Starting from this issue, the PhD Newsletter includes two new sections: a “Leading Article”, and a “From the Web” section.

The Leading Article is a contribution - mostly but not necessarily from a Faculty member of Politecnico di Milano - on a hot topic, of interest for PhD candidates and in general for all young researchers. Today's contribution is from Professor Enrico De Angelis, Head of the PhD Programme in "Architecture, Built Environment, and Construction Engineering" on a key subject: open access publishing.

The "From the Web" section will include interesting contributions picked up from the Internet. Please submit further possible interesting contributions with an email to phdnewsletter@polimi.it

**Leading Article**

**EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES (EUA) AND OPEN ACCESS**

*By Enrico De Angelis (DABC-Polimi)*

The European University Association (EUA) has recently issued a document stating a formal initiative about Open Access (OA) and the transition that European universities should do toward it. EUA works as representative in European Institutions (its office is in Bruxelles), as well as think tank about the future of European Universities and recently created an Expert Group (2015, chair Jean-Pierre Finance, former President of Henri Poincaré University) devoted to the topics of Open Science and Science 2.0, with the main aim to support them in defining their digital agenda and to influence EU initiatives.

The document states that EUA is eager to collaborate with Universities and their stakeholders, enhance the dialogue among them and dig into the deep sea of questions linked to Open Access: ethics, transparency, text and data mining and valorization of research data, on one side, copyright and data protection on another side, new models of evaluation and research quality assessment, …: Open Access is definitely considered a challenge and an opportunity. The document states also the EUA Vision about this topic:

*Universities and scientists should have adequate and cost-effective platforms for collaborating, disseminating and using scientific publications openly.*

Open Access is not new (here you can find a long list of political declarations and recommendations) and Politecnico di Milano, thanks to the work of pro-rector Donatella Sciuto, faced the question and recently clearly defined its policy (as you can see below).

Now, this challenge and an opportunity must become a practice for all us too. For example, starting with a systematic publication of the Doctoral thesis of all our Candidates.
Calls and events

PHD CALL FOR ADMISSIONS
Applications for PhD positions at Politecnico di Milano are now open! Deadline: May 27th, 2016. The Call for the XXXII cycle includes 229 PhD positions in the 18 PhD programmes, including 177 positions covered with scholarships. Assessment results will be published by July 25th, and the selected candidates will enrol by November 2nd, 2016.

IDEA LEAGUE SUMMER SCHOOLS: CALL FOR PARTICIPATION
IDEA League is the strategic alliance among five leading European universities of technology, science and engineering: TUDelft, ETH Zurich, RWTH AachenUni, ChalmersUT, and Politecnico di Milano. Each year, IDEA League organizes five Summer Schools and offers to the students of the network the unique opportunity to develop new insights into current research and to enhance their skills and academic excellence. NO TUITION FEES are to be paid: board and lodging offered, only travel costs are to be covered.

Detailed programmes of 2016 Summer Schools, and the call for applications (deadline May 20th, 2016):

PHD-ITALENTS CALL
The PhD-ITalents is a project managed by the CRUI Foundation (Conference of Italian Universities’ Rectors) in partnership with Confindustria (Federation of Italian Employers), which supports companies in hiring young PhDs with high innovatory impact in the strategic sectors, such as Energy, Agroindustrial, Cultural Heritage, Sustainable Mobility, Health and Life Science - ICT. Until the deadline of May 27th 2016, interested PhD candidates may find on the PhD-ITalents website the companies’ work offers.

DISCOVER CAREERS ABROAD / 1: MEET CONTACT SINGAPORE
Contact Singapore (see the portal), an alliance of the Singapore Economic Development Board and Ministry of Manpower will come on campus to illustrate the opportunities for Engineering PhDs in Singapore’s research and academic institutions. Doctoral Candidates in any Engineering field wanted. Don’t miss this opportunity!

May 19th 2016, 10.00-12.00 – Campus Leonardo –, Building 2, via Bonardi 2, Milan [register here]

DISCOVER CAREERS ABROAD / 2: MEET SICHUAN DELEGATION
Politecnico di Milano will host an official delegation of the Sichuan government. Located in the South-Western China, Sichuan, with its 80+ million inhabitants, is the 4th most populated province in China and its capital Chengdu (14+ millions) a key economic and financial center in Western China. Are you interested in a career opportunity in Sichuan, as faculty professor, researcher, post-doc or PhD student? Information about exact time, location, and registration procedure will be distributed soon. Preference will be given to candidates engaged in Sichuan’s strategic industries, namely, ICT, energy, high-end equipment, new materials, automobile manufacturing, finance, logistics, and so on.

WORKSHOP @ POLIMI: COOPERATE THROUGH SCIENTIFIC SUBJECTS
This is the second of a series of workshops intended to raise awareness among young women of the importance of the choice of technical and scientific paths in their study experience. The workshop (in Italian) will include contributes from women engaged in key cooperation and research roles.

Tuesday, May 24th 2016 - 3.30PM, Aula Magna
Seminars

MeccPhD Lecture 2016 – Designing with natural fibres composites
Natural fibres are being increasingly used as reinforcement in polymer composites. Ignaas Verpoest holds the Toray Chair in Composite Materials at KU Leuven and is the Chairman of the European Scientific Committee of CELC, the European Confederation on Flax and Hemp; he will give an overview of technical performances of natural fibres (stiffness and vibration damping capacity) and of the most recent textiles, of their non-technical characteristics and their application domains in consumer goods.
May 13th, 2016, 2:00 pm – Sala Corsi, Building B22, Via La Masa 1 – Campus Bovisa

Science and technology at Stonehenge: new methods and results
The Cultural Heritage Center and the FDS Laboratory for the Communication of Science are proud to invite researchers to listen to the protagonists of the Stonehenge Hidden Landscapes Project, that brought new perspectives on the interpretation of the most inspiring and mysterious Neolithic site, thanks to extensive underground 3D maps, detailed down to a depth of several meters, realized with the help of the latest technology (magnetometers, ground-penetrating radar arrays, electromagnetic induction sensors and geo-referenced navigation tools) without digging operations.
May 18th, 2016 – h. 09.30 - Aula Rogers - Edificio 11 – Campus Leonardo [Registration required, here]

ABCPhD Open Talks 02 - CATHERINE MAUMI @Polimi
Catherine is the head of the Laboratoire Métiers de l’Histoire de l’Architecture, édifices-villes, territoires and joint supervisor, where history is used as tool to understand the present: at the scale of an architecture, of a town or of a country. She will talk about “The job of Architectural Historian”.
May 18th h.14:30-16:30 – Bldg. 15, 1st floor – Campus Leonardo, ABC Dept. - aula Consiglio

Colloquia Doctoralia

PhD Programme in Materials Engineering
Final Exams of PhD candidates.
May 2nd, 2016 - Sala Conferenze “Giulio Natta”, Dipartimento di Chimica, Materiali e Ingegneria Chimica

Starting courses – Doctoral Programmes

PhD in Architecture, Built Environment and Construction Engineering

DESIGN/MEMORY/INVENTION
Proff. C.Pallini, N.Lombardini, F.Bonfante
The course aims to face two questions: “What is research in architecture?” and “What future for which past?” through the exam of a series of exemplary projects, that “pushed forward” technical solutions, spatial frameworks and expressive forms, showing the contribution of diverse expertise and approaches.
The course will start on May 4th 2016
WOOD (AS CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL)

Prof. Maria Adelaide Parisi

Wood as construction material is traditional and innovative at the same time. Industrial evolution has overcome the limits of the basic material and opened new horizons in structural as well as non-structural applications. New approaches and new technologies in the rehabilitation of existing and heritage structures offer structurally sound solutions compatible with cultural heritage conservation principles. The course aims at providing a broad view of the world of wood, with knowledge of current developments, research issues, and open questions.

The course has started on May 2nd 2016

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR PLANNING, ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT

Proff. G. Pelagatti, P. Lanzi, M. Matteucci (DEIB)

The course covers the basics of Information Modelling (in particular spatial information) and Data Analysis for applications from regional planning to build management, in construction.

The course will start on May 10th 2016

PhD in Design

TOOLS FOR RESEARCH IN DESIGN

Prof. Lucia Rosa Elena Rampino

The course intend to give the student the ability to identify - starting from their research topic - a channel of appropriate funding. Therefore the lessons deal with the following subjects: strategic planning of research, national and international channels of financing, strategic areas for the design, most promising fields, identification of emerging areas.

The course will start on May 16th 2016

PhD in Materials Engineering

METHODS OF MATERIALS CHARACTERIZATION

Prof. Paolo Ossi, Guido Raos

Seminars about Raman spectroscopy, atomic force microscopy, scanning Auger microscopy, confocal microscopy.

The course will start on May 24th 2016

PhD in Mechanical Engineering

PhD in Mathematical Models and Methods in Engineering

SEISMIC INVERSE PROBLEMS: ANALYSIS, ITERATIVE RECONSTRUCTION AND COMPUTATION

Prof. Maarten V. de Hoop (Rice University)

In this course we will study inverse boundary value problems arising in seismology pertaining seismic waves focusing on mainly stability and reconstruction.

The course will start on May 16th 2016
**PhD in Mechanical Engineering**

**NONLINEAR DYNAMICS OF OSCILLATING SYSTEMS**

Prof. Olivier Thomas, Arts et Métiers ParisTech

This course aims at providing the bases of the nonlinear dynamics of systems for modern engineers. It will focus on mechanical systems (but examples of electrical systems will also be considered, through mechatronics systems), tackling all the aspects of engineering practice: system modelling, nonlinear dynamics systems, analytical and numerical solutions and experimental techniques, illustrated by practical examples, with industrial applications.

The course will start on May 2nd 2016

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**PhD in Structural Seismic and Geotechnical Engineering**

**SELECTED TOPICS OF EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING**

Prof. Maria Gabriella Mulas

The course presents some basic topics of earthquake engineering, from the representation of seismic events to the modelling of structural behaviour under earthquake loading, and few advanced topics i.e. multiple-support excitation and soil-structure interaction.

The course will start on May 4th 2016

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**MECHANICAL BEHAVIOR OF HISTORIC MASONRY STRUCTURES**

Prof. Dario Coronelli

The course presents the fundamentals of testing, diagnostics and analysis of masonry structures, from elementary to complex structures and real problems and the effect of modern repair and strengthening interventions.

The course will start on May 23rd 2016

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The Politecnico di Milano promotes open access to scientific literature: the **University Policy on Open Access to Scientific Literature**, active since October 2014, states that every professor, researcher, and collaborator have to store his scientific products in Politecnico’s open access archive **REPUBLIC@POLIMI**, notwithstanding the cases of incompatibility with other rights (publishers’ copyright policies) and procedures (patents). This archive is indexed by internet search engines, and promotes the dissemination of Politecnico’s scientific products, ensuring a high impact for their authors and a high visibility of their university.
Others

Other courses

SUMMER SCHOOL, WROCLAW, POLAND
The 4th edition of 3E+ International Summer School at Wrocław University of Science and Technology will be held within 4-22 July, 2016.

Registration deadline: May 6th, 2016.

From the web:

Adam Grant is a young Wharton School (PennUni) professor, expert in organizational psychology and this is his last TED, dated feb-2016: a 15’ talk about creativity, doubts and the positive “originals” and the “moderate procrastinators”: worth to be watched. Few excerpts:

- don’t fear doubts about: they energize your idea: test, experiment, refine it;
- don’t fear trying and mistakes, because in the long run, your biggest regrets won’t be not your actions but your inactions.
- being original is not easy, but it’s the best way to improve the world and ... take your doubts easy: to be original you don’t have to be first

The detailed Programme of each course is available from the Programmes’ Courses page, or here: . For more information, i.e. about starting date and classrooms, please check the “notes” field in the Course Details (follow the icon: ) or send an email message to the responsible for the Course: . Candidates from PoliMi PhD School must include the Course in their study plan. Others must contact the responsible for the course.

To submit information about seminar, events, and other news for publication in forthcoming newsletters, please download and fill in the following format, and E-mail it to: phd-newsletter@polimi.it

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