical location patterns of digital firms and knowledge institutions

## SESSION 5

### Research experiences and tools

Chairs: **Francesca Cognetti**,  
**Alice Ranzini**  
*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 16.20 - 18.00**  
**ROOM 16 C02**

**Irene Manzini Ceinar, Pablo Sendra**  
Civic design exchange: a knowledge exchange between universities and communities

**Fredrik Bjork**  
Strengthening civil society through research partnerships: pop-up science shops in Malmö's marginalized neighbourhoods

**Paolo Pileri, Anna Fera, Diana Giudici**,  
**Ettore Donadoni**  
Urban regeneration and social inclusion by slow tourism: the case of Twin project

**Camilla Casonato**  
Inclusive research for cultural heritage education in fragile landscapes

**Hanna Seydel**  
Co-producing transformative knowledge: storytelling in a real-world-laboratory

## SESSION 3

### Pre-organised Panel: Universities at the frontier between teaching and action-research

Chairs: **Adriano Cancellieri**  
*IJAV*

**Elena Ostanel, Stefano Pontiggia**  
*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**FRIDAY 17/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**  
**ROOM 16 C02**

**Beatrice De Carli**  
Common ground for designing inclusion

**Alexandru Dragan, Marius Matichescu**  
Defining the profile of an urban innovator. The paths for an interdisciplinary Master's

**Andrea Rigon**  
Power relations and incentive structures in university PE with urban marginalised actors

**Nerea Aranbarri, Geana De Miranda Ieschko, Roberto San Salvador Del Valle**  
Kaia Methodology - Thinking- Feeling- Learning-Doing

## SESSION 6

### Pre-organised Panel: Early career engaged research beyond rhetoric

Chairs: **Laura Saja**  
*University of Catania*

**Claudia Faraone**  
*Università Iuav di Venezia and Udine*  
**SATURDAY 18/6 \_ 14.00 - 16.00**  
**ROOM F4a**

**Alice Franchina**  
Engaged universities or consultancy? Reflections from the edge between academia and profession

**Giovanna Muzzi**  
Between activism and research, a reflection on the experience in the Piave neighbourhood of Mestre

**Carla Barbanti**  
Community University reciprocity to reduce socio-spatial inequalities

**Ruggero Signoroni**  
The role of (engaged) urban scholars in facing scholarly isolation. A conceptual framework

**Robin Hambleton**  
*University of the West of England*  
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**Le Ahn Long**  
*University of Twente*

**Cristiana Rossignolo**  
*Politecnico di Torino*

# ROUNDTABLE

## **Exploring how universities can contribute to post COVID-19 recovery in their city**

### **Keywords:**

civic university; engaged scholarship; city-university relationships; university-community engagement

### **Context**

The COVID-19 outbreak has rocked the world. It is widely accepted that societies, and cities in particular, now face several major challenges at once. These include: 1) The COVID-19 public health emergency; 2) A sharp economic downturn arising from the pandemic; 3) The global climate and ecological emergencies; and 4) Disturbing increases in social, economic, and racial inequality. The international evidence suggests that bold place-based leadership in different cities, in different countries, is generating a wide range of innovative solutions to these public policy challenges. In many cases universities are making a significant place-based leadership contribution to the design and development of post COVID-19 recovery strategies.

### **Abstract of the session**

The purpose of this Special Session is to bring together a group of experienced scholars, deliberately drawn from four different countries, to share insights on the way universities are engaging in the co-creation of post COVID-19 initiatives. Whilst many urban universities, particularly those that are Institutional Members of EURA, have been making a direct contribution to policy making in their home city for many years, the pandemic has, we believe, led many universities to become more actively engaged in local problem solving. It is also the case that some city governments have reached out to universities in their city to seek help. These city-university developments are not well understood. It is hoped that this session will throw new light on the way universities are heightening their commitment to local public engagement as well as enhance understanding of city-university collaboration.

The intention is for the session to highlight insights and lessons relating to the way universities are working with off-campus stakeholders. In particular, the session aims to identify some successful examples of university civic engagement. The discussion will compare different experiences and will explore the implications for the future of urban scholarship.

## **Format**

This is not a conventional panel with formal papers. Instead, each contributor will present relatively short remarks (10 minutes or so) on developments in their country and will highlight one or two notable innovations that they are familiar with. The rest of the Special Session will be a highly interactive conversation.

## **Relevance to Track 9**

This proposal is designed to address several of the questions identified by the co-chairs of Track 9. In particular, the session will address the question they pose relating to growing inequality in cities: 'How can the engaged university contribute to balancing socio-spatial inequalities?'

## **Speakers and the title of their remarks**

Robin Hambleton, UK – Co-creation in a UK city - the Bristol One City Approach

Le Anh Long, The Netherlands – Growing citizens: Involving students in city-making

Cristiana Rossignolo, Italy - The engaged university within/inside neighbourhoods in Torino: roles, approaches and challenges

## **References**

- 1 - Civic University Commission (2019) Truly civic: Strengthening the connection between universities and their places. The Final Report of the UPP Foundation Civic University Commission. London: UPP Foundation. This report led to the creation of a Civic University Network in the UK. More: <https://civicuniversitynetwork.co.uk>
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CHAIRS

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TRACK 9

SESSION 2

**Theoretical reflections on the  
role of university**

## **THE ENGAGED UNIVERSITY AS AN INTERMEDIARY ACTOR: THE CASE OF AURORALAB IN TURIN**

### **Keywords:**

intermediary actors, engaged university, action-research

This contribution intends to reflect on the role that the 'engaged university' (Watson et al. 2011) can play in responding to the pressing social demands of the most fragile territories and, in this sense, on its possible role as an intermediary actor (Fehren, 2010). In recent years, urban studies have grasped the need to question intermediaries and their role 'inbetween' actors (Moss, 2009; van Veelen, 2020) within territorial processes thanks to the afflatus towards discourses such as social innovation, coproduction, community planning. Intermediaries are a composite and multifaceted universe of subjects who act for profit or not. Among the latter, we can include the action-research experiences initiated by many universities in local territories. These practices are not simply a way of studying territories more closely but also a way to intercept their needs and provide local communities with a wealth of 'expert knowledge' and resources. This research proposes to investigate the still understudied theme of the university as an intermediary actor through the analysis of a specific case study, in which the author of the contribution is directly involved: the AuroraLAB project in Turin (Italy). It is an action-research project started in 2018 which involves several researchers and students from the Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning of the Politecnico di Torino and the University of Turin. AuroraLAB is active in the Aurora district, a complex area in Turin but rich in latent resources and local actors. The latter, however, find it difficult to network, and in this, AuroraLAB is playing an important role. The university, through AuroraLAB, is not only acting as an intermediary between the various actors in the area. It also plays an essential role in dialogue with institutional actors and intercepts funding and projects to be carried out with and for the neighbourhood. Can the university play a win-win intermediation role in neighbourhoods?

### **References**

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- 2 - Moss, T. (2009). Intermediaries and the governance of sociotechnical networks in transition. *Environment and Planning A*, 41(6), 1480-1495.
- 3 - van Veelen, B. (2020). Caught in the middle? Creating and contesting intermediary spaces in low-carbon transitions. *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*, 38(1), 116-133.
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## CARE OF PEOPLE AND SERVICE TO THE TERRITORIES

### Keywords:

public action, self-organization, action-research

The paper aims to develop some reflections starting from many years of research characterized by Public Engagement, both as a researcher and as a research group of the LabSU - Laboratory of Urban Studies "Territori dell'abitare" ("Dwelling Territories", DICEA, Sapienza University of Rome, <https://sites.google.com/a/uniroma1.it/laboratorio-studi-urbani-dicea/home?authuser=0>). These are very different experiences, both in terms of involvement and subject involved (autonomous initiative and involvement as a single researcher, as a PhD Programme, as a Department and research group, etc.), and in the methodologies and tools adopted (including Urban Living Lab), both for the subjects with whom it collaborates: inhabitants and associations, social networks and territorial realities, institutions and public bodies (schools, Local Municipalities, Municipalities, etc.), foundations, etc. that is, all these subjects together. The research group is currently working in various neighbourhoods, considered marginal contexts in the outskirts of Rome. In particular, the paper aims to illustrate and argue some salient points of a methodology and an approach, including: - attention to people and service to the territories; building relationships / relational approach; - interdisciplinarity; - field work and attention to urban practices; - action research (not as applied research or similar, but as participation in processes with a critical positioning); - catalysing collaborative (but also conflictual, if constructive) interaction between different subjects, whether institutional or not, with a dimension of mutual learning and construction of interaction contexts (public space); - "policies for self-organization": recognition, enhancement, support of local initiatives that go in the direction of public interest and change, develop a neighbourhood perspective, build collaborative networks (local and otherwise); - construction of local subjectivities and the maturation of a political conscience (pedagogy of the oppressed), in processes in which the University is not a substitute for other subjects. Several key points will be discussed, including: the political nature of the research and the role of the University; improving the quality of research through these engagement processes; the rethinking of institutions and their way of operating; the rethinking of public action.

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## **THE UNIVERSITY ENGAGING IN A MARGINALIZED NEIGHBOURHOOD: THE CASE OF MALMÖ UNIVERSITY AND THE HERRGÅRDEN AREA IN MALMÖ, SWEDEN**

### **Keywords:**

engaged university, vulnerable neighbourhoods, marginalization

Sweden – like many European countries – faces problems with disadvantaged neighbourhoods regarding exclusion, social unrest, insecurity, and crime. Such problems have received a great deal of attention in public debate lately.

This paper illustrates the case of one such neighbourhood: Herrgården, a sub-area in the city of Malmö (and part of the larger and better known Rosengård district). Herrgården is Malmö's socio-economically most vulnerable housing area, whose population has the lowest employment rate in the city (and among the lowest in the whole country): 36% (2019), and the lowest disposable income per inhabitant, SEK 89,000 (2019), less than half the city's average. Among Swedish residential areas, Herrgården has the highest percentage (96%) with a foreign background. Socio-economically and demographically, Herrgården faces considerable challenges, with a low proportion of the population integrated with the labour market and with living conditions characterised by material poverty and overcrowding.

The paper addresses the marginalization and stigmatization of this neighbourhood but also, and particularly, measures done to counter its social exclusion. In this, a closer look is taken on how the university and research can contribute, both to increase knowledge about the area and its situation and to engage in collective measures to improve local living conditions and social cohesion. The special case analysed is the initiative Kraftsamling Herrgården ('Joint Forces Herrgård-en'), a collaboration between socially engaged NGOs, the City of Malmö, and Malmö University, which is discussed from the perspectives of both aims, activities and organizational form. The paper is based on yet unpublished research done in the recently finished project Rosengård – Values and Challenges in the Shadow of an Urban Development Process

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## **EXPLORING THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITY FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: THE OFF CAMPUS NOLO CASE**

### **Keywords:**

urban labs, social inclusion and situated knowledges

In this paper, we will articulate on one ongoing experimentation of Politecnico di Milano: Off Campus NoLo, an urban lab hosted in the neighbourhood market of NoLo (Milan, IT), making the presence of the University more tangible in the territory, providing the possibility for scholars to be more responsible, attentive to social challenges and close to the territory and its community. In detail, Off Campus NoLo researches new ways to address issues of social inequalities and contribute to improve the social inclusion in the neighbourhood. This concrete case will serve here to explore the potential of urban labs to bridge universities and local communities, by generating the precondition for and enhancing public engagement (PE), engaging different publics, and prototyping ways for balancing socio-spatial inequalities. In detail, we will explore here one specific co-design tool we developed to mitigate social polarisations by embracing the perspective of marginalised, silent and silenced actors: Vocabolario di Quartere (NoLo), a neighbourhood situated vocabulary comprising the diverse voices of the neighbourhood, bringing them in dialogue on specific issues identified as pivotal by the same citizens. By engaging with situated forms of knowledges, this neighbourhood situated Vocabulary provides the possibility of developing a common neighbourhood discourse, providing the possibility for agonistic conversations to re-imagine the neighbourhood, re-assessing its idea of active citizenship, identifying contested spaces and ways to envision them in a more inclusive, sustainable and socially innovative way.

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## **MICROGEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION PATTERNS OF DIGITAL FIRMS AND KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTIONS**

### **Keywords:**

knowledge, proximity, differentiated knowledge base

For knowledge-intensive firms, external knowledge inputs are crucial inputs to enhance productivity. Therefore, firms cluster on a sub-city scale to profit from tacit spillovers. However, it remains unclear if firms desire spatial proximity to knowledge institutions in the same extent. This paper examines clustering of digital firms and its' proximity to distinct knowledge institutions – research institutes and higher education institutions (HEI) – for Germany's three largest metropolises: Berlin, Hamburg and Munich for 2008-2016 on a micro-geographical scale. Econometric results suggest that digital firms seek complementary knowledge inputs from knowledge institutions on a 3x3km<sup>2</sup> scale, while similar knowledge in departments for data science is significant on a 1x1km<sup>2</sup> scale. Further, the institutional setting of knowledge matters, as firm clustering is stronger in neighborhoods with HEI than research institutions. However, for HEI, digital firms cluster closest to universities of music, arts and design because highly tacit, context specific knowledge (on e.g., design) is harder to obtain than more codified research-based knowledge. This indicates that knowledge spillovers operate on different micro-scales within cities. This finding is significant as it is contradictory to German funding policy which explicitly funded start-up centers and incubators near research universities.

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CHAIRS

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TRACK 9

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*Politecnico di Milano*

**Adriano Cancellieri**

*IUAV*

**Francesco Campagnari**

*IUAV*

Preorganised Panel

## SESSION 3

# Universities at the frontier between teaching and action- research

### Keywords:

World Heritage sites, sustainable development, governance

Teaching, along with research and the generation of positive social, cultural, economic effects, is one of the three pillars that sustain the mission of universities. In recent years universities have been experimenting innovative and interdisciplinary action-learning approaches at the frontiers between teaching and action-research. They adopted teaching formats with different degrees of duration and structure (ie. living labs, field labs, short schools with field experiences). Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, they have also progressively adopted blended teaching techniques, integrating digital and remote tools in the production, delivery, and sharing of knowledge.

These action-learning approaches commonly pursue two mutually reinforcing goals. First, they wish to “go out in the streets”, making room for learners to have direct experience of a place, its inhabitants, its community organizations and its public and private institutions. Stimulating an interaction with this environment, this approach tutors learners in the construction and sharing of practice-oriented skills, focused on problem-setting and problem-solving. Secondly, they take the presence of students on the field as an opportunity to gather different professionals and promote their collaboration with students to reflect and activate ideas and processes. Academic and non-academic partners are pushed to cooperate in the production and transmission of knowledge.

These teaching approaches are based on the recognition and the mobilization of the fundamental knowledge belonging to local (individual or organized) actors. Joining this local knowledge with a territorial role of Universities, these teaching processes aim to generate forms of practical knowledge oriented towards societal and territorial change.

This approach entails relevant changes in teaching experiences. Exposing learners to the complexities of real-life situations means avoiding the risk to over-simplify the social reality, making room for a more nuanced understanding of what happens outside the gate of academia. Furthermore, these learning approaches can challenge the traditional role of the student as recipient of knowledge, promoting active learning through cooperation, mutual understanding, and involvement with the life of the inhabitants of a territory.

The session aims to go beyond the description or celebration of these innovative practices, promoting instead dialogue and discussion of their main difficulties, challenges and learning points. Starting from the awareness that the territory outside the university classrooms is not a neutral field but a political field full of ambivalences and challenges, we intend to reflect in particular on:

- What are the relations between different models of experimental teaching on the field and generated skills?
- What are the challenges trainers face when designing, planning, and implementing teaching innovations? In particular, what are the main obstacles in consolidating them?
- How can cooperation with other territorial actors like CSOs and non-High Education Institutions (HEIs) impact learning approaches? How to manage relations with them?
- How do these processes impact learners and urban contexts? What are the direct benefits?
- How on-site and online methods, tools, and activities combine to produce a different, experimental, and enriching alternative to classroom teaching? What are their pitfalls?
- How is the traditional hierarchy between teachers and learners modified and questioned by the forms of cooperative knowledge production and transmission?
- How do these approaches affect the tensions between the University missions of teaching, research and action?

Contributors:

**Andrea Rigon (UCL):** *Power relations and incentive structures in university PE with urban marginalised actors*

The paper will argue for public engagement (PE) to be structurally planned within teaching and research and not as an afterthought. The paper will reflect on how planning public engagement at the core of teaching and research transforms the type of knowledge coproduced, and on what role the university and this new type of knowledge can play in relation to urban justice struggles.

**Beatrice de Carli (London Metropolitan University):** *Finding common ground for designing inclusion: An experiment in architecture and planning education*

This presentation will reflect on the experimental pan-European course: Practices of Urban Inclusion. It will discuss how the course has fostered collaboration amongst a diverse set of stakeholders in four European countries to co-produce knowledge about inclusive city-making. The focus will be set on the forms of this collaboration, particularly amongst academic and civil society organisations.

**Davide Fassi and Virginia Tassinari (Politecnico di Milano):** *Off Campus NoLo: observation and analysis of in-field classes and action research.*

The paper will explore one ongoing experimentation of Politecnico di Milano: Off Campus NoLo, an urban lab hosted in the neighbourhood food market of NoLo (Milan, IT), making the presence of the University more tangible in the territory, providing the possibility for scholars to be more responsible, attentive to social challenges and close to the territory and its community. An analysis of the relationship among didactic activities, in-field research, local communities, and territorial development will be done.

**Marius Maticescu and Alexandru Dragan (West University of Timișoara):** *Defining the profile of an urban innovator. The paths for an interdisciplinary Master's degree in Romanian context*

The Urban Innovator is a complex, multidisciplinary and multidimensional professional profile, able to adopt diverse approaches, learn from others, encourage collaboration and manage different areas, dimensions, and individuals. The presentation focuses on the study conducted in Romania in the form of a survey and focus group. Preliminary results reveal the complexity of a heteroclite concept, which despite its usefulness risks being too unspecialised because of its diversity.

**Nerea Aranbarri, Geana De Miranda Leschko and Roberto San Salvador Del Valle (University of Deusto):** *Kaia Methodology: Thinking- Feeling-Learning-Doing*

KAIA is a learning-research-action methodology developed by Deusto Cities Lab, from the University of Deusto. It aims at promoting local sustainable urban development through collaborative governance. The paper will describe the methodology implemented by Deusto Cities Lab and four main areas of development and its effort to go beyond the traditional theoretical research or applied research, to reach and engage a wider spectrum of agents.

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## COMMON GROUND FOR DESIGNING INCLUSION

### Keywords:

coproduction, inclusion, pedagogy

This presentation will engage with Track 09. Universities and Public Engagement by focusing on the relationships between academic and non-academic partners in engaged learning initiatives, particularly in fragile urban contexts. To do so, the paper will reflect on the experimental pan-European course: Practices of Urban Inclusion. It will discuss how the course has fostered collaboration amongst a diverse set of stakeholders in four European countries to co-produce knowledge about inclusive city making, and it will unpack the quality of this collaboration – particularly amongst academic and civil society organisations. Practices of Urban Inclusion centres around the lived experiences of migration, displacement and exile as key perspectives to understand how urban spaces can produce or challenge exclusion. In doing so, it explores how urban planning, architecture and spatial practice can contribute to making cities of care and conviviality, where more people feel welcome in more spaces. The course was co-designed and has been co-taught by a network comprising four architecture/planning schools and three civil society organisations based in four European countries. The first pilot of the course took place in 2021 and involved hands-on workshops in neighbourhoods in Berlin, Milan and London – mobilising a diverse set of relationships, alliances, and encounters in each setting. The pilot revolved around the idea of 'learning in action' and aimed to co-develop actionable knowledge about the implications of observing, designing and planning through the lens of movement and migration. Based on a collective reflection on this experience, during this presentation I will discuss the relational aspects of this work, reflecting the hierarchies of knowledge and power that manifested in each setting; as well as on the importance of affective relations across difference for creating the conditions for co-producing local knowledge. Secondly, I will interrogate the experience of collaborating translocally, connecting positionalities, approaches, and practical tools in order to affect local change – as well as to generate shared approaches to inclusive city-making.

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## **POWER RELATIONS AND INCENTIVE STRUCTURES IN UNIVERSITY PE WITH URBAN MARGINALISED ACTORS**

### **Keywords:**

knowledge coproduction, power relations, marginalised urban communities

There is an expanding body of work examining knowledge coproduction between universities and urban actors (Hemstroem, Palmer, Polk, Perry, & Simon, 2021; Nesti, 2017), reflecting on the pedagogical and social impact of these experiences (Cognetti & Castelnuovo, 2019). This paper will discuss two models of public engagement (PE): the experience of partnering with informal settlement communities and their organisations in setting up a research centre in Sierra Leone (Rigon, Macarthy, Koroma, Walker, & Apsan Frediani, 2017) and the long-term relationship with civil society actors in London and Salvador de Bahia within the framework of an MSc in Social Development Practice. Based on these engagements, the paper will argue for PE to be structurally planned within teaching and research and not as an afterthought. We found that it is only when it is planned as a core activity that it is possible to sustaining it in the long-term and a long-term relationship is fundamental for ethical and impactful PE. The paper will reflect on how planning public engagement at the core of teaching and research transforms the type of knowledge coproduced (Osuteye et al., 2019), and on what role the university and this new type of knowledge can play in relation to urban justice struggles. We found that such knowledge can often provide legitimacy to urban actors and, when used strategically, the university presence can be turned into a powerful tool to get grassroots claims recognised by public institutions. The paper will also reflect on the open-ended and long-term nature of these experimental relations with partners in marginalised urban areas, outlining the challenges and the power issues involved with such knowledge coproduction. The paper will also engage with how the incentive structure of academics shape the public engagement work they do and how academics can find some 'room for manoeuvre' for political work within a depoliticised emphasis on 'impact' in the neoliberal university. Finally, the paper will consider the incentives and politics of other urban actors for engaging in this work with universities.

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## **DEFINING THE PROFILE OF AN URBAN INNOVATOR. THE PATHS FOR AN INTERDISCIPLINARY MASTER'S**

### **Keywords:**

urban innovator, master, regeneration

**Defining the profile of an urban innovator. The paths for an interdisciplinary Master's degree in Romanian context.** After the fall of communism, a new perspective of international collaboration was opened to Romanian universities. However, the process of opening up was slow, influenced also by the fact that travelling abroad required a substantial bureaucratic and financial outlay. At the same time, the cultural sector, which was exclusively coordinated by the state during the communist period, began to develop in the sphere of associations and foundations (also banned during the communist period). However, with Romania's accession to the European Union, the reflex of cooperation began to develop, giving rise to cooperation between universities and NGOs. In 2016, after a national competition between 14 cities, Timisoara, Romania's westernmost large city, was declared the winner for the year 2021. Among the strengths of this candidacy, the ability of the city's universities and associative structures to coagulate was highlighted. With the Covid crisis, the event has been postponed to 2023. Our presentation aims to analyze the role that universities have in the co-production process of the Timisoara European Capital of Culture project. We have quantitatively analysed all the international projects in which the two largest universities in Timisoara have been involved. Then, we analysed the number and type of partnerships between the universities and the local public and associative environment. Finally, we analysed the involvement of universities in the development of cultural events in Timisoara, with a focus on the Timisoara European Capital of Culture programme.

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## **KAIA METHODOLOGY - THINKING- FEELING- LEARNING-DOING**

KAIA is a learning-research-action methodology developed by Deusto Cities Lab, from the University of Deusto. It aims at promoting local sustainable urban development through a collaborative governance. In fact, KAIA methodology stems from a desire to go beyond the traditional theoretical research or applied research, to reach and engage a wider spectrum of agents, in favour of a collaborative governance that is transversal and transectoral, where citizens, organised civic society, private sector and public authorities co-create and initiate sustainable transitions in our cities and neighbourhoods. Deusto Cities is divided into four main areas of development: on the one hand, Cities ThinkTank is dedicated to the “thinking”, a more theoretically grounded research and publication work. Secondly, there is Cities Community, a stream of work aimed at promoting spaces for sharing and creating community around the core values of sustainable urban development and collaborative governance. Thirdly, in Cities Talent, KAIA methodology is integrated into the very structure and content of a Master Degree (MUGDUS - Governance for Sustainable Urban Development), promoting a multidimensional knowledge, co-creation and entrepreneurship among participants. And last but not least, Cities Lab is dedicated to action in specific areas of our cities and municipalities. The equilibrium between the thinking, feeling, learning and doing is at the core of Deusto Cities initiative.

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TRACK 9

SESSION 4

**The role of the university in  
the transformation of the city**

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## **FOSTERING COMMONS-ORIENTED PLANNING WITH RESEARCH THROUGH DESIGN, THE WORK OF THE BSI-BCO**

### **Keywords:**

urban research through design, commons, public engagement

Through an analysis of the work of the Brussels Studies Institute-Brussels Centre Observatory (BSI-BCO), a multi-disciplinary and multi-university research platform dedicated to the transformation of the Brussels downtown area, this presentation aims to assess how useful is Urban Research Through Design '[URtD]' for the development of commons-oriented planning policies. Numerous recent researches on urban practices of commoning point out a necessity to get support from public institutions and to "hack" existing urban regulations. Conversely, numerous recent researches in the field of participatory planning refer to urban commoning as a mean to resist excessive subjugation to state power. In between, our hypothesis is that URtD –understood as a design-based methodology to cope with complex urban issues through collective learning process- opens up opportunities to develop new commons-oriented planning policies. The presentation depicts how URtD has been used by the BSI-BCO as a means to that end. First step was the set up of the research platform and the reframing of the urban issue as a commons problem. Second step was the choice of URtD as the most appropriate method and the first collective experiments. Third step was the use of design outcomes as means to initiate new commons-oriented planning practices. The outcomes of this research process are analysed through three dimensions: - Ressource: Did the URtD process help to understand urban spaces as a depletable and non-excludable resource and to objectify the necessity of pooling and resist exclusions? - Community: Did the URtD process lead to the development of new multistakeholder partnerships, including public, private, civic society, academia and social innovators? - Governance: Did the URtD process lead the public stakeholders to act as enablers rather than managers, and to share power and responsibilities with other members of the collectivity? The main finding is that the URtD is quite effective when used as a base to discuss collectively the three dimensions altogether. But a notable loss of impact is observed when the three dimensions are discussed separately, leading to a mix of partial opportunistic support and conservative oppositions, with few observable shifts towards more commons-oriented planning practices.

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## **THE ROLE OF UNIVERSITIES IN LOCAL COPRODUCTION OF CULTURAL PROJECTS: TIMISOARA23 CAPITAL OF CULTURE**

### **Keywords:**

European capital of culture, universities, Romania

The role of universities in local co-production of cultural projects. The case of the “Timisoara 2023 - European Capital of Culture”. After the fall of communism, a new perspective of international collaboration was opened to Romanian universities. However, the process of opening up was slow, influenced also by the fact that travelling abroad required a substantial bureaucratic and financial outlay. At the same time, the cultural sector, which was exclusively coordinated by the state during the communist period, began to develop in the sphere of associations and foundations (also banned during the communist period). However, with Romania’s accession to the European Union, the reflex of cooperation began to develop, giving rise to cooperation between universities and NGOs. In 2016, after a national competition between 14 cities, Timisoara, Romania’s westernmost large city, was declared the winner for the year 2021. Among the strengths of this candidacy, the ability of the city’s universities and associative structures to coagulate was highlighted. With the Covid crisis, the event has been postponed to 2023. Our presentation aims to analyze the role that universities have in the co-production process of the Timisoara European Capital of Culture project. We have quantitatively analysed all the international projects in which the two largest universities in Timisoara have been involved. Then, we analysed the number and type of partnerships between the universities and the local public and associative environment. Finally, we analysed the involvement of universities in the development of cultural events in Timisoara, with a focus on the Timisoara European Capital of Culture programme?

## UNIVERSITY LED SOCIO-SPATIAL TRASFORMATIONS: THE CASE OF TURIN, ITALY.

### Keywords:

urban university, student population, urban transformations

The contribution expands reflections of a doctoral research tackling the complex relation between the university student population and the city in the case study of Turin, through qualitative methods of policy analysis and participant observation. During the last twenty years, the Turin universities took part in the local coalition which fostered an urban strategy of reconversion into a knowledge economy. Along this process universities have increased their agency at different scales; among the multiple roles HEIs assumed, they act as drivers of social mobility, attracting students on an international scale. This has translated into the massive presence of a new urban population, counting 120.000 students in a shrinking city of 860.000 inhabitants. Keeping up with their growth, universities became urban developers and assumed an entrepreneurial role, leading major urban transformations with different institutional actors, firms, and the municipality. Nonetheless, new university branches and student housing are provoking socio-spatial impacts that remain out of their hands and mainly unfathomed. Indeed, the presence of the medium-term university population have been observed in its impacts on many cities, where high concentrations are responsible for exclusionary processes and the commodification of the housing sector (Smith 2005; Allinson 2006; Revington & August 2019). This contribution aims to reflect on the university as agent of socio-spatial urban transformations, paying attention to those which potentially accentuate territorial fragilities. Furthermore, the proposed approach looks toward an engaged university in an urban society, which “must negotiate the central contradiction between the university being a ‘monumental institution’ that oppresses and colonizes the space organized around it (Lefebvre 2003, p. 21) and an emancipatory setting and stake of social struggle whose ability to accommodate difference enables socially just, democratic knowledge production and dissemination” (Addie 2017, p. 1096). Do the university as engaged actor in the urban society recognize its critical role? Which practices can be undertaken by HEIs, in order to mitigate its socio-spatial impacts? How to enable the university community to access the extant power structures which counterpose and distance them with the inflexible institutional structures of city and university? How to include the student population in the same process?

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## **OPENNESS AND THE PROBLEM OF REPRESENTATION IN EUROPEAN BUILT ENVIRONMENT HIGHER EDUCATION**

### **Keywords:**

widening participation, knowledge production, intersectionality

Ecological, social and spatial justice are deeply intertwined when tackling the urgent transformations needed in light of the current political, social, ecological and economic instabilities in Europe. Concerned with much needed innovation regarding digitalisation, climate emergency and economic instabilities, Europe and European cities are facing now, highly accelerated by the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, the most urgent need to reconfigure their urban environments to be more just, resilient and safe for everyone. In this context, public participation in scientific research has emerged as a practice to overcome previous inequalities embedded in urban planning as well as to widening planning processes by including different agents and forming new alliances. The urgency for innovation and the creation of new knowledge is directly related to the production and distribution of knowledge, and, hence, to access to and visibility of scientific knowledge. It is further related to the openness of Higher Education Institutions: both in terms of 'Widening Participation', the European initiative for a more inclusive and diverse access to Higher Education, as well as in terms of opening the institutional boundaries towards, for example, the participative knowledge production between scientists and citizens. This paper questions the status quo of 'Widening Participation', it asks: How are intersecting identities of citizens represented in built environment Higher Education institutions? How can citizens have access to scientific knowledge? Adding a historically comparative approach by viewing previous attempts towards open and inclusive knowledge production in architecture around the 1970s, this contribution aims to highlight the innovative potential of architectural knowledge in societal transformation.

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## **UNIDENTIFIED TERRITORIAL OBJECT: THE UNIVERSITY PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TO THE TEST OF THE (POSSIBLE) URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS IN ROME**

### **Keywords:**

university public engagement, grassroots organizations, self-government

The paper will describe an experience of university public engagement very diversified and prolonged in time - conducted by the authors within some peripheral contexts of the eastern quadrant of Rome -, with the aim of questioning experimental methods and processes of third mission oriented to social and spatial change (rather than social innovation), including practices of co-research, participatory planning and open governance (or self-government). More specifically, we propose a critical and self-reflective analysis of research-action projects that LabSU - Laboratory of Urban Studies 'Territories of Living' (DICEA, "Sapienza" University of Rome) - has been carrying out thanks to public and private funding (two charitable foundations and some local authorities), in areas and on topics quite diverse: an integrated and participatory regeneration project including the physical renewal of public space (a large square and the courtyard of a contiguous schools) in the public housing district of Tor Bella Monaca; a process of co-design and support for the construction of a widespread "civic pole" in Quarticciolo, another public housing neighborhood of the eastern suburbs, characterized by a fabric of very proactive grassroots initiatives of mutual aid and self-organization; the collaborative mapping of green areas and the participatory planning of the ecological network of East Rome (Centocelle's Green Belt Masterplan) through a process of networking of local committees and associations active on issues of environmental protection and enhancement, based on innovative collaborative tools and methods (including open and decentralized digital tools and services specifically predisposed by LabSU). These experiences, all based on the enhancement of skills, creativity and experiences of grassroots organizations, although not yet completed, have produced significant partial results, allowing us to focus on the risks and potentials of the various functions related to a particularly deep-rooted and active engagement of the University in transformation processes. We will examine each of these possible functions, taking into account, on the one hand, the uncertain status of the university as a subjectivity, and, on the other, the variegated configuration of the relations between local actors, urban regimes and global processes, especially in the Roman context. The following functions will be considered: mediation between "instituting society" and "instituted society"; enabling action towards grassroots organizations, between networking, knowledge transfer and construction of "lived spaces" of sociality and participation; reforming action innovating administrative practices and policy making.

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TRACK 9

SESSION 5

**Research experiences  
and tools**

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## **CIVIC DESIGN EXCHANGE: A KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND COMMUNITIES**

### **Keywords:**

co-design, civic design exchange, engaged pedagogy

During the last decade, London has witnessed regeneration processes followed by gentrification dynamics that often negatively impact local communities (Colombo et al., 2021). Furthermore, the lockdown during 2020/2021 has demonstrated the importance of the relationships within communities and between different stakeholders in creating a sense of community and ownership. To empower communities to understand the planning process better and support them in amplifying their voices and influencing decision making, we created the Civic Design Exchange at UCL. This is platform that partners up with community organisations and develops a knowledge exchange in two directions: On one side, communities can learn about planning through the workshops, residents upskill their knowledge and their capacity to influence planning decisions, and reflect their knowledge and awareness on their relationship with the neighbourhood. On the other side, university researchers acquire knowledge about the local context from communities. Through the workshops (Kindon et al., 2007; Kampelmann et al., 2016), the researchers learn about the experience of living in the neighbourhood and the best tools to engage and facilitate co-design processes with communities. In 2018, a collaboration between University College London (UCL), CivicWise and Westway23 made possible the Civic Design UCL Summer School, an intensive course aiming at providing students with skills for working in collaboration with community groups (Sendra, 2018) and which has evolved into a postgraduate module and short course. Through an engaged pedagogy approach, UCL students, community groups and the local associations collaborate on designing a proposal for their neighbourhood. This created the ground for developing the Civic Design Exchange between universities and communities, and applying some of our research (e.g. Sendra and Fitzpatrick, 2020) to practice through this knowledge exchange. From 2019, we have worked with two different estates in London: South Kilburn Estate, together with the local association Granville Community Kitchen, and Alton Estate together with Alton Action and Just Space. The two projects can be considered successful examples of an inclusive research and learning process to develop collaborative initiatives between universities and communities that may be taken as pilot studies to develop the methodology further and apply it in different contexts.

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## **STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY THROUGH RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS: POP-UP SCIENCE SHOPS IN MALMÖ'S MARGINALIZED NEIGHBOURHOODS**

### **Keywords:**

science shops, participatory research,  
responsible research and innovation, social innovation

The science shop model was developed in the Netherlands in the 1970s as a response to the demand for relevant research from civil society organizations. Civil society organisations can approach a Science Shop with a problem they feel that research could be helpful. The Science Shop staff will then assist in developing and translating these requests into a topic that can be researched and finding interested students and/or staff that are willing to build collaborative research projects.

During 2017, Malmö University trialled two pop-up science shop processes, in partnership with umbrella organizations from civil society. The idea to run pop-up science shops originated in the observation that in order to interact on 'eye level' with less resourceful local stakeholders, there is a need to leave the University campus and set up shop in local neighbourhoods. The 2017 process was a learning process both for the University and for the civil society partners. Among the more important reflections were that in these partnership processes, the connection between research and innovation was very strong, driven by interactive and mutually respectful relationships.

Covid-19 made it difficult to follow up, but now we are planning the start, in the fall of 2022, of a new pop-up science shop process in marginalized neighbourhoods in Malmö, through the ERDF-funded project 'Malmö Tillsammans', which also has a more territorially oriented focus.

The paper will discuss experiences, possibilities and challenges in University – civil society partnerships, specifically addressing questions of territorially situated knowledge, and discuss how to design pop-up science shop that enables both critical research and social innovation.

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## **URBAN REGENERATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION BY SLOW TOURISM: THE CASE OF TWIN PROJECT**

### **Keywords:**

slow tourism, social inclusion, marginal territories

Trekking, Walking, Cycling for Inclusion (TWIN) is a project that proposes to couple fragile binomials to make a positive potential: slow tourism and social fragility make social inclusion; slow lines and recovery of disused buildings make responsible tourism; paths or cycleways project and internal areas make urban regeneration. The research idea is based on imagining slow tourism as a potential trigger to activate small local economies managed by fragile people in fragile territories. Along the path, walkers and pedalers need services, like hospitality and restoration, that can be provided by disadvantaged people. With this theoretical approach, concrete experimentation was carried out into the frame of Polisocial Award 2019 by the VENTOLab researching group in Politecnico di Milano and CAI, the Italian Alpine Association. The Appennino mountain region is mainly a marginal area in Italy. Thus, the area of Passo Della Cisa, in the Appennino mountains, was chosen as it is crossed by two important paths such as the Via Francigena and the Sentiero Italia CAI. There, the ultimate place to design a hospitality point: the Capanna TWIN No.1, a housing structure on the model of alpine bivouacs. In order to have a complete inclusive design of the hospitality point, the research group decided to activate a chain of solidarity. First, the timber for the hut came from the areas devastated by the 2018 Vaia storm. Second, the building process was done involving a group of inmates at the penitentiary of Monza (Northern of Italy) coordinated by a couple of carpentry professors of the institute IIS G. Meroni in Lissone. Third, local artisans have been involved in order to realize furniture, accessories, and facilities to make the hut liveable. Fourth, a plurality of local actors was mixed up: the local CAI section (Parma), Feder ciclismo (the Italian association of cyclists), Berceto Nova (a cooperative society available to manage the Capanna TWIN No.1) and the ownership of the site. Fifth, is the precious collaboration of the municipality of Berceto. The hut was placed in July 2021 and TWIN is a model of social inclusion and urban regeneration based on slow tourism.

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## **INCLUSIVE RESEARCH FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE EDUCATION IN FRAGILE LANDSCAPES**

### **Keywords:**

schools; fragile cultural landscape; inclusive research

Training young people in the knowledge of cultural heritage and guiding them in a process of appropriation which involves the recognition of the cultural values enshrined in every landscape, even ordinary and degraded ones, is an essential process for European policies. University, in the aim of public engagement, can support schools in this challenging task by activating participatory and interdisciplinary processes involving researchers, teachers, students, citizens and local stakeholders to co-design and experiment innovative methodologies and tools for cultural heritage education in fragile landscapes.

This contribution discusses the results of ScAR (School Activate Resources), a three-years research and action project developed by an interdisciplinary team by Politecnico di Milano, which formally ended in April 2021 but is still alive thanks to the activation of a set of spin off activities and the engagement of partners. The core idea of SCAR is to put schools at the center stage of a process of discovery, understanding, interpretation, enhancement and communication of their local heritage, based on innovative teaching methods and the use of an array of Information-Communication Technologies (ICT). The purpose is to educate young citizens considering their everyday landscape in the marginal areas of Milan as a system of values in constant evolution and as a source of an intergenerational and intercultural dialogue.

The research connects three different dimensions: the recognition of how the students experience their space on a daily basis as a key to exploring and discovering living situations and landscapes in the urban peripheries; the activation of multi-actor networks as a condition for the development of educational projects involving both schools and local areas; and the use of ICT to interpret, communicate and support processes of exploration, learning and socialization. The challenge is to engage students, assigning them a new role: from users of the cultural goods to protagonists of their discovery and promotion. Therefore, schools are placed at the center of a participatory process based on synergy between (public and private) institutions, private citizens and associations and aimed at knowledge, protection and sharing of the suburban landscape, as a contribution to social cohesion and quality of life.

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## **CO-PRODUCING TRANSFORMATIVE KNOWLEDGE: STORYTELLING IN A REAL-WORLD LABORATORY**

### **Keywords:**

real-world laboratory, co-research, storytelling

Knowledge production in an open and inclusive research process requires not only new instruments, formats and methods, but also a different design of the setting. Open science requires a recognition of the everyday knowledge of citizens and a framework that enables an exchange between different actors on an equal footing. This paper reflects on storytelling as a way to address these challenges. Storytelling can be a bridge between researchers and citizens as it is a ubiquitous, low-threshold form of communication. Recent research in organizational science and knowledge management, as well as in feminist geography and in narrative research itself are already addressing how storytelling as a methodological approach brings individual experiential knowledge to the surface and generates shared knowledge (c.f. Schmidt, 2018; Vacchelli, 2018). Insights of the paper relate to the INTERPART research project, which used a real-world laboratory (RWL) (Schäpke et al., 2018) to explore how to create intercultural spaces of participation in urban development. RWL are situated in society and involve “the co-creation and co-creation of knowledge based on transdisciplinary collaboration between actors from different social worlds - academia, government, business, civil society - each with specific interests, resources, and worldviews.” (Sonnberger & Lindner, 2021, p. 424). One of the biggest challenges here is to include citizens not as data sources but as experts of everyday urban life (Gebhardt & König, 2021). Based on different storytelling formats from the INTERPART RWL, this paper reflects how storytelling can be a tool for co-producing transformative knowledge and how the role of academia is changing in this process. In doing so, the paper aims to contribute to the question of tools for co-research in an integrative research process, which corresponds to the trend of open science.

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Preorganised Panel

## SESSION 6

# Early career engaged research beyond rhetoric

### Keywords:

action-research, urban innovation, research pedagogy

Those of us working inside universities campuses, especially in departments and units grouping 'applied fields of knowledge', are today experiencing a growing pressure to, on the one side, produce an increasing number of 'legitimate research products' (peer-review journal articles), while, on the other, have a more direct interaction with the local context according to the idea that the University can/should have the (third) mission to be helpful to society beyond 'advancing human knowledge' (Cognetti, 2016) or 'providing degrees' to those who have the time and the money to enrol.

This session addresses some of the contradictions posed by this current conjecture, looking specifically at the challenges faced by early career scholars – PhD students and postdocs – with a specific interest in an engaged approach to urban research. They are still expected to prove their 'scientific rigour' and research quality, while learning new codes of communications and way of thinking, like every other non-engaged early career scholar. In addition to that, their 'being engaged' puts on their shoulders all kinds of responsibilities toward actors in the field that are hard to take in the name of an institution – the University – they are a powerless part of, and only on a temporary basis. Enthusiasm and commitment often faces lack of 'formal training' in what 'engaged research' means and how it can provide opportunities to 'be published' in highly ranked journals (Saija 2014), etc. Even though the most advanced theories on engaged urban research promote a non-extractive type of relationship between researchers and communities, based on reciprocity and mutual learning (Lambert- Pennington & Saija, forthcoming), and even under the (unlikely) assumption that Universities, as Institutions and beyond initiatives of individual faculty, can really make reciprocity possible, there are still open questions on the role that can be played by early career scholars within this framework. In particular, great opportunities to enhance University third mission arise when urban activists and professionals are attracted by the possibility to train for becoming experienced engaged researchers not for the purpose of pursuing an academic career – which is often the case due to both the shrinking and the loss of attractiveness of the academic job market – but as an opportunity to enhance what they are already doing (Schön 1984).

This session collects the contributions of three different Italian urban researchers – currently enrolled in formal training or early career research contracts with universities located in three different Italian regions – who all share an explicit engaged agenda strongly connected with their current or past involvement, either as professionals or activists, in organisations aimed at promoting urban innovation. In particular:



- Carla Barbanti, currently a full-time and fully funded PhD student in City and Regional Planning and the University of Catania, is also a member of the board of directors of Trame di Quartiere, a community-based cooperative aimed at promoting inclusive urban regeneration in the old San Berillo Neighbourhood in Catania. Her contribution will share the ongoing challenges of her action-research work within a supposed partnership between unict and Trame while walking in both the shoes of “the university” and the “community partners”.
- Alice Franchina, currently a postdoc fellow at DASTU Polimi working on co-design methods for urban sustainability policies, but also a professional collaborating with KCity Ltd, a Milan-based consultancy specialised in urban regeneration. Alice will share her experience about the difference of being a consultant and a researcher in dealing with stakeholders and the community within co-design paths for urban transformations, in terms of engagement, commitments, timelines, and results.
- Giovanna Muzzi currently attending the School of doctoral studies Architecture, City and Design, research area “Regional planning and public policy”, at the “Università Iuav di Venezia”. Her contribution will present some reflections upon academic research and action/activism involvement focusing on the case study of Mestre and Piave neighbourhood. It will underline opportunities and critical issues given by the fact that she is both a PhD student and a member of the ETICity association, involved in activities and projects of urban reactivation and regeneration in the neighbourhood.

These three presentations will be discussed by two experienced engaged researchers and educators, with formal responsibilities over higher Ed curricula that are explicitly inspired by the engaged approach to urban research (the U-Rise Master at IUAV and the Urban Affairs PhD program at the University of Memphis, TN, USA), who can highlight challenges and opportunities for universities to respond to dilemmas shared by the authors.

#### Discussants

Elena Ostanel, Assistant professor in city and regional planning, Università Iuav di Venezia

Katherine Lambert-Pennington, Head of the School of Urban Affairs and public policy, University of Memphis, TN, USA & Italian Fulbright scholar.

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## **ENGAGED UNIVERSITIES OR CONSULTANCY? REFLECTIONS FROM THE EDGE BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND PROFESSION**

### **Keywords:**

engaged universities, third mission, early scholars

During the last two decades, “engaged research” approaches have spread into the European Urban Planning academia, calling for researchers to actively contribute to territorial changes (Goddard and Vallance, 2013). This is even more true in urban regeneration processes, where stakeholders’ involvement and participation practices are at the core of the “city making” processes (Landry, 2006); and within the transition towards sustainability field, where multi-actor engagement is unanimously seen as a necessary precondition for establishing long-term processes (Frantzeskaki and Rok, 2021). It is also to be noted that this kind of “social involvement turn” has not only happened in academia: there is a great emphasis on public participation, multi-stakeholder and community-based processes in the political debate, in public policies and in activism practices. As a consequence, in the urban realm, researchers pursuing the university “third mission” very often meets professionals from private agencies working on the ground. Within this context, there is space for a critical reflection on the role Universities might play in promoting regenerative, knowledge-based and co-designed projects and policies oriented towards sustainability, especially asking to ourselves what should differentiate an “engaged university” approach from a professional approach in pursuing collective good in time of (health and economic) crisis. The present contribution relies on my experience of being on the edge between academic and professional field, in particular being a PhD in Urban planning with some experience in action-research, then a professional collaborating with an urban regeneration consultancy, and recently also a post-doc fellow at Politecnico di Milano involved in engaged research within Living lab contexts (Morello et al., forthcoming). During this journey I began reflecting on a comparison between the two approaches – consultancy and engaged research – to urban transformation that seem to be increasingly similar, also considering the way universities are more and more frequently hiring early scholars (namely getting funds on specific projects for applying research on the field). With this paper I will explore some challenges I am facing “wearing different dresses” depending on my role, especially wondering what differs (or should differ) in an engaged research approach from a consultancy approach, especially in terms of the “posture” of the researcher(s) (Saija L., 2014).

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## **BETWEEN ACTIVISM AND RESEARCH, A REFLECTION ON THE EXPERIENCE IN THE PIAVE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF MESTRE**

### **Keywords:**

engaged approach, urban reactivation, Venice mainland

The contribution will present some reflections as an early career scholar upon academic research and activism involvement focusing on the case study of Mestre (mainland of Venice) and Piave neighbourhood. It will underline opportunities and criticalities since the author is both an individual researcher/PhD student, and a member of the association ETICity, involved in activities and projects of urban reactivation in the Piave neighbourhood. This is considered a problematic and “peripheral” neighbourhood, characterised by business desertification, difficult coexistence among longterm and new/foreign inhabitants, degradation of public real estate, petty crime, and low investments (both public and private). The author has an interest in an engaged approach to urban research to deepen the attempts and proposals for grassroots urban reactivation, explore dynamics of proximity and everyday life of the inhabitants and collect their testimonies against a mainstream and stigmatising storytelling. Different methods, such as direct observation and fieldwork, are used in order to study those spheres of interest. Encounters and interviews with inhabitants and shopkeepers are favoured by having previously participated in projects and activities in the neighbourhood, some of which are still ongoing. Moreover, the direct involvement in setting up and participating in the management of a “neighbourhood concierge” has allowed the author to establish an observatory in the neighbourhood and come into contact with people. However, this also determines a blurred boundary between being recognised firstly as an activist and secondly as a researcher. A direct involvement in a similar context makes it possible to understand the needs and aspirations of inhabitants, who often do not have the tools or channels to make their demands known. In a society that increasingly delegates to the digital world, balancing socio-spatial inequalities implies involving the most fragile people, providing them with physical spaces and trained/experienced figures they can turn to. Their demands and needs are fundamental in order to address appropriate actions and policies for urban reactivation that could join welfare and collective urban spaces. At the same time, these spaces would be collectors of urban dynamics (micro scale, every day and long-term) to enrich both academic and public entities knowledge.

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## COMMUNITY UNIVERSITY RECIPROCITY TO REDUCE SOCIO-SPATIAL INEQUALITIES

### Keywords:

action research, distressed neighbourhoods, reciprocity

In the current socio-economic situation in which the territories are facing the consequences generated by the pandemic crisis, the debate about the public role of researchers and HEIs becomes particularly relevant. Can Universities' public engagement contribute to bridging today's growing socio-spatial divides? This question has generated a long-term scholarly debate on the so called community-university partnership (Reardon, 2006) and how these can use a specific approach to university engagement inspired by the action-research paradigm to promote equitable spatial development. The state-of-the-art of this debate identifies reciprocity as a key principle that allows overcoming the risk of "extractive" research approaches, i. e. approaches implied university researchers 'extracting' data, time, and energy from communities without necessarily giving something in return (Lambert- Pennington & Saija, forthcoming). On the contrary, community-university partnerships based on reciprocity might provide a framework for mutually beneficial collaborations, but only if they are based on the full sharing of research responsibilities, from question framing to data collection and analysis. Drawing from the literature on action-research inspired community-university partnership aimed at urban development in distressed neighborhood, this paper shares some reflections on the challenges posed by the issue of reciprocity when action-research is carried by individuals, like the author, that operates in both shoes, the ones of a university researchers and those of community activists and leader. In particular, the paper will share reflections on the matter with a specific reference to the on-going action – research project carried out in two distressed neighbourhoods of the historic centre, city of Catania, by a partnership between two community based organization and an action-research lab at the University of Catania.

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## **THE ROLE OF (ENGAGED) URBAN SCHOLARS IN FACING SCHOLARLY ISOLATION. A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

### **Keywords:**

public engagement, urban scholars, scholarly isolation

Universities, especially the technical ones, are called to play an increasingly predominant role within the networks of knowledge production and dissemination (Antonetti et al., 2021). This is even more true today, in the aftermath of the global pandemic of covid-19, which has sharpened (old and new) urban fragilities – see the increase in spatial inequalities (Pataccini, Sokol, 2020). In this scenario of epochal changes, the Public Engagement (PE) strategies tested by technical universities constitute a worth, innovative as well as indispensable resource. That said, the paper proposes a critical reflection aimed at enriching the debate on the relationship between engaged universities and urban communities. In particular, the article focuses on the theme of scholarly isolation: a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, deeply connected to the increasingly widespread academic hyperspecialization (Montedoro, Pasqui, 2020) as well as to risks of delegitimization of the expertise. So, which forms of this phenomenon can we identify today? And, above all, is it possible to think to PE as an ‘antidote’ to such risks of weakening of the interrelation between society and the Academia? Specifically, the paper addresses two (possible) forms of scholarly isolation. One, more general, represented by the risks of an intellectual, even physical, distancing of the Academia from the ‘materiality’ of the urban project – which stands on a ‘carnal relationship’ with the space. Verily, urban research much relies on the awareness of one’s own body in relation to the (design of) collective space (Bianchetti, 2020). In this sense, engagement should be also rediscovered as an individual – before than collective – mean of knowledge production. A second one, related to the procedural layout that still today characterizes much of the planning systems. Excessive procedural connotations represent a risk in terms of legitimization of the planning process – marking a detachment between the ‘planners’ and those ‘who are planned’ (Crosta, 2003). In this perspective, PE truly constitutes an opportunity for legitimizing (from the ‘inside’, so to say) planning and policy-making processes. Impinging on cases of PE practices, the paper aims (by the provision of an useful conceptual framework) to contribute to the debate on how to tackle scholarly isolation.

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# Economies and territories at risk

## TRACK CHAIRS

**Mina Akhavan**

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Before the COVID-19 pandemic, European territories and their economies already showed signs of fragility and vulnerability due to several ongoing drivers, from recurrent economic and financial crises to deepening differences and inequalities in access to opportunities. The pandemic aftermath has restructured the relationships between different forms of production and territories, both in the manufacturing and the tertiary sector, in cities and regions across Europe. The connection between the people's location and economic activities is also changing because of the increase in remote working. This track discusses conceptual frameworks, as well as empirical studies. In particular, it tackles questions regarding the relationships between metropolitan regions and rural areas redesigned after the pandemic. How are such reconfigurations related to the existing characteristics of different contexts in terms of local economies and societies? What are the roles of job markets, service provision systems, accessibility, and infrastructures?

Several contributions will argue the emerging geographies of work and how they impact the different contexts. The aim is to understand how the long-standing and deepening forms of territorial inequalities at different scales are being challenged, addressed, or exacerbated by the ongoing phenomena; how such new emerging geographies can be interpreted and conceptualised in terms of gender and intersectionality. Moreover, some studies will present how planning schemes, policy tools, and actions may facilitate the revival and renaissance of peripheral, peri-urban, and rural areas



## SESSION 1

### Tools and strategies for analysing and exploring fragile territories and rural-peripheral areas

Chairs: **Carolina Pacchi, Mina Akhavan**

*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**SATURDAY 18/6 \_ 11.20 - 13.00**  
**ROOM F04b**

**Antonio Jose Salvador**

Milano: assessing the rural metropolis

**Sara Favargiotti, Margherita Pasquali, Chiara Chioni, Angelica Pianegonda**

Enhancing water landscapes at risk of inner territories

**António Tavares**

Exploring the influence of agricultural interest groups in land use dynamics

**Claudia Faraone, Mario Ciaramitaro, Giulia Ciliberto**

Transborder mapping and cross-sector innovation: DIVA Interreg results for CCLs-SMEs spillover

**Silvio Cristiano**

Urbanisation as fragilisation

**Diana Rolando, Alice Barreca, Giorgia Malavasi, Manuela Rebaudeng, Lorenzo Savio**

Vibrè. Enhancement strategies to make resilient villages vibrant in Alta Valsesia

## SESSION 2

### Pre-organised Panel by Cost Action CA18214 members The impact of Coworking spaces

Chair: **Marco Hölzel**

*Technical University of Munich (TUM)*

**SATURDAY 18/6 \_ 14.00 - 16.00**  
**ROOM F04b**

**Carolina Pacchi, Mariachiara Barzotto, Lenka Smekalova**

Supporting new Wwrkspaces after pandemic recovery: the role of policies in the peripheries

**Grzegorz Micek, Karolina Malochleb, Lukáš Danko**

New working spaces: the case of Polish and Czech makerspaces

**Helyaneh Aboutalebi Tabrizi, Ilaria Mariotti**

Typologies and location patterns of coworking spaces in the Alpine regions of Italy and Austria

**Mina Akhavan, Marco Holzel, Divya Leducq**

Revisiting the geography of work through coworking in peripheral-rural area

**Irene Manzini Ceinar**

Community-centred coworking as urban social infrastructure

**Katarzyna Wojnar, Maciej Smetkowski**

Collective and corporate coworking spaces during the pandemic. Evidence from Warsaw

**Sajjad Zolfigol, Mehran Alalhesabi,**

**Seyed Majid Mofidi Shemirani,**

**Mina Akhavan, Ilaria Mariotti**

Urban catalyst action as a vitality tool through public spaces



CHAIRS

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TRACK 10

SESSION 1

**Tools and strategies for  
analysing and exploring  
fragile territories and  
rural-peripheral areas**

## **MILANO: ASSESSING THE RURAL METROPOLIS**

### **Keywords:**

urban agriculture, peri-urban, food policies

The Milanese peri-urban territory took a decisive path in the 1990s with the creation of Parco Agricolo Sud Milano PASM, a protected area mostly of agricultural production, which comprises 61 municipalities. Towns such as Rosate or Noviglio, have more than 90% of their total surface within PASM's boundaries. This area avoided an aggressive sprawl but conditioned a dependence and relationship with Milan as its productive land and more recently as its large recreational area. Milan's relationship with agriculture has strengthened through food policies, by hosting Expo 2015, and by putting nutrition at the forefront of the city's agenda. Bottom-up initiatives born from agreements between producers such as the creation of productive rural districts, ethical purchasing groups -gruppi di acquisto solidale-, and the rise of multifunctional farms, have established a new dynamic between producers and consumers. A relationship that intensified as post-pandemic aftermath, where urban dwellers rediscovered the nearby countryside, often overlooking the complexity of these territories. Food security and sovereignty, food supply chains are back in the political discussion due to the current geopolitical crisis and proximity agriculture could revive as a potential solution. This paper proposes an alternative narrative to Milan's attempt of becoming a rural metropolis and to understand the peri-urban beyond agricultural, recreational, and logistical purposes. To put in evidence the countereffects and criticalities currently found in these territories to enrich the discussion on the revival of peri-urban areas to avoid looking at it as a "serbatoio" (Mininni 2012), as expendable resources for the city, used for expansion or protection, or production, as needed, but rather as a heterogeneous "opaque territory" of conflict and coexistence (di Campi and Gabbianelli 2022). This work is part of a Ph.D. project at Politecnico di Milano on new forms of inhabiting, citizenship, and production in the distinctiveness of peri-urban areas.

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## ENHANCING WATER LANDSCAPES AT RISK OF INNER TERRITORIES IN THE ALPINE CONTEXT OF VAL DI SOLE (ITALY)

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### Keywords:

fragile landscapes, inner territories, water identities

The circumstances that we are experiencing have activated many reflections about the relation among natural and urban environments. In Italy, Inner Areas (SNAI 2014) are often lacking successful regional policies and systemic territorial approaches to achieve effective transformations. These issues are addressed by the project “B4R Branding4Resilience”(Ferretti et al., 2021) and this contribution aims to present and discuss the first results of the research in Trentino-Alto Adige region. Studies have often focused on economic, services, and infrastructure marginality, supporting the classification of the “inner areas” on quantitative indicators. The value of natural resources and the innovative practices to manage landscape and building heritage in extreme alpine contexts have never been taken into account as indicators of quality of life. In accordance with B4R topics, the main goal of the University of Trento’s research unit is to pursue leadership in “innovating with nature” through locally implementable co-design actions in small thermal villages, specifically focusing on the Val di Sole pilot area. The aim is to create a territorial strategy on the value of water resources by promoting the enhancement of the territorial capital through spatial transformations. The interdisciplinary methodology is based on landscape ecology, territorial metabolism, cultural resilience, mapping, and circular economy as integrated systems. An in-depth data collecting process is used to explore the identity of the Val di Sole. The contribution illustrates the “Val di Sole Blueprint” as a tool to imagine sustainable development scenarios that connect places, humans and earth others for a better quality of life. Three specific themes were addressed offering strategies and project proposals to support local stakeholders in Val di Peio and Val di Rabbi: territories of proximity, co-creative communities, and new forms of living. The research approach proposes a territorial brand that promotes adaptive resilience whose change’s processes and subsequent benefits are to be assessed in space and time through community’s inclusion, in order to preserve the local unicity. To increase resilience, the development of nature-based activities is promoted to valorize the natural identity of the territory: a system of ecological, physical, and intangible features, qualities, and needs of local communities.

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## EXPLORING THE INFLUENCE OF AGRICULTURAL INTEREST GROUPS IN LAND USE DYNAMICS

### Keywords:

land use dynamics, interest groups, political institutions

Recent empirical studies in highly dynamic land use markets report the continuing expansion of the urban fabric, widespread suburbanization and sprawl (Deslatte et al., 2022). In some countries these effects are driven by rural-urban transitions and/or the insufficient regulatory stringency in land use planning. But what happens in countries characterized by more mature land markets with stringent land use regulation and comprehensive planning covering the whole territory? This article employs a political market framework developed by Tavares (2022) to investigate land use dynamics in Portugal in the period of 2012-2018. Remote sensing data are combined with sociodemographic and political data to test relevant hypotheses extracted from the political market framework. Contrary to research conducted in other countries (e.g. Poland, China, and the United States), the study finds small land use changes in suburban areas and tourist hotspots and significant changes towards more intensive uses in agricultural land.

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## **TRANSBORDER MAPPING AND CROSS-SECTOR INNOVATION: DIVA INTERREG RESULTS FOR CCIS-SMES SPILLOVER**

### **Keywords:**

cultural and creative sectors geographies,  
regional development, innovative collaboration

The contribution will report on the outcomes of DIVA Interreg ItaliaSlovenia project that was addressing the development of ecosystems and the innovation value chains, supporting cross-border innovation through a collaboration model for Small Medium Enterprise and Cultural and Creative Industries. The research presented in this contribution applies a multidisciplinary approach deriving from urbanism, economics, design research and interactionism. Specifically it will address the track questions addressing the emerging geographies of work, and how policy tools and actions facilitate the revival and renaissance of transborder areas after pandemic. Firstly, it will present a mapping of CCIs in the transborder region comprising Friuli Venezia Giulia and Veneto in Italy and the Western region of Slovenia. Specifically, it will be presented the nature of the different innovation hubs that were created in relationship to the territorial organization and distribution patterns of the CCIs within regional urban agglomerations, productive areas and districts of the three regions. Secondly, it will briefly illustrate the collaboration model conceived by luav university team in collaboration with project partners, and present the outcomes of pilot projects of collaboration among CCIs and traditional SMEs. The first strand of the cooperation model will refer to a theoretical framework focused on art-based interventions, while the second strand will put forward an analogous investigation focusing on design-driven interventions. Finally, it will discuss its own process and results in order to underline and question itself as a policy during the pandemic period between 2020-2022. Moreover, it will illustrate the added value of investing in innovation and spillover effects rather than support financial for recovery from the pandemic effects.

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## **URBANISATION AS FRAGILISATION A SYSTEMIC VIEW ON SOME COMPELLING ISSUES IN URBAN PLANNING AND POLICIES**

### **Keywords:**

urban fragility, systems thinking,  
sustainable and resilient planning and policies

Urbanisation is expected at keeping galloping (United Nations, 2019), yet our complex and finite world demands to at least question the actual feasibility and desirability of such a phenomenon. As per recent urban applications to tourism and health (Cristiano & Zilio, 2020; 2021), systems thinking (Meadows, 2008) can offer a conceptual framework to interpret and accompany those radical transformations, triggered by global causes like climate change and progressive resource depletion, that unavoidably affect local settlements. The featuring interconnections of urban systems play a crucial role in a globalised world, as recent pandemic and logistic shocks have taught. Shifting from the economic viewpoint of the consumer to the supplier of resources, a systemic study is here offered on the socioecological flows upon which contemporary globalised city depends. The general interconnections with other cities, hinterlands, and remote support areas are outlined: on the one side, dependence and strengthening relations are present; on the other side, the crucial inflows in terms of sustainability and possibility to reproduce urban assets and urban functions as we know them today. A perspective is offered, both material and immaterial, with a local focus that can be connected to the global thanks to a backwards exploration, able to track and – if need be – quantify the memory of energy, materials, labour, and information (Odum, 1996) hiding behind the main flows. Some diagramming is used, based on the energy systems language (ibid.), as a tool to understand and describe urban reality, and more specifically: (a) possible strength and weakness leverage points of a European city, including internal and external feedback loops; (b) its driving goal(s); (c) consequent physical and social formations; and (d) the nature and the robustness of the systemic effects of economic dynamics based on relations, circularity, and reciprocity that may take place, as experimented in some times of crisis. Both inside and outside formal city planning, such information aims at face ongoing urban changes, supporting actions able to intervene on compelling issues – including social iniquity and soil consumption – in a systemic logic that sets off again from the very driving goal of a city, from its function.

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## VIBRÈ. ENHANCEMENT STRATEGIES TO MAKE RESILIENT VILLAGES VIBRANT IN ALTA VALSESIA

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### Keywords:

territorial vibrancy, enhancement strategies, territorial resilience

In recent years the attention towards inner areas, fragile territories and small villages has grown and several policies and measures have been activated, starting from the National Strategy for Inner Areas (SNAI). The implementation of Law 158/2017 is currently starting, with 160 million euros to be used to implement the National Plan for the redevelopment of small municipalities. Moreover, in the framework of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) the public call "Projects of cultural and social regeneration of small historic villages provides for a total funding of 1,020 million euro. Other calls are coming in the next months to enhance cultural heritage and counteract marginalisation and demographic decline of small Italian villages and hamlets. Several researches have been carried on to study and reactivate these territories and these studies could now really support Public Administrations to get funds and to correctly address project proposals and concrete enhancement strategies. In the context of the national research project "B4R Branding4 Resilience" (PRIN 2017 - Young Line), the Politecnico di Torino research unit addressed its attention on the Alta Valsesia area in northern Piedmont (Italy). During the first year of the B4R research project a knowledge management approach was applied to explore and analyse the whole territory through data collection and indicators elaboration; moreover, a direct dialogue with local stakeholders was activated in order to implement the knowledge base and to evaluate the territorial vulnerability and vibrancy. The results of this first exploration phase highlighted a series of issues (such as resident population decline and ageing, lack of primary services and presence of numerous abandoned buildings, lack of efficient vehicular or public transportation connections, as well as hamlets and villages that need to be enhanced and repopulated) but also the presence of projects and actions that can contribute to the areas revitalization. On the basis of these results, a co-design workshop with public administration, local stakeholders and communities was organised. Three design themes and a pilot case were identified, with the goal of proposing territorial resilience strategies and concrete actions for the enhancement of the Alta Valsesia area.

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Preorganised Panel by  
Cost Action CA18214 members

## SESSION 2

# The impact of coworking spaces

**Keywords:**

economy, cohesion, new working spaces (New Spaces of Work)

**Cohesion and economy - the role of new working spaces in increasing the vitality of peripheral areas.** Rural and peripheral regions are particularly challenged in demographic and economic terms. People are leaving, jobs get lost and the economy is shrinking in several rural regions. Within this special session, we try to get the spot on measurements for vitality and vulnerability, the relevance of work and the spatial dimension of work. New Spaces of Work (new working spaces such as coworking spaces, makerspaces, incubators, etc.) in peripheral regions (Di Marino, Mariotti, 2020) could provide opportunities for local cooperation, networks, economy, jobs and a revitalization of abandoned town centers and declining rural areas. The Covid-19 pandemic has also significantly challenged these patterns and trends. In some well-accessible areas it has induced some signs of economic revival (Hölzel, de Vries, 2021). Inhabitants of large cities fled to more peripheral areas starting to occupy their second homes and tourist destinations (Tomaz et al., 2022). However, the evidence is not fully conclusive, because some small towns centers still remain vulnerable and lack the vitality. Even taking into account new policies to attract new business and people to rural areas introduced on various spatial levels in Europe, the role of policy measures in the local rural revival still remains not obvious. Hence, within this session we would like to address the following questions:

- What and how are economically, social and infrastructural systems, local (labour) markets challenging?
- What are the impacts of this challenges on economic, social and infrastructural systems?
- What are strategies to tackle those challenges?
- Which role could be taken in the changing process by authorities, administration, politics, the communities?
- What could be the contribution of gender and intersectionality in the process of change?
- How will the digitalization and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic influence the changes markets, territories, people and communities?

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**Revisiting the geography of work through coworking in peripheral- rural area: experiences from France, Germany and Italy** *Mina Akhavan\**, *Marco Hölzel\*\**, *Divya Leducq\*\*\** \*Politecnico di Milano \*\*TUM Technische Universität München \*\*\*UMR CNRS CITERES 7324, University of Tours  
The presented research consider the effect of new working spaces in peripheral region (Italy, Germany, France) on the geography of work, which go beyond the digital aspect to possibly impact on economic local activities.

**Do new working spaces contribute to the shift from economic stagnation to local revival? The case of Polish makerspaces**  
Grzegorz Micek; Karolina Malochleb

**Policies to support New Work Spaces in the peripheries. A first overview in three European countries**  
Lenka Smekalova is a lecturer at the Faculty of Management and Economics, Tomas Bata University; Mariachiara Barzotto is a Senior Lecturer in Management, strategy and Organisation at the University of Bath; Carolina Pacchi is Associate Professor in Urban Planning at Politecnico di Milano. The research critically discuss direct and indirect policies aimed to the creation and diffusion of New Work Spaces (NWS), looking in particular at peripheral areas in selected European regions. Impinging on ongoing empirical research in the Czech Republic, in the UK and in Italy, as well as on on case study analysis done in the framework of the COST Action 18214, the authors will firstly introduce the concept of direct and indirect policies to foster NWS in peripheral areas, to then discuss their rationale, the governance networks involved at different scales, and finally presenting examples and cases in the three countries.

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## **SUPPORTING NEW WORKSPACES AFTER PANDEMIC RECOVERY: THE ROLE OF POLICIES IN THE PERIPHERIES**

### **Keywords:**

New Work spaces, peripheral areas, policy intervention

New Work Spaces (NWS) have been diffusing across cities and regions in the last twenty years, with a significant concentration in major metropolitan cores, and a less relevant presence in peripheral and marginal areas. Since the presence of such workspaces has been connected in literature to possibilities of fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as strengthening community ties and regenerating neighbourhoods, different types of policies have been designed and implemented to support the diffusion of NWS, with a specific attention to peripheral or marginal areas. Moving from this background, the paper critically discusses how policies have contributed to the creation and diffusion of NWS in recent years, looking at peripheral areas in selected European regions. Impinging on case study analysis done in the framework of the COST Action 18214 and, in particular, on ongoing empirical research in the Czech Republic, Italy and the UK, the paper will discuss different policy orientations and policy tools. It will firstly introduce the concept of direct and indirect policies: in many cases, forms of support to NWS are linked to policies targeting other domains, such as employability, entrepreneurship, equal opportunities, as well as a stronger involvement of the younger generations in the job market, or urban and neighbourhood regeneration. In other cases, policies are directly aimed at supporting the opening and diffusion of such spaces, specifically in more fragile areas, to then critically discuss their rationale and the governance networks involved at different scales, providing examples in the above mentioned three countries. Finally, the paper will consider how policies have changed after the Covid-19 pandemic, to better understand if and how they have been able to address the major changes this implied for NWSs across Europe.

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## **NEW WORKING SPACES.: THE CASE OF POLISH AND CZECH MAKERSPACES**

### **Keywords:**

new working spaces, makerspaces, peripheral areas

Peripheral areas have witnessed significant growth of new working workspaces (NeWSps), including coworking spaces and makerspaces. It is relatively well known what has led them to non-core areas that includes availability of suitable premises, vicinity of amenities and good accessibility of NeWSps. However, the effects of NeWSps' operations have not been fully revealed, yet. In the paper, based on series of interviews we identify social, economic and infrastructural effects and unravel how new working spaces, specifically makerspaces (MSs) contribute to local development of peripheral areas in Poland and Czech Republic. These are three main types of peripheries analysed in this respect: rural areas, small towns and former industrial areas. By analysing the statistical data on migration and entrepreneurship the demographic and economic trends in peripheral areas housing MSs are revealed. In the paper, we point at the limited scale of MSs' impact that is constrained to training and improving technical skills. Due to its short history the presence of MSs' does not significantly prevent peripheral areas from a brain drain. On the contrary, some former MSs users are reported to fled away from their home region. Moreover, operations of MSs do not lead to a significant increase of entrepreneurship rates. On top of that, by analysing local development strategies we study the role of makerspaces in local policies. We argue the operations of MSs are not recognised, there, yet. Acknowledgements: This research is based upon work from COST Action CA18214 (The geography of New Working Spaces and the impact on the periphery) supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology, [www.cost.eu](http://www.cost.eu)). This work is supported by the the Polish National Science Centre under the PRELUDIUM BIS 1 scheme [grant number 2019/35/O/HS4/00861], The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Czech Republic, program INTER-EXCELLENCE, subprogram INTER-COST, project No. LTC20047.

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## **TYOLOGIES AND LOCATION PATTERNS OF CWSS IN THE ALPINE REGIONS OF ITALY AND AUSTRIA**

### **Keywords:**

collaborative workspaces, Alp mountains, location patterns

Since the last decade, collaborative workplaces (CWSs), such as coworking spaces (CSs), have gained popularity not just in urban areas, but also in rural and peripheral regions throughout the world. Working from any location is possible for knowledge workers due to the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and this has become more commonplace after the COVID-19 pandemic. CSs as a new form of third places (Brown, 2017) and their blurry combination with the concept of coliving, have attracted remote workers to mountain regions (Bürgin et al., 2021) for short and long-term periods to dismantle the boundaries between living, working, vacationing, and socializing. There are several studies focusing on the geographical distribution and classification of CWSs; however, literature on these spaces in the context of mountain areas is scant. The present work aims to fill this gap by exploring typologies, location patterns, and users' profiles of CWSs in the Alpine regions of Italy and Austria. First, the spaces are categorized under the umbrella of third places (Oldenburg & Brissett, 1982) and fourth places (Morisson, 2018). Specifically, the organizational scope (ownership type and business model), spatiality, and functions of the spaces are investigated. Furthermore, this research reviews how the current literature has studied the location factors of CSs (e.g., Mariotti et al., 2021). Then, the georeferenced location of cases in the mountains is performed by means of GIS. Finally, an in-depth analysis of the spaces with desk research and interviews with the CWS managers and users is conducted.

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## REVISITING THE GEOGRAPHY OF WORK THROUGH COWORKING IN PERIPHERAL-RURAL AREA

### Keywords:

rural coworking, peripheral-rural areas, post-pandemic teleworking

Collaborative-flexible workplaces have been flourishing fast for more than a decade: coworking spaces (CSs) –privately owned and managed, public ones and mixed models –are undoubtedly the most famous and applied model in Europe. Although the coworking phenomena is predominately urban, peripheral and remote areas are also becoming attractive for hosting the creative class and digital workers (Akhavan et al. 2022, Leducq, 2020, Hölzel & de Vries 2021). The steady rise of CSs in rural areas has been surged by the Covid-19 pandemic; the sharp increase in teleworkers and the mass shift to working from anywhere has raised public awareness for flexible working spaces. Considering flexwork as a planning ?conundrum (Pajevic, 2021), and coworking as a talent attraction strategy, this paper aims to study the diffusion of CSs in peripheral and rural areas as planning and policy tools for regeneration purposes, place marketing and attracting economically active individuals and their families. With a focus on France, Germany and Italy, a number of case-studies of CSs anchored in non-metropolitan regions are presented and discussed as drivers for social cohesion and economic development for rural and peripheral regions. A mixed-method approach (field observation, interviews with coworkers, managers and policy makers) is applied to understand the different trends of coworking in peripheral-rural areas in the three Western European countries and draw some conclusions to address the post-pandemic issues related to changes in the geography of work, which go beyond the digital aspect to possibly impact all economic local activities.

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## **COMMUNITY-CENTRED COWORKING AS URBAN SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Keywords:**

coworking, social infrastructure, Covid-19

In May 2020, the Mayor of London publicly declared that social infrastructure is key to supporting inclusive and thriving neighbourhoods. Several scholars define the concept of social infrastructure as the way to research and value some spaces with a collective public character, including tangible and intangible aspects. In fact, alongside tangible services and social spaces, intangible networks and community support play an essential role. Oldenburg's work on Third Place combines those aspects in the concept of 'inclusively sociable' spaces like cafes, community spaces and workspaces, such as community-centred coworking spaces. Community centred coworking spaces emerged to benefit the local area and are deeply embedded with the neighbourhood. Many of them pair with charities and cooperatives, often economically funded by local authorities, even if privately owned – representing a 'state of liminality between public and private blurred boundaries'. This study aims to define the role of community-centred coworking as a place of social infrastructure, and their connection with the urban dimension, especially during Covid-19, by assessing the role and strategies adopted by Space4 Tech coworking in Finsbury Park (London) during 2020.

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## **COLLECTIVE AND CORPORATE COWORKING SPACES DURING THE PANDEMIC. EVIDENCE FROM WARSAW**

### **Keywords:**

coworking spaces, COVID-19, Warsaw

The traditional model of the economy and the city has historically been based on work provided in a specific location and the rigidity and disconnectedness of home-work relationships. Only information and communication technologies have led to a fundamental change in the work environment, including the possibility of decoupling the provision of work from a specific location. Despite the increase in flexibility of workplace choices, the need for social interaction appears to be essential for the generation of new ideas, innovation, and the satisfaction of workers' social needs. This provides the basis for the emergence of a new model of workspace organization in the form of coworking, where workspace is shared on a flexible basis. This phenomenon is particularly visible in metropolises that are key centers of the global information economy. In Warsaw, there were about 130 such coworking spaces in 2019. The ways in which co-working spaces operated were based on diversified models which include the original grassroots initiatives based on common values and community spirit – so-called collective co-working, or later top-down initiatives of the generic or yupster type – so-called corporate co-working. However, the COVID pandemic has made significant changes to this picture. The aim of the article is to assess the impact of the emergence of coworking spaces and the evolution of their model on the transformation of metropolitan spaces occurring in pandemic and post-pandemic realities. Issues of inclusivity and access for people with disabilities are included in the analysis.

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## URBAN CATALYST ACTION AS A VITALITY TOOL THROUGH PUBLIC SPACES: EXAMPLES OF COWORKING SPACES IN MILAN

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### Keywords:

urban catalyst, public spaces, coworking spaces, vitality

Urban catalysts, as a new strategy of urban redevelopments, are trying to rejuvenate the target areas, increase the number of active users and conduct the urban growth to appropriate urban waves. Nowadays, Catalytic anchors focus on the public spaces for the sake of the potential, accessibility, attraction, and the power of changes. So due to the type of approach and the tendency to use new action to revive the city's social power, coworking spaces can assist this aim well. Coworking spaces advantage can already be experienced outside of its physical areas. This paper tries to shed some light on the impact of this innovative space working on public spaces and analysis the power of Coworking spaces as an urban catalyst action. Attention to these intervention categories might cause leapfrog progress in accumulative areas and reach an alive city. The research methodology is based on mixed methods and investigates reviewing outstanding literature about urban catalysts and their relation with coworking spaces. In other side analysis, some coworking spaces and their effects on the public spaces of the nearside have been considered. The results point out the vibrancy that causes coworking space's side effects in public spaces. The amount of presence of users by the attraction of coworking spaces and the entrepreneurship aspects of these innovative working spaces leads to absolute vitality in targets areas.

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# Recovery and next generation EU observatory

## TRACK CHAIRS

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The track proposes to compare the ongoing experiences of National Recovery Plans carried out in different countries against the backdrop of the European Union to capture and comment on different approaches to recovery and de-fragilization. The track invites contributions discussing the current experiences in European countries and cities, but also EU policy makers' contributions aiming at setting up a first, experimental observatory. The Track is organised in collaboration with Urban@it - Centro Nazionale di Studi per le Politiche Urbane.

The track articulates the topic of recovery plans, by considering the urban dimension, the relation with COVID-19 and the issue of policy innovation. Therefore, the track invites the contributors to reflect on the attention paid by the recovery plans to cities: are they the backdrop or the focus of the plan? Moreover, the track investigates which (ideas of) cities and territories are considered by the plans and whether new geographies can be inferred. The extent to which recovery plans concern themselves with the transition taking place in cities and territories is under investigation.

Similarly, the track invites reflections on the extent to which recovery plans have taken on board the impetus/acceleration imparted by the pandemic on certain key issues, such as digitisation, employment, health, and ecological transition. More generally, it would be interesting to understand whether recovery plans consider preparedness and territorial fragility awareness at large.

Eventually, the track aims at shedding light on the ways in which National Recovery plans can be considered an important space for policy innovation and whether they can be considered the last opportunity for forward-looking initiatives. To this extent, the track invites to identify the main keywords included in the National Recovery plans (e.g., capacity building, knowledge forms, integration, innovation, governance).

**POLICY  
ROUNDTABLE  
European cities and  
Territories as recovery and  
resilience drivers**

Chairs: **Valeria Fedeli,**  
**Alessandro Balducci**  
*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**SATURDAY 18/6 \_9.15 - 10.40  
ROOM F04**

**Henk Bouwman**

**Pietro Reviglio**

**Marco Porta**

**Daniele Moneta**

**Raffaele Barbato**

**Massimiliano Tarantino**

**Filipe Teles**

**SESSION 2  
National Recovery and  
resilience plans: a role  
for the urban in the EU  
member states?**

Chairs: **Simonetta Armondi,**  
**Karsten Zimmermann**  
*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**SATURDAY 18/6 \_11.20 - 13.00  
ROOM F04a**

**Paula Russell, Brendan Williams**  
Recovery and resilience the urban dimension:  
case study Ireland

**Ignazio Vinci**  
Bridging the gap of Southern city-regions  
in Italy: institutional change and planning  
challenges

**Michele Roda, Ilaria La Corte**  
NEXT GENERATION EU: a comparison  
between Italian and Portuguese cases on  
architectural topics

**Giancarlo Cotella, Christophe Demazière**  
Mitigating the effects of the COVID-19  
pandemic at the metropolitan level. Insights  
from the ESPON METRO project

**Sonia De Gregorio Hurtado**  
The urban dimension of the Recovery Plan  
"España Puede". Path dependence vs.  
capacity building in a framework of crisis and  
novelty

CHAIRS

**Valeria Fedeli**

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TRACK 11

## POLICY ROUNDTABLE

# European cities and territories as recovery and resilience drivers

**Henk Bouwman**  
*Metrex*

**Pietro Reviglio**  
*Eurocities*

**Marco Porta, Daniele Moneta**  
*Comune di Milano*

**Raffaele Barbato**  
*Comune di Roma*

**Camilla Perrone**  
*Urban@it*

**Massimiliano Tarantino**  
*Fondazione Feltrinelli*

**Filipe Teles**  
*EURA president*

### What role can and should cities and metropolitan areas play in the post-pandemic recovery?

Can cities and metropolitan areas play a relevant role in the EU recovery and resilience plan? A quick look at the official positions recently expressed by the Associations of European cities and metropolitan areas or regional and local authorities towards the design and implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plans offer some critical elements for sensing the situation. On the one hand cities seem to feel still outcast in the design of national recovery strategies and ask for more substantial involvement in the governance of recovery. They lament insufficient participation at the local level, lack of structured dialogue and political will to include them, also due to time constraints. At the same time, they ask for a new involvement in the implementation as a key for success, inspired by the subsidiarity principles that still seem far to be achieved. The same concerns about the top-down nature of the recovery plans' making were expressed in December 2021 by the European Committee of the regions: the rapporteur, Rob Jonkman, concluded his speech by saying, "we are in need of cooperation, not centralisation": the paradox being that local and regional authorities are responsible more and more for public expenditures and more than half of public spending, but plans are mainly elaborated at the national level. The recent approval of the new Leipzig chart in 2020 and the process leading to the EU urban agenda at the end of the last decade, together with the EU's decision to earmark 8% of resources of the cohesion policy funds for cities, both confirm this contradictory situation but promise some spaces for innovation.

The roundtable will invite representatives of the Associations of European cities and metropolitan areas (Eurocities and Metrex), representatives from the City of Milan and Rome, in charge of the management of the Resilience and Recovery plan funded initiatives to bring in their experience and points of view. The session is organised in Collaboration with representatives from Urban@it and Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli, both invited to contribute to the discussion together with EURA. The roundtable is also part of TRACK 11, that will dedicate a second session to discussing the state of the art in some of the EU member states which have received a consistent support from EU budget.

CHAIR

**Simonetta Armondi**

*DAStU - Politecnico di Milano*

**Karsten Zimmermann**

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TRACK 11

SESSION 2

**National Recovery and  
resilience plans: a role for the  
urban in the EU member states?**

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## **RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE THE URBAN DIMENSION: CASE STUDY IRELAND**

### **Keywords:**

urban policy, recovery, innovation

The overall objective of Ireland's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (2021) is to contribute to a sustainable, equitable, green and digital recovery effort. The plan does not have a specific urban component, and indeed is relatively devoid of a specific geographic or territorial emphasis. However, number of elements within the three key priorities of addressing green and digital transition along with social and economic recovery and job creation will impact on urban areas. Specifically key projects such as de-risking a low cost residential retrofit loan scheme will provide benefits across the housing sector in all of Ireland's urban areas and major investment in Cork's commuter rail will have an impact on the development of the Republic of Ireland's second city. Under the third priority of social and economic recovery and job creation one of the eight reforms listed is legislative reform in the areas of social and affordable housing. Given that the housing crisis and deficiencies in the provision of social and affordable remains one of the most significant challenges in Ireland's urban areas, this is a crucial component in National Urban Policy. This paper will explore the extent to which Ireland's National Recovery and Resilience Plan supports and complements other policies and plans which have a more explicit urban dimension notably, the National Planning Framework (2018) and Housing for All- A New Housing Plan for Ireland (2021). It will question if the opportunity for greater policy innovation and ambition in relation to urban areas has been missed.

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## **BRIDGING THE GAP OF SOUTHERN CITY-REGIONS IN ITALY: INSTITUTIONAL CHANGE AND PLANNING CHALLENGES**

### **Keywords:**

city-regions, south Italy, planning

In the last year the attention of Italian regional scientists and policy makers has been catalyzed by the implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), the 191 billion package the country has agreed with the EU in response to the pandemic crisis. At the same time, national and regional governments are dealing with the EU programming cycle 2021-2027, a relevant source for investments on a range of key sectors for urban and regional development, including sustainable mobility infrastructure, digitalization and the regeneration of marginal neighborhoods. As a whole, the two funding schemes are expected to bring in the Italian development policy system around 300 billion, one third of which will be directed to the Southern regions. Against this backdrop, the paper provides a critical evaluation on the planning challenges and opportunities these investments are driving for the metropolitan areas of the Southern regions. Under the perspective given by the reform that in 2014 has created a metropolitan level of government, the research questions that the work aims to address include: (a) is there any significant shift in the way urban issues are conceptualized in the current policy-making process? (b) to which extent the ongoing institutional reconfiguration is affecting the implementation of the urban agenda for cities? (c) Are new investments embedded within an innovation process in the planning field?

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## **NEXT GENERATION EU: A COMPARISON BETWEEN ITALIAN AND PORTUGUESE CASES ON ARCHITECTURAL TOPICS**

### **Keywords:**

regeneration, housing policy, resiliency

Paper's goal is a transversal reading of EU Next Generation programs, to identify potential and criticality of their tools in the field of housing, urban regeneration, architecture. A comparison among the Italian Plan (Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e di Resilienza) and the Portuguese one (Plano de Recuperação e Resiliência) seems useful for 3 main aspects: - Portugal has been the first country to deliver its operational proposal; - the balance between grants and loans is similar; - the funds per citizen are comparable, around € 1,200 per inhabitant. Background of the paper is the belief that contents of national plans are necessary (although not sufficient) conditions for an effective regeneration in architectural and urban design, towards innovation and sustainability. The Italian PNRR is divided into 6 missions, 3 of them with physical-spatial impacts. The need to conclude investments by 2026 has led to the choice (not very oriented to experimentation) of a strong integration with existing programs, and with a consequent dispersion of funds in different chapters. The approach is clear in the confirmation of 110% Superbonus (it's a significant percentage of resources for the building system) which aims at environmental sustainability by financing directly private citizens for energetic retrofitting of existing buildings, not designing a horizon of real innovation or renewed urban and/or territorial synergies. Even most of the programs for local institutions seem to be developed with similar weaknesses: projects require a traditional approach, the call to the community's centrality seems to be ineffective in creating virtuous processes of renewal. The Portuguese PRR is structured in 3 main dimensions: resilience (which concentrates more than 60% of the funds), climate transition, digital transition. There is a will to enhance the energy efficiency of singular buildings and the aim to relaunching a policy of better access to housing through rents according to existing programs such as Reabilitar para Arrendar - Habitação Acessível that finances more-than-30-years-old-buildings'recovery operations to be rented at affordable prices. The paper will focus on the comparison between the Plans, through a survey of recurring concepts and a critical investigation of objectives and strategies.

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## MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AT THE METROPOLITAN LEVEL. INSIGHTS FROM THE ESPON METRO PROJECT

### Keywords:

metropolitan government, multilevel governance, cohesion policy, recovery and resilience facility, COVID-19.

The contribution questions whether the National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRP) have acknowledged and enhanced the role plaid by metropolitan areas in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. To do so, it draws on the ESPON METRO project and its analysis of the involvement of selected metropolitan institutions within the EU cohesion policy (Barcelona, Brno, Brussels, Florence, Gdańsk-Gdynia-Sopot, Lisbon, Lyon, Riga, Turin) (Cotella et al., 2021). Firstly, we argue that the capacity to act of metropolitan authorities is mainly conditioned by their legal status (Demazière, 2021) and by the resources at their disposal (Zimmermann et al., 2020), and that this results in a rather differential engagement of metropolitan institutions in the development and management of the EU cohesion policy (Cotella et al., 2021). Then, considering the engagement with the COVID-19 emergency and the development and implementation of the NRRPs, we hypothesize that this capacity has a clear impact on the role that metropolitan areas have been playing. To verify this hypothesis, we analyse the metropolitan character of the NRRPs through three main dimensions: (i) the multilevel governance of their development, management and implementation, (ii) the geographical scales that are explicitly or implicitly targeted by their instruments, and (iii) the themes that they address.

Across Europe, metropolitan areas have been seriously impacted by the pandemic (Bourdin et al. 2021) and, on paper, metropolitan authorities were potentially well positioned to react to it, and to play an active role in its aftermath. However, the evidence collected in the nine metropolitan areas under scrutiny shows that, in the majority of cases, reactive measures have mostly been developed at other spatial levels. Where positive exceptions exist, we explore how and why metropolitan authorities were able to act. When it comes to the role that the metropolitan areas will play in planning the aftermath of the pandemic, the collected evidence shows that their engagement within the programming the Recovery and Resilience Facility is rather differential and often depending on the limited discretionary power that the metropolitan authorities have on the existing EU cohesion policy instruments.

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## **THE URBAN DIMENSION OF THE RECOVERY PLAN “ESPAÑA PUEDE”. PATH DEPENDENCE VS. CAPACITY BUILDING IN A FRAMEWORK OF CRISIS AND NOVELTY**

### **Keywords:**

next generation EU; recovery plan of Spain; cities; urban policy

In response to the socioeconomic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council of the EU approved in the summer of 2020 the creation of the European Recovery Plan (Next Generation EU). It was specifically aimed to the fast recovery of Europe (its deadline is 2026) and highly determined by the objectives of the European Green Deal (approved in December 2019). It is an instrument based on different mechanisms, rules and deadlines to “traditional” Cohesion Policy programmes, that was prepared in record time and that is based on unique programmes implemented by each Member State (through the so-called “Recovery Plans”). In this framework Spain was the first country to submit its Recovery Plan (España Puede) to the European Commission (Summer 2021) and will be the country that will receive more funding. Looking “España Puede” from an urban perspective we observe an economic programme with a relevant and mostly implicit urban dimension that is present in one of the ten leverage policies that guide the Plan: the “Urban and rural Agenda”, and the component number 1 that assign funding to it through concrete programmes focusing on buildings and neighbourhoods rehabilitation, urban mobility and the preparation of local actions plans in the framework of the “Spanish Urban Agenda”. Understanding this instrument and how it will be acting on cities during the following five years is relevant, as it count with enormous economic resources (almost 70.000 M€) with capacity to overcome traditional limitations and path dependence and to provide a solid path towards the ecologic and digital transition requested by the Green Deal. This contribution aims to critically shed light on the urban dimension of the Plan, its relations with other ongoing policies for cities in the country, its implications and the opportunities that it opens to urban policies in the years to come.

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