



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

**PNRR\_352 Research Field: BROKEN CITIES. THE ROLE OF PUBLIC ACTION IN SUPPORTING URBAN INCLUSIVENESS AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE FACE OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND ENVIRONMENTAL INEQUALITIES**

Monthly net income of PhDscholarship (max 36 months)
<b>€ 1195.5</b>
In case of a change of the welfare rates during the three-year period, the amount could be modified.

Context of the research activity	
<p><b>Motivation and objectives of the research in this field</b></p>	<p>The research is jointly proposed with Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli. Since 1949, the Foundation is a leading documentation and research centre in the field of historical, political, economic, and social sciences. In partnership with the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, the 'Observatory on cities and urban transformation' has been established to support analysis of the political, economic, and social changes of the last decades and to explore the geography of the places we'll inhabit in the future.</p> <p>Exasperated by the recent pandemic, cities across the world have become more vulnerable, their deficiencies in being able to guarantee a fair social and economic development increasingly palpable. Cities are broken under many aspects: a lack of adequate services, a lack of access to affordable housing, physical isolation, areas of cities that are ailing, degraded, and abandoned. Cities risk to be no fertile lands for inclusiveness and collective well-being, creating hubs of social injustice and of growing inequalities. It is in cities that social, environmental, and economic emergencies become increasingly visible, but it is also in cities that new solutions may emerge as well as new forms policy innovation and of activation of citizenship in the decision-making processes for the socio-ecological transition. Some cities feature the concentration of investments, increasing attractiveness and a dynamic - yet insecure and unstable - labour market together with a</p>



	<p>rise of living costs that tend to increasingly exclude newcomers, young generations, migrants and to significantly reduce the wellbeing of many. Privatisation, market choice, outsourcing are the watchwords that have shaped policy in the last years, resulting in the degradation of the foundational economy. The foundational economy encompasses the material infrastructure of the everyday life (water, housing, education, health care). This system of provision is currently threatened by dynamics of change that feature increasing trends of exclusion and of polarisation in the access to basic services and fundamental rights. The research will develop a specific policy domain to be defined by the candidate with reference to the overall Mission n. 5 Inclusion and Cohesion of the PNRR (and specifically the M5C2 mission and the objectives of reducing exclusion and social vulnerability through the improvement of social infrastructures, social housing and services). The research will explore: the governance of the social infrastructure, the conditions of access or exclusion, the impacts of policy orientations on containing or exacerbating inequalities. How public action may support inclusiveness and extended access in the face of polarization will be a further and leading research question.</p>
<p><b>Methods and techniques that will be developed and used to carry out the research</b></p>	<p>Given the features of the PhD Scholarship, beside the Scientific Board of the PhD program, a more specific board will be set up, including the Research Director and some Scholars as well as referents of the Feltrinelli Foundation. This board will provide the context for a joint supervision of the PhD research as well as for informal and public discussion of the research results and for the dissemination of its results. The definition of a key policy domain in which to investigate the relation between the provision of social infrastructures and the production of inequalities will be a preliminary foundational activity. Accordingly, to the choices that the PhD candidate will make, a more fine-tuned research program and the most appropriate research methodologies will be defined in compliance with the PhD Research Director and the referents of the Feltrinelli Foundation. A first phase of the</p>



	<p>research will be dedicated to defining a specific focus in terms of issues and themes in the domain of social infrastructures that the PhD Candidate will identify as main research focus.</p> <p>A theoretical framework will be based on a broad literature review in the domain of urban studies and of the relevant public policy domain. The theoretical framework of the Foundational Economy (The Foundational Economy Collective, 2018) will be assumed as a broad reference both in terms of identification of the policy issues at stake and of their analysis through a lens that recognizes the specific collective nature of social infrastructure and terms in which inequalities are challenging social cohesion and rights. The PhD research will be developed through a mix of quantitative and qualitative methodologies. More specifically, a grounded theory approach will be explored as the most effective to support the development of theoretical work grounded on qualitative data, providing a systematic reference for gathering, synthesizing, analysing, and conceptualizing qualitative material for the purpose of theory construction (Charmaz, 2001). Policy analysis tools, interviews, in-depth direct observation, and ethnographic methods will be the major techniques for the investigation of selected case studies and for developing field work on relevant practices in the policy domain that will be selected. The work will be further supported by action-research oriented collaborations, knowledge and best practices exchange aimed at exploring the topic object of the research with key stakeholders (policymakers, experts, researchers, practitioners, political and economic institutions). Comparative analysis will support the contextualisation of the research in a broader field, at the national and international level. The PhD Program provides that the PhD candidate will spend a period of 12 months at the Feltrinelli Foundation and a 6 month visiting period in a foreign research institution (that will be identified accordingly to the profile and specific interests of the selected candidate).</p>
<p><b>Educational objectives</b></p>	<p>The main educational objectives will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To elaborate a sound research project that may support</li> </ol>



	<p>a public debate on the contribution that urban planning and policies may give to the targets and objectives defined by the National PNRR and especially to the mission 5 (Inclusion and cohesion) and to the submission 5C2 focusing on the provision of social infrastructure.</p> <p>2.To develop research skills (both theoretical and empirical) in the analysis of how policy design, of governance assets, social practices interact in the production of public action;</p> <p>3.To develop specific research skills with reference to quantitative and qualitative analysis;</p> <p>4.To develop skills in cross disciplinary research;</p> <p>5.To discuss research developments and results (even preliminary ones) in public and in non-academic environments and settings;</p> <p>6.To develop skills in communication and dissemination of research outcomes.</p>
<p><b>Job opportunities</b></p>	<p>According to its international orientation, the PhD program trains highly qualified researchers and professionals in the fields of spatial planning, design and management of urban projects and policy, social sciences, urban studies, and urban governance. Researchers with such profile may be employed by Italian and international academic institutions, public bodies, cultural foundations and research centres, public and private development agencies, and private firms.</p>
<p><b>Composition of the research group</b></p>	<p>12 Full Professors 11 Associated Professors 1 Assistant Professors 45 PhD Students</p>
<p><b>Name of the research directors</b></p>	<p>Massimo Bricocoli</p>

<b>Contacts</b>
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Further information is available at: Handbook a.y. 2018/2019 of the PhD Program in Urban Planning, Design and Policy (UPDP) in <http://www.dastu.polimi.it/index.php?id=1146>

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	834.84 €
By number of months	6

National Operational Program for Research and Innovation	
Company where the candidate will attend the stage (name and brief description)	Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli
By number of months at the company	12
Institution or company where the candidate will spend the period abroad (name and brief description)	Università da identificare in base al profilo e agli specifici interessi del candidato selezionato
By number of months abroad	6

**Additional information: educational activity, teaching assistantship, computer availability, desk availability, any other information**

Financial aid is available as follows to purchase books and material, participation in courses, summer schools, workshops and conferences:

1<sup>st</sup> 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



Total amount: 4.872,90 euros per 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.