



# PhD in DESIGN - 38th cycle

## PNRR\_351\_PUBBL\_AMMIN Research Field: THE QUEER CITY: HOW TO DESIGN INCLUSIVE PUBLIC SPACES

**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**

Public spaces are becoming places of social innovation, offering a context where creative communities act (Meroni, 2007) to provide original solutions to the daily problems that the current economic system is no longer able to provide. City is multifaceted entity and a dense structure at the same time, including tangled nets of dynamic and self-organizing systems at different administrative, political and technological scales, for the creation of more sustainable futures. But are our cities designed for everyone? Are this bottom-up processes inclusive for all the urban populations? The importance of preserving cultural and social diversity has been widely acknowledged, being "as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature" (UNESCO, 2001), and can be interpreted as a key factor in the shaping of a city's identity. One of the objectives of the PNRR is based on inclusion and cohesion, especially on gender cohesion. This research theme wants to support participation and communities involvement because ensuring full social inclusion is key also to improving territorial cohesion. How can design reshape the city environment become hospitable, attractive, accessible, cozy? The research will focus on global strategies and design methodologies useful for reaching this goal, highlighting the role and duties of multiple actors that are inhabiting the public space. The research is focused on the meaning of the term queer and how this concept can include different being and entities that are explicit or implicit actors of the public space. The research will investigate the relationship between queer communities and public spaces, it will



	<p>analyze if our cities are designed for women, it will explore a field of investigation that intertwines urban studies and gender studies. The candidate will study the responses that the city is able to offer to the needs of women and gender minorities and how design can shape cities more inclusive and attentive to the needs of the multiple subjects and the different bodies that inhabit urban space. Spaces within a city can be defined public only if they are able to satisfy all city-users desires. Which is the role of design in future policies on inclusive public spaces? This research proposal aims to influence public administration in conversations and decisions of public space in the present and future, to support positive and progressive changes, through the collection of best practices and acceptable guidelines to reach new processes and implementation, as well as to consolidate and advance the general sense of the theme. For this proposal the internship will be host by the Municipality of Milan.</p>
<p><b>Methods and techniques that will be developed and used to carry out the research</b></p>	<p>The research process will be developed through mixed-method research combining the qualitative and quantitative data (Creswell, 2009):</p> <p><b>1. Literature review / Framing the context;</b>          The multidisciplinary nature of the topic required a preliminary immersion in other disciplinary fields to identify the research gap and construct a literature review through desk research.          Literature will include queer studies analysis with a specific core in possible applications in public spaces</p> <p><b>2. Case studies analysis/ Data Collection;</b>          Mapping case studies through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- exploring multidisciplinary approach to the main topic;</li> <li>- highlighting innovation indicators (exploring the gradients of innovative services);</li> <li>- analysing applied strategies;</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Experimentation;</b>          Action research will be used through involving queer communities and stakeholders, especially public administration, by using participatory and collaborative approaches (i.e. user-centred design, participatory design, co-design, and user and community centred design) to translate the insights of literature review and case</p>



	<p>studies into research outputs (i.e. scenario building, guidelines, strategies etc.);</p> <p><b>4. Impact and validation;</b></p> <p>Throughout the co-creative activities, the collected data will be analyzed and prototyped so to be validated even thanks to the collaboration with the company. One of the main objectives of the research is the construction of guidelines useful for the Public Administration to build a possible new policy characterized by a greater inclusiveness of the public space.</p>
<p><b>Educational objectives</b></p>	<p>The educational objectives of this research include the followings:</p> <p><b>1. Knowledge</b></p> <p>The candidate who has completed the Ph.D. program will have broad overview of the subject field in general and also deep knowledge in his/her specific research area. The candidate will have experience in, and be able to formulate research's issues; he/she will be able to develop a theoretical foundation and framework for the research and acquiring methodologies to develop an academic research.</p> <p><b>2. Skills</b></p> <p>The candidate will be able to formulate relevant scientific tasks and issues and carry out the strong connection between the research and the PA. The candidate will be able to carry out internationally relevant research at a higher academic level. He/she will be able to solve and process complex tasks related to social challenges within the subject's area</p> <p><b>3. General competence</b></p> <p>The candidate should be able to consider the limitations of current knowledge level and take the initiative to drive innovations. The Phd path provides theoretical knowledge and practical training within scientific work and methodology, in particular it will allow the candidate to have an immersive educational experience including infield research and connection with the PA</p>
<p><b>Job opportunities</b></p>	<p>Thanks to this Ph.D. program, the student will explore the</p>



	<p>role of design in shaping inclusive public spaces with a specific focus on the possible future scenario of a "queer city" through a spatial+service design approach.</p> <p>The research will be connected with the PA (could be the Municipality of Milan) in order to study possible future policies on public spaces based on the idea of inclusivity. Professionals with skills on design thinking, spatial+service design, scenarios and strategies development, user experience design will be highly demanded. After this Ph.D., the candidate will be able to apply for service/strategic design position in companies and especially in public administration as consultant for companies looking for sustainable and inclusive alternatives to their current activities.</p> <p>Further the candidate might be involved in R&amp;D departments to develop specific inclusive projects. The doctoral candidate can also have the opportunity to continue his/her academic journey focusing on the relationship between queer studies and public spaces in a perspective specifically linked to the role of public policies aimed at making urban spaces more inclusive and welcoming for all.</p>
<b>Composition of the research group</b>	<p>1 Full Professors                  3 Associated Professors                  2 Assistant Professors                  3 PhD Students</p>
<b>Name of the research directors</b>	<p>Laura Galluzzo</p>

<b>Contacts</b>
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<b>Additional support - Financial aid per PhD student per year (gross amount)</b>	
<b>Housing - Foreign Students</b>	--
<b>Housing - Out-of-town residents (more than 80Km out of Milano)</b>	--

<b>Scholarship Increase for a period abroad</b>	
<b>Amount monthly</b>	834.85 €
<b>By number of months</b>	0



National Operational Program for Research and Innovation	
Company where the candidate will attend the stage (name and brief description)	Comune di Milano
By number of months at the company	6
Institution or company where the candidate will spend the period abroad (name and brief description)	Northumbria University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK
By number of months abroad	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):                      financial aid per PhD student                      max 4.872,90 euros per student (total for 3 years)</p> <p>Teaching assistanship: 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>