



PhD in DESIGN - 39th cycle

THEMATIC Research Field: REFRAMING PARTICIPATORY DESIGN FOR THIRD-SECTOR ORGANIZATIONS' SPATIAL PRACTICES

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 research aims to build a design-driven protocol for third-sector organizations (TSOs) regarding the optimization of the spaces that host them.

The aspect of the spaces inhabited by TSOs should be enhanced, given the importance of the environmental and psycho-therapeutic qualities of the spaces, which are widely recognized in the literature as bringing benefits to those who use the services provided and to the providers themselves.

However, this aspect is often considered of secondary importance, mainly for economic reasons. One consequence is that the distribution and furnishing of the spaces are often decided by the volunteers themselves, who tend to reproduce traditional and already consolidated functions and forms, not without conflicts related to their different needs, as well as compulsively collecting any donation of objects and furnishings. Even though the Italian third sector has been very active and dynamic in the past and still gets a lot of support and recognition from the government, it runs into two problems due to the growing involvement of civil society. The first is the competition established for access to visibility, which makes public attention the prize reserved for subjects most able to appear attractive and usually economically more robust. The second, on the other hand, is concerned with the deterioration of associative relationships and the resulting dissociative and conflicting effects, particularly at the level of individual organizations (Citroni, 2022).



	<p>In this sense, design for social innovation, especially in its declinations with a higher degree of participation in the first phases, can help improve decision-making processes but must deal with numerous challenges, especially concerning the conflictual aspect, which has already been mentioned, and the designer's role in the process.</p>
<p>Methods and techniques that will be developed and used to carry out the research</p>	<p>A possible path of activity within the doctorate may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A first phase of theoretical investigation with a sensitive and critical analysis concerning the state of the art of design tools and methodologies, investigating their context of use, their results, and their effectiveness. •Analysis and identification of best practices and methods. •Definition of a design-driven protocol for third-sector organizations (TSOs) regarding the optimization of the spaces that host them. •The protocol developed will be applied in different participatory projects, to test its effectiveness.
<p>Educational objectives</p>	<p>At Politecnico di Milano, participatory design approaches with varying degrees of participation are already well-established. Yet, considering recent criticisms about the effectiveness of co-design in general, it becomes vital to reassess its practical use.</p> <p>This research could improve it, by incorporating it into the current educational curriculum to better train designers for new contemporary issues. The methodology and protocols developed could also be applied by students in university courses, to the benefit of both them and the TSOs they will work with.</p>
<p>Job opportunities</p>	<p>Design thinking and co-design processes are beginning to be used in various non-profit fields. They allow everyone to use methods and approaches from the design sphere. However, figures who can act as activators in participatory processes and who can use the skills related to the design of spaces in a critical and situated way are</p>



	required by various operators in the sector.
Composition of the research group	0 Full Professors 3 Associated Professors 1 Assistant Professors 5 PhD Students
Name of the research directors	Anna Barbara, Alessandro Biamonti, Barbara Camocini

Contacts
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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	597.75 €
By number of months	6

Additional information: educational activity, teaching assistantship, computer availability, desk availability, any other information
<p>Educational activities (purchase of study books and material, funding for participation in courses, summer schools, workshops and conferences):</p> <p>financial aid per PhD student per year max 4.872,90 euros per student (total for 3 years)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Computer availability: 1st year, 2nd year and 3rd year: Each research group will supply PhD student with a computer, if necessary.</p> <p>Desk availability: 1st year, 2nd year and 3rd year: Each research group will supply phd student with a desk.</p>