PhD in URBAN PLANNING, DESIGN, AND POLICY - 34th cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description of the PhD Programme</th>
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<tr>
<td>The PhD Program in Urban Planning, Design and Policy (UPDP) aims at exploring the significance and impact of contemporary urban changes and understanding the way these processes can be governed through planning, design and policy making activities. The PHD Program focuses on territorial, social, economic and institutional transformations in contemporary cities, and aims at discussing them as a complex of intertwined phenomena, which calls for new governance, planning and design approaches. The integration between different fields and disciplines of urban research on the one hand, and between theory and practice on the other, distinguishes the approach promoted by the PhD program. By establishing a dialogue with the best European and International schools, this PHD program is the place for research and innovative approaches to urban studies, spatial planning and urban design. PhD Students are encouraged to reflect upon traditional and innovative practices in these fields by participating in research activities concerning cities and regions in both Italy and abroad, paying particular attention to international comparison. This approach will be fostered through the organization of international seminars along with a period of internship to be carried out by the PhD Student at one of the research institutes, universities or public agencies that constitute the international reference network of the UPDP Program. The PHD Program is organized in the following research areas, which reflect the themes of the ongoing research at the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies and represent the framework of future proposals:</td>
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<td>Planning theory and practices:</td>
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<td>• Unchartered boundaries: reconciling administrative districts with everyday urban practices.</td>
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<td>• Rethinking governance of environment and landscape resources in the inner areas: new cooperative paradigms beyond administrative fragmentation.</td>
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<td>• Economic and social transformations and their impact on the physical space and on the institutions.</td>
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<td>• Demographic change as a major challenge for policy design and urban planning.</td>
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<td>Design topics, forms and tools:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Architects, Engineers, Planners: how do the changing urban conditions require to re-design research and professional profiles?</td>
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</table>
• Spatial mobilities in contemporary cities: practices, politics, projects. Understanding and managing the deep interwining of urban mobility and socio-spatial transformations.
• Urban Form Resilience. Exploring the link between the spatial configuration of places and their ability to adapt and support societal and environmental changes.
• Land use and urban planning in areas affected by multiple hazards. Opportunities and constraints for the urban and territorial planning.

**Urban Studies:**
• New structures of spatial and socio-economic inequalities and local welfare policies: social justice, social cohesion, redistribution, promotion of well-being, social investment, sustainability.
• Ageing in different urban contexts, between autonomy and support: issues in housing, care, mobility and social relations.
• Changes in migrations and the cities: policies, practices, places of hospitality, integration, inclusion.

Candidates, when submitting their application to the admission announcement, are required to send contextually a research proposal related to the following research topics.

The PhD Program welcomes both foreign and Italian students. English is the official language of the program and the specific research subject will be assigned with the agreement of the candidate and the PhD Board of Professors, within the first years of the PhD activity.
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Research Field: THE MULTIPLE EFFECTS OF B2C E-COMMERCE GROWTH IN ITALY: RETAIL SYSTEM EVOLUTION AND SPATIAL IMPACT.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Monthly net income of Phdscholarship (max 36 months)</th>
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<td>€ 1160.0</td>
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In case of a change of the welfare rates during the three-year period, the amount could be modified.

Context of the research activity

Motivation and objectives of the research in this field

Interdisciplinary PhD Grant
The PhD research will be carried out in collaboration with research groups of the PhD programme in "MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING". See http://www.dottorato.polimi.it/index.php?id=242&L=1 for further information.

The growth of B2c e-Commerce can be framed within the development of the "sharing economy" empowered by the digital technologies.
Several and different fields are influenced by this mainly economical and organizational change, based on both immaterial and material flows still difficult to analyze and to interpret in their complex relation.
The research aims at investigating the spatial effects of B2c e-Commerce in terms of: consumers habits and mobility, retail settlement reorganization, logistics sprawl, transport network over-congestion. All these effects represent a research field that needs a new conceptual and methodological framework based on a multidisciplinary approach.
This research focuses on two main issues, related on one side to the change of the retail sector according to the growth of e-Commerce; on the other one the new, different demand of transport infrastructures for the collection, distribution and delivery of goods.

The main objectives are:
- to determine the impact of B2c e-Commerce on the multichannel networks in the retail sector, both in the traditional urban districts and in the medium and large-sized shopping malls, many of them already suffering of decline and abandonment phenomena, partly related to e-Commerce growth;
- to explore the settlement practices of e-Commerce platforms in urban regions, with a focus on their role as hub for different flows (of goods, data, etc.) and their relationships with physical and digital networks;
- to determine the impact on traffic due to the deliveries performed by B2c e-Commerce operators (and/or express couriers) taking into account different combinations of solutions (home delivery through vans, parcel lockers, etc.);
- to understand if B2c e-Commerce with home delivery is environmentally more/less sustainable than traditional purchasing process and under which conditions.

The proposal can be supported by the joint activity of the B2c e-Commerce observatory, and two labs within the DASU-POLIMI that deal with transport networks and territorial dynamics related with retail: TRASPOL and URB&COM3, respectively.

The B2c Observatory provides descriptive statistics to monitor the development of Italy's electronic commerce market and its value and trends.

The innovative aspect of the proposal concerns the setting of a methodology for the integration of different disciplines and research fields, which requires flexible and multiscalar approach and skills.

The interdisciplinary methods and techniques include:

- data gathering about electronic commerce market, traffic flows (networks and nodes), retail network dynamics, transformation of the logistics supply;
- quantitative analysis (descriptive statistics and econometric analysis);
- spatial analysis and mapping, realized through GIS environments in order to understand the scales and the
spatial distribution of these phenomena;
• qualitative analysis, focusing on actors and stakeholders involved in these transformations;
• case study

Educational objectives

The expected result of this interdisciplinary PhD fellowship program is a new researcher's profile, able to bridge statistic models and performative mapping, in which the representation of socio-economic trends acquires a spatial dimension and focus on specific scales (regional, metropolitan, urban, etc.).

The relevance of the data collection and elaboration can be stressed integrating the spatial dimension of the phenomena, fostering new knowledge about the relation with urban and regional settlements' change.

Job opportunities

According to its international orientation, the UPDP course intends to train highly qualified researchers and professionals in spatial planning, design and management of urban projects and policy, urban studies and urban governance. Doctors with such profile could be employed by Italian and International academic institutions, public bodies and research centres, public and private development agencies. In the particular case of the topic offered under this call, doctors with such a degree could be also employed by national and international organisations in research, consultancy and design on smart cities and sharing society challenges.

Composition of the research group

12 Full Professors
11 Associated Professors
1 Assistant Professors
18 PhD Students

Name of the research directors
Morandi, Mariotti, Mangiaracina, Melacini

Contacts

PhD Coordinator
Paola Pucci
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Ph.D. tutor: 
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and Marilena Mastalli  
Email: marilena.mastalli@polimi.it  
Phone +39/02/2399. 5405  
Website:http://www.dastu.polimi.it/index.php?id=1146

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### Additional support - Financial aid per PhD student per year (gross amount)

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**Additional information: educational activity, teaching assistantship, computer availability, desk availability, any other information**

List of 5 Universities, Companies, Agencies and/or National or International Institutions that are cooperating in the research:
1. Dipartimento di Ingegneria Civile Edile ed Ambientale - La Sapienza, Rome (I);  
2. Departamento de Ciencia e Innovación - Instituto de Políticas y Bienes Públicos - Madrid (E);  
3. Consumer Data Research Centre - UK Economic and Social Research Council, Oxford (UK);  

**Educational activities** (purchase of study books and material, funding for participation in courses, summer schools, workshops and conferences) **financial aid per PhD student per year ("DOTE"):**  
1st year: max 0 euros  
2nd year: **max 1.534,33 euros**  
3rd year: **max 1.534,33 euros**

**Housing support for Out-of-town residents (more than 80Km far from Milan):**  
1 place available in a Polimi student residence at a reduced rate

**Computer availability:**  
In the PhD candidates room are available workstations for shared use, connected with the printer.
All the PhD students can use their own laptop with the wireless connection. Workstations and other equipment are available in the various laboratories linked with the doctoral programme.
PhD in URBAN PLANNING, DESIGN, AND POLICY - 34th cycle

Research Field: URBAN PLANNING, DESIGN AND POLICY

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In case of a change of the welfare rates during the three-year period, the amount could be modified.

**Context of the research activity**

UPDP PhD Program aims at exploring the significance and impact of contemporary urban changes and understanding the way these processes can be governed through planning, design and policy making activities. The program pays specific attention to the transition towards new, more sustainable and equitable modes of urban development as well as to pro-active advancements in planning practices and to potential innovations in traditional urban studies, urban design and policy approaches. Starting from this perspective, UPDP PhD Program is organized in the following research areas:

- **Urban studies**: Contemporary cities worldwide are confronted with increasing challenges regarding local democracy, sustainable development, management of environmental resources and landscape, social cohesion and cultural diversity. Looking at recent crossscalar urban changes, the main research topics are: forms and processes of the spatialization of social and economic inequalities; urban segregation; differentiation of urban populations; processes and institutions of urban governance; spatial impact of social innovation; forms and processes of regionalization and processes of social, economic and territorial development in local contexts.

- **Planning theories and practices**: Urban planning is not a unitary or self-contained discipline and planning
knowledge and activities can be improved by delving into both theoretical and practical issues. First, the cultures, ethics, traditions and paradigms of planning are varied and have been evolving differently according to their geographical, institutional and political context. Similarly, planning practice is multiform and can be understood from several perspectives. Studying the characteristics, the peculiar interpretations and the effects of planning practices constitutes a second relevant research field. Thirdly, the selection and discussion of the crossroads between planning and other disciplines can dramatically innovate planning theories and practices.

**Design topics, forms and tools:** In a scenario of changing socio-economic, environmental and territorial conditions, theoretical and technical issues for the construction of urban projects and the implementation of governance policies are being experimented with as a way to improve the quality of life. Among them, specific research themes are: role and form of the urban projects in leading territorial transformations; strategies for land and biodiversity preservation and energy conservation; tools for the evaluation and management of urban projects, aimed at mastering the feasibility and equity of land development, as well as the sustainability and the design quality of the physical outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Methods and techniques that will be developed and used to carry out the research</th>
<th>The integration between different fields and disciplines of urban research on the one hand, and between theory and practice on the other, distinguishes the approach promoted by the PhD program. Based on this, educational activities are supported by introductory courses, which focus on research methods, comparative assessment of best practices and design workshops. The main courses and workshops provided in the first year are the following:</th>
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<td>• <strong>specialized courses on Research Methods</strong>, providing a methodological introduction to the doctoral</td>
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dissertation (literature review, drafting of a research project), as well as research tools in the fields of urban planning, policy and design;

- **a planning and design research workshop**, in which different experiences and skills are combined in order to explore themes and methods of urban planning, policy making and project design. The workshop, organized in an intensive period of work, will be anticipated by introductory seminars offered by the three research areas of Urban studies; Planning theories and practices; Design topics, forms and tools;

- **intensive and interactive seminars**, focusing on specific sets of topics in the three research areas of Urban studies; Planning theories and practices; Design topics, forms and tools, emphasizing a comparative approach among relevant Italian and international experiences.

Each learning activity is subject to grading through oral examination and the submission of written papers and essays. Detailed programs are available on the PhD program’s website. Within the end of the first year, PhD students will be required to submit a project proposal for their PhD dissertation.

The core activities of the second year are:

- a bibliographic essay related to the PhD dissertation, to be presented and reviewed within the first month of the first semester;
- an internship of six months in a foreign university or agency working in the field of urban planning and policy; a written report is due to the Board;
- at least one paper submitted to an international journal and the participation in an international conference as a speaker.

During the third year the PhD candidate should devote his/her time to research and development of the PhD thesis. For each candidate, one member of the Board will be appointed as a Tutor, responsible for supervising and supporting the candidate's work. The Tutor and the whole Board will follow the preparation of the Thesis, and will
**Educational objectives**

The program aims at providing analytical and interpretative tools, as well as research/planning/design methodologies, able to produce further advancement in urban studies, spatial and land use planning, urban design, urban policies and governance.

By establishing a dialogue with the best European and International schools, this PHD program is the place for research and innovative approaches to urban studies, spatial planning and urban design.

The objective of the UPDP Program is to provide PhD Students with the analytical and interpretative tools and skills together with research/planning/design methodologies to advance research in the field of urban studies, spatial planning, urban design, urban policy and governance.

PhD Students are encouraged to reflect upon traditional and innovative practices in these fields by participating in research activities concerning cities and regions in both Italy and abroad, paying particular attention to international comparison.

**Job opportunities**

According to its international orientation, the program intends to train highly qualified researchers and professionals and expects them to work in academic institutions, research centers, public administrations and the private sector in spatial planning, design and management of urban projects and policy, urban studies and urban governance. PhD Doctors with such a profile are qualified to be employed by Italian and International academic institutions, public bodies and research centers, as well as public and private development agencies.

**Composition of the research group**

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Professors</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD Students</td>
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**Name of the research directors**

Paola Pucci

**Contacts**

**PhD Coordinator:**

prof. Paola Pucci
Additional support - Financial aid per PhD student per year (gross amount)

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Additional information: educational activity, teaching assistantship, computer availability, desk availability, any other information

List of 5 Universities, Companies, Agencies and/or National or International Institutions that are cooperating in the research:
1. Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
2. HafenCity Universitaet Hamburg
3. Bartlett School of Planning, UCL
5. Sciences Po, Paris

**Educational activities** (purchase of study books and material, funding for participation in courses, summer schools, workshops and conferences): financial aid per PhD student per year ("DOTE"):

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