



PhD in DESIGN - 39th cycle

PNRR 118 PA Research Field: CO-DESIGN OF PUBLIC SPACES THROUGH THEATRE PERFORMANCES FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

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

"We believe that we are made of the same flesh that places are made of (...). We are maps of ourselves and the places around us". (F. La Cecla, 1988) The research aims to investigate virtuous practices of interdisciplinary collaboration in design, theater practices and urban policies for the promotion of inclusive communities (SDG 11). Recognizing the role of urban public space as a "theater of events" that generate, determine, and qualify social and personal relationships, the research focuses on the potential of urban spaces activated by theatrical practice, in processes of multicultural integration in socially fragile contexts. Public space and theater share multiple aspects including, for example: the performative dimension of the body and bodies in space; the representative and symbolic value of the collective ritual; the narrative, educational and identity significance of places, stories and people; the process of co-designing and participation of actors and spectators in the creation of the event. For these reasons, it is interesting to develop interdisciplinary practices starting from the hybridization between consolidated skills, those of urban space design and those of theatrical art. Cities today face broad social, environmental and economic challenges. Among these, the welcoming of new inhabitants, migrants, within border contexts, constitutes a challenge for the construction of open, dialoguing, inclusive communities. The research aims to explore the potential of designing performative actions in public space both for the activation of social and urban innovation processes. Urban policies at an international level today promote forms of collective co-



	<p>planning and co-construction (placemaking) of public space, favoring its "domestication" and proximity (Manzini, 2022), to enhance the relational dimension (Bourriaud, 2010), of belonging and sharing. At the same time, theatrical performances in public space, when they are site specific and user centered, provoke unexplored perceptive reactions, produce unpublished narrative contents and finally represent an opportunity to activate a mutual "cure" between places and individuals. The ultimate goal of the doctoral research work is to increase the knowledge available to cultural, social actors and planners and local administrators to promote actions of social inclusion between migrants and inhabitants, to weave new relationships and belongings, through the experimentation of "environmental theatre" projects (Schechner, 1984) which activate social and urban space innovation in places where daily life takes place. The Municipality of Palermo has a great expertise in dealing with social inclusion projects and was already involved in the EU-funded EASYRIGHTS project (EU Horizon 2020) that intends to support the co-creation of a system by different local actors to increase the quantity and quality of public services offered to immigrants.</p>
<p>Methods and techniques that will be developed and used to carry out the research</p>	<p>The research is based on a solid literature that explores the role of theatrical performing arts in relation to architectural and urban space and aims to define possible lines of action as a response to the challenge of inclusive cities in contexts of social fragility. The research consists of some initial phases of desk research, such as the mapping and understanding of the notable experiences (best practices) already conducted at an international level and the definition of a set of hybridized and interdisciplinary tools and processes. However, a decisive part in the development of the project will be made up of field research, an action-research that produces knowledge that can be directly spent on the territory, also through experimental actions, in projects whose aim is the improvement of the conditions of communities, organizations and local agents. For this phase, methods and tools will be adopted for: reading and mapping of the territory (with the support of local actors); co-design, for</p>



	the identification of the stakeholder network up to their engagement in the project; development of participatory design and performance paths, up to the experimentation of a pilot project in the city of Palermo.
Educational objectives	<p>The training objectives can be summarized in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increase and expand the knowledge of interdisciplinary tools between design and theatre in urban space - develop understanding of social inclusion practices, with particular focus to the issue of migrants in fragile and border urban contexts - develop a capacity for a multidisciplinary approach in the development of urban and social innovation projects, in close synergy with local actors and public administrations - develop the capacity of the local communities, PA and the actors involved in envisioning and designing for sustainable development - learn skills in the field of co-designing aimed at attracting resources for the development of projects in the field
Job opportunities	<p>The trained profile is a cultural planner who works with the tools of participatory planning to promote initiatives of social inclusion, theatrical experimentation and urban innovation. This profile can be inserted into cultural and creative enterprises, in particular those linked to the performative and communicative dimension but also those that look at the processes of urban regeneration and enhancement (both in reference to the conformation of the public space and to the cultural and social - intangible heritage - of places). It also fits into social enterprises, with particular sensitivity towards the issues of inclusion, multiculturalism, social integration and marginality in general. Finally, he can find a place as a freelance consultant for entities that administer the local and supra-local sphere: public administrations, foundations, territorial development entities.</p>
Composition of the research group	<p>0 Full Professors 2 Associated Professors 1 Assistant Professors 0 PhD Students</p>
Name of the research directors	Agnese Rebaglio; Barbara Di Prete



Contacts

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Additional support - Financial aid per PhD student per year (gross amount)	
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Housing - Foreign Students	--
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Housing - Out-of-town residents (more than 80Km out of Milano)	--
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Scholarship Increase for a period abroad	
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Amount monthly	597.75 €
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By number of months	6
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National Operational Program for Research and Innovation	
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Company where the candidate will attend the stage (name and brief description)	Comune di Palermo, Area dell'Innovazione e delle Politiche Migratorie ed Emergenziali
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By number of months at the company	8
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Institution or company where the candidate will spend the period abroad (name and brief description)	Ecole Doctorale "Sciences de l'Environnement", University "Centrale Méditerranée" (Aix-Marseille)
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By number of months abroad	6
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Additional information: educational activity, teaching assistantship, computer availability, desk availability, any other information

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
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max 4.872,90 euros per student (total for 3 years)
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Teaching assistantship: availability of funding in recognition of supporting teaching activities by the PhD student there are various forms of financial aid both for research and teaching activities. The PhD student is encouraged to take part in these activities, within the limits allowed by the regulations.

Computer availability: 1st year, 2nd year and 3rd year: Each research group will supply PhD student with a computer, if necessary.
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Desk availability: 1st year, 2nd year and 3rd year: Each research group will supply phd student with a desk.
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