



PhD in URBAN PLANNING, DESIGN, AND POLICY - 38th cycle

PARTENARIATO PNRR Research Field: NEW INFRASTRUCTURAL MODELS AND STRATEGIES FOR SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION OF THE "ITALIA DI MEZZO"

Monthly net income of PhDscholarship (max 36 months)

€ 1195.5

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

The PhD research is part of the activities of a research projects funded under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), Mission 4 Component 2 Investment 1.3 funded from the European Union NextGenerationEU, within the PNRR theme N. 9. Economic-financial sustainability of systems and territories, GRINS - *Growing Resilient INclusive and Sustainable*, Spoke 7: *Territorial sustainability*. (Decreto di avviso D.D. 341 del 15/03/2022; Decreto di concessione D.D. 1558 del 11/10/2022; C.U.P. n. D43C22003110001).

The field of research includes theoretical and operative research activities concerning territorial disparities, gaps in the provision of infrastructures and services, models for ex-ante forecasting and ex-post evaluation of investments in infrastructures and services.

The main objective of the PNRR research is to identify the key challenges for transition towards sustainable, inclusive, and smart cities and territories with a focus on the so-called *Italia di mezzo*, i.e., geographical areas including mid-size cities and their wider polycentric and low-density urban systems.

This part of the Italian territory that cannot be ascribed either to metropolitan areas or inner (peripheral) areas comprises 55% of the Italian population and 50% of the total land area. It includes medium-sized cities, metropolitan fringes, minor polycentric urban systems,



	<p>coastal settlements, valley and foothill conurbations, and agro-industrial territories in the plains and hills. Although Italy is the "provincial" country par excellence, composed of multiple territorial small and medium urban realities that flank each other, <i>Italia di mezzo</i> has never been thematized as a unitary context.</p> <p>With a focus on the themes of urban-territorial polycentrism and socio-ecological infrastructures, the PhD research project aims at: 1) providing an updated and differentiated representation of the <i>Italia di mezzo</i>; 2) describing and analysing its recent/ongoing socio-demographic, environmental and infrastructural metamorphoses and fragilities, focusing also on those transformations caused or accelerated by the economic and pandemic crises; 3) defining differentiate planning and policy solutions. In relation to planning, the research has two specific objectives: i) to test within different Italian territorial areas the impact of the new trends in living, working, mobility and tourism and to connect them to the current environmental conditions and possible future scenarios; ii) to design fine-tuned policies and strategies for different territorial typology and define case-related solutions.</p>
<p>Methods and techniques that will be developed and used to carry out the research</p>	<p>The PhD research requires the use of a plurality of integrated research methodologies and approaches.</p> <p>1) A wider review of the literature describing the main identifying features of this portion of the Italian territory at national, regional, and local scale.</p> <p>2) The quantitative spatialization of the demographic, infrastructural and socio-economic dynamics in the last decades to identify different territorial situations and trends.</p> <p>3) The qualitative exploration of selected case studies that will be investigated from the point of view of social infrastructures, accessibility, and environmental vulnerability.</p> <p>4) The analysis of integrated and sectoral policies concerning vulnerabilities, risks, and infrastructures in the observed case studies.</p> <p>The PhD candidate will articulate the research through</p>



	<p>fundamental operations aimed at (i) measuring and monitoring infrastructures and services? gapsto define detailed maps to describe territorial disparities and local vulnerability for specific case studies; (ii) identifying policies and interventions to reduce divides between territories; (iii) analysing the role of infrastructures and related services on urbanization processes, residential choices, mobility patterns and choices, firms' relocation decisions, also through lab-in the field experiments and design thinking approach involving local actors; (iv) designing area-specific strategies for gap/vulnerability reduction and equalization policies.</p>
Educational objectives	<p>Through her/his study, the candidate will develop analytical and interpretative tools, as well as research/planning/design methodologies, to produce further advancement in urban studies, spatial and land use planning, green &blue infrastructure design, urban policies, and territorial governance with particular attention to polycentric networks and low-density urban settlements.</p> <p>Mixed-research methods, i.e., qualitative and quantitative analysis methods, research by design approaches, will be applied by the candidate in order to analyze, represent, and develop new infrastructural models and strategies for the socio-ecological transition of "Italia di mezzo".</p>
Job opportunities	<p>According to its international orientation, the PhD programme in Urban Planning, Design and Policy trains highly qualified researchers and professionals in spatial planning, design and management of urban projects and policy, urban studies and urban governance.</p> <p>Doctors with such a profile could be employed by Italian and international academic institutions, public bodies and research centres, and public and private development agencies.</p>
Composition of the research group	<p>13 Full Professors 12 Associated Professors 0 Assistant Professors 52 PhD Students</p>
Name of the research directors	Arturo Lanzani, Francesco Curci



Contacts

Research supervisor:

Prof. Arturo Lanzani, Prof. Francesco Curci

e-mail: arturo.lanzani@polimi.it

PhD programme coordinator:

prof. Luca Gaeta

e-mail: luca.gaeta@polimi.it

phone +39/02/2399.5426

Contact in the PhD office at DASTU:

dr. Marina Bonaventura

E-mail: marina.bonaventura@polimi.it;

phone +39/02/2399.5165

Further information is available at: Handbook a.y. 2018/2019 of the PhD Program in Urban Planning, Design and Policy (UPDP): <https://www.dastu.polimi.it/dottorato-urbanplanning/>

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

Housing - Foreign Students	--
Housing - Out-of-town residents (more than 80Km out of Milano)	--

Scholarship Increase for a period abroad

Amount monthly	597.76 €
By number of months	6

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

Individual funds are available to purchase books and material, participate to summer schools, workshops and conferences:

1st year: max 1.624.30 euro per student

2nd year: max 1.624.30 euro per student

3rd year: max 1.624.30 euro per student

Various forms of financial aid are available for both research and teaching activities. PhD students are encouraged to take part in these activities within the limits allowed by the regulations.

In the PhD room workstations are available for shared use connected with a printer. All PhD students can use their own laptop with a wireless connection. Workstations and other equipment are available in the various laboratories linked with the doctoral programme.



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