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DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA
E STUDI URBANI

PhD Programme in

Urban Planning Design and Policy

38th Cycle

**2 Thematic Scholarships funded with resources of
the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR)
in partnership with the Giangiacomo Feltrinelli
Foundation**

OPEN CALL | Deadline: 12th September 2022

DASU - Politecnico di Milano

PhD programme in Urban Planning, Design and Policy

Call for applications 2022 now open!

The PhD programme in **Urban Planning, Design and Policy** grants **four PhD positions** funded with resources of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) to start in November 2022.

All positions are fully funded with scholarships and other benefits.

► **Two positions** are based on predefined research topics as follows:

1. The contribution of digital platforms in a Recovery and Resilience perspective: exploring territorial impacts, inspiring public policies

The research is carried out in partnership with Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Foundation.
Academic Supervisors: Prof. Valeria Fedeli (valeria.fedeli@polimi.it) and Prof. Grazia Concilio (grazia.concilio@polimi.it)

2. Broken Cities. The role of public action in supporting urban inclusiveness and the infrastructure of everyday life in the face of social, economic, and environmental inequalities

This position is co-funded with resources of Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Foundation.
Academic Supervisor: Prof. Massimo Bricocoli (massimo.bricocoli@polimi.it)

How to Apply

The official call for applications, along with procedures and requirements, is available on: <https://www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/prospective-phd-candidates/calls-and-regulations/calls-starting-november-2022/pnrr-calls>

► **Deadline: 12th September 2022**

► **For administrative inquiries, contact:**

Marina Bonaventura (marina.bonaventura@polimi.it)

► **Information about the PhD programme in Urban Planning, Design and Policy is available on:** <https://www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/phd-programmes/architecture/urban-planning-design-and-policy>

The contribution of digital platforms in a Recovery and Resilience perspective: exploring territorial impacts, inspiring public policies

Motivation and objectives of the research

Contemporary world is grappling with new forms of economic organization, based on the spread of digital technologies, produced, and managed by a new category of economic actors: Digital Platforms. Their success depends on an energy-intensive use of artificial intelligence techniques while accelerating the creation, storage, transmission, and recovery of georeferenced data from people, machines, devices, and sensors. This production and use of data constitute an unprecedented source of value production through fewer intermediate forms of economic organization, which are progressively replacing the traditional relations between capital, labor, and space. Digital Platforms are transforming value chains and opening new channels for value addition, restructuring the capitalistic accumulation processes.

The PNRR assigns Digitalisation a crucial role. Digitalization is defined as “a transversal necessity, as it concerns the continuous and necessary technological updating in production processes; infrastructures as a whole, from energy to transport where monitoring systems with sensors and data platforms represent an innovative archetype of asset quality and safety management (Missions 2 and 3)”. Under Mission 1 and 2, the PNRR pays significant attention to the productive sector’s innovation and digitization, considering it central to reducing territorial cleavages. Mission 3 supports logistic organization and mobility, focusing on the traditional infrastructural gaps of the country and the need to keep the digitalization of logistics. Under this axis, the PNRR foresees the reduction of the emissions produced by logistics through the digitalization of logistic chains and

interoperability. Nevertheless, when explaining the expected impacts on the reductions of cleavages and divides, the plan remains vague regarding territorial effects and how public policies shall cope with them.

The effects of Digital Platforms Economy on spaces, people and local economic trajectories, and the environment are significant. Digital platforms are based upon new combinations of physical and virtual spaces that challenge the consolidated nexus between cities, territories, and economic development. In its distributed and dispersed nature, the new forms of cyber capital question the traditional effects of spatial agglomeration that characterize urban history and the relationship between the urban dimension and economic development.

Digital technologies stress public policies and institutions engaged in producing development frameworks coherent with a logic of equity, redistribution, and sustainability. How can public policies elaborated in a recovery perspective detect and contrast the uneven territorial and environmental impacts of the new logics of capital accumulation adopted by digital platforms?

For further information:

Supervisors of the PhD Research:
Prof. Valeria Fedeli, Prof. Grazia Concilio, DASTU, Politecnico di Milano.
E-mail: valeria.fedeli@polimi.it; grazia.concilio@polimi.it

Partnership:

Giorgio Feltrinelli Foundation - <https://fondazionefeltrinelli.it/>

Broken Cities. The role of public action in supporting urban inclusiveness and the infrastructure of everyday life in the face of social, economic, and environmental inequalities

Motivation and objectives of the research

The research is jointly proposed with Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli. Since 1949, the Foundation is a leading documentation and research centre in the field of historical, political, economic, and social sciences. In partnership with the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, the 'Observatory on cities and urban transformation' has been established to support analysis of the political, economic, and social changes of the last decades and to explore the geography of the places we'll inhabit in the future. Exasperated by the recent pandemic, cities across the world have become more vulnerable, their deficiencies in being able to guarantee a fair social and economic development increasingly palpable.

Cities are broken under many aspects: a lack of adequate services, a lack of access to affordable housing, physical isolation, areas of cities that are ailing, degraded, and abandoned. Cities risk to be no fertile lands for inclusiveness and collective well-being, creating hubs of social injustice and of growing inequalities. It is in cities that social, environmental, and economic emergencies become increasingly visible, but it is also in cities that new solutions may emerge as well as new forms policy innovation and of activation of citizenship in the decision-making processes for the socio-ecological transition.

Some cities feature the concentration of investments, increasing attractiveness and a dynamic -yet insecure and unstable- labour market together with a rise of living costs that tend to increasingly exclude newcomers, young generations, migrants and to significantly reduce the wellbeing of many.

Privatisation, market choice, outsourcing are the watchwords that have shaped policy in the last years, resulting in the degradation of the foundational economy.

The foundational economy encompasses the material infrastructure of the everyday life (water, housing, education, health care). This system of provision is currently threatened by dynamics of change that feature increasing trends of exclusion and of polarisation in the access to basic services and fundamental rights. The research will develop a specific policy domain to be defined by the candidate with reference to the overall Mission n. 5 Inclusion and Cohesion of the PNRR (and specifically the M5C2 mission and the objectives of reducing exclusion and social vulnerability through the improvement of social infrastructures, social housing and services).

The research will explore: the governance of the social infrastructure, the conditions of access or exclusion, the impacts of policy orientations on containing or exacerbating inequalities. How public action may support inclusiveness and extended access in the face of polarization will be a further and leading research question.

For further information:

Supervisor of the PhD Research:
Prof. Massimo Bricocoli, DASTU, Politecnico di Milano.
E-mail: massimo.bricocoli@polimi.it

Co-funding and hosting partner:

Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Foundation - <https://fondazionefeltrinelli.it/>

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▶ **Deadline: 12.09.2022**

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Marina Bonaventura (marina.bonaventura@polimi.it)

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