



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

PARTENARIATO PNRR Research Field: GENDER EQUALITY IN THE CITY: CHALLENGES AND ACTION PATHS

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

Contemporary cities are places in which women experience significant barriers in their daily life, barriers in the physical, social, economic and political spheres, that infringe their possibilities to fully develop their potential and to actively participate to urban life. Some of those barriers are culturally ingrained in the daily habits and practices of use of cities and urban spaces, and in the usual forms of interaction, to the point to which they are not visible anymore. The dynamics and effects of gender inequality cannot be understood in isolation, but they should be appraised and tackled within their political, institutional, normative, socio-economic and territorial context. At the same time, gender alone does not explain the profound and systemic inequalities forbidding to tap into the full potential of local societies, because social class, ethnic origin, age and many other characters tend to mix in complex ways, leading to intersectional effects on individual lives and on communities.

In the framework of the PNRR Next generation EU *MUSA* project (Multilayered Urban Sustainability Action), Spoke 6 activities call for *Innovation for Sustainable and Inclusive Societies* (Decreto di avviso D.D. 3277 del 30/12/2021; decreto di concessione D.D. 1055 del 23/06/2022, n. CUP D43C22001410007) involving four Milan universities and a number of public and private stakeholders, aim to work towards this goal, among other issues, with a focus on issues related to the gender dimension in the city, through the development of actions for boosting gender



	<p>balance; supporting actions for STEM studies; improvement of actions for supporting women's empowerment in organizations and in politics.</p> <p>Within this framework, the doctoral research project will identify the main dynamics and barriers to full gender equality in the use of urban space and in education in Milan, analysing in depth the apparent paradox of an urban context known for its dynamics and its ability to innovate, which is fairly segregated and poorly inclusive in many domains of private and public life, showing performances in line with those of the rest of the country. The project focuses on three main fields for analysis, outreach and experimentation: urban space at different scales; digital inclusion; higher education, to be analysed in depth in constant dialogue with scholars and researchers in different fields, as well as with societal stakeholders.</p> <p>The three fields will be organized in a matrix, fostering and enhancing integration and cross fertilization, and strengthening cross-sectoral learning and innovation.</p>
<p>Methods and techniques that will be developed and used to carry out the research</p>	<p>In order to respond to the main project objectives, the PhD research project will mobilise different analytical and interpretative tools, along with a distinct policy design approach. In particular, it will involve methods such as: qualitative and quantitative analysis of primary sources (e.g. through surveys) as well as secondary ones (e.g. official data at different scales); extensive mapping at different scales; forms of outreach and involvement of societal actors; research by design, focusing on experimental projects. For the first issue, the methods to be deployed will involve the identification of the main gender barriers in distinct areas and sectors, such as the use of urban space at different scales, as well as digital inclusion, and higher education, and their potential connections. In order to do so, both in depth analysis of secondary sources (such as statistical data in the fields, e.g. of demographic change, labour market, mobility, education) and the design and implementation of targeted surveys can be envisaged.</p> <p>Related to these data collection and analysis methods,</p>



	<p>the research will require extensive mapping, in order to specifically relate some emerging phenomena to the spatial and territorial contexts in which they take place. Thirdly, the research will entail, all along its development, methods to involve and engage different societal actors, for instance target groups, but also technical experts, mentors, policy makers, etc.</p> <p>This will be done through forms of online and offline interaction, that will be designed, tested and assessed during the research. Finally, the PhD research will foresee distinct research by design activity, to be deployed through forms of meta-design (designing the conditions and the tools conducive to a specific project) at strategic policy level or at more specific action level.</p>
Educational objectives	<p>The aim of the PhD proposal is to train a young researcher, that will acquire cross-disciplinary competences in the field of gender issues and urban policies. In particular, the educational objectives are linked to train an early stage researcher in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - understanding gender issues in the city as a complex array of related fields, which entail physical, societal and cultural components, in strict connection - the ability to correctly identify barriers to gender equality in different sectors and at different scales, through the analysis and interpretation of qualitative and quantitative data in a dynamic perspective - the capacity to map and correctly spatialize ongoing phenomena - the ability to design and test forms of societal outreach - the capacity to design and assess pilot project initiatives in the field, reflecting on their replicability and scalability
Job opportunities	<p>Given the context in which the PhD research training will take place, the candidate will have opportunities from an early stage to enter in contact and fruitfully interact with different societal actors, as well as with diverse academic fields. Specifically, the candidate will get acquainted with public policy makers and with private actors involved in higher education and in urban policies in the Milan urban region, and will be engaged in the dissemination of results of the ongoing research, thus paving the way for the</p>



	entrance in the job market. Issues related to contrasting gender imbalances and supporting the unleashing of the full potential of women in the fields of urban policies as well as in higher education, looking at the digital dimension, will be areas of election for future job opportunities in higher education, in Local Authorities or in private companies.
Composition of the research group	12 Full Professors 13 Associated Professors 0 Assistant Professors 45 PhD Students
Name of the research directors	Prof. Carolina Pacchi

Contacts	
<p>Research supervisor: Prof. Carolina Pacchi e-mail: carolina.pacchi@polimi.it</p> <p>PhD program coordinator: prof. Luca Gaeta e-mail: luca.gaeta@polimi.it phone +39/02/2399.5426</p> <p>Contact in the PhD Office at DASTU: dr. Marina Bonaventura E-mail: marina.bonaventura@polimi.it; phone +39/02/2399.5165</p> <p>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/</p>	

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

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

1st year: max 1.624,30 euros per student

2nd year: max 1.624,30 euros per student

3rd year: max 1.624,30 euros 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. 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.