



PhD in URBAN PLANNING, DESIGN, AND POLICY - 40th cycle

**PNRR 630 Research Field: BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO CITIES: REMODELING,
RECONSTRUCTION, REDEVELOPMENT THROUGH CITY-SHAPING INFRASTRUCTURE**

Monthly net income of PhDscholarship (max 36 months)
€ 1300.0
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>Motivation and objectives of the research in this field</p>	<p>The research activity will be supported by the One Works Foundation, a research and education lab dedicated to promoting sustainable urban development and addressing the unique challenges and opportunities that cities face worldwide. The research explores the theme of pressing urban transformations and complex interventions necessary in extreme situations, such as the aftermath of a conflict, devastation due to natural phenomena, the profound degradation caused by decommissioning crucial productive activities, or the abandonment of places by residents. Although these are undoubtedly well-known and recurring phenomena that human beings have always had to confront, in recent years, they have become part of an unprecedented context that brings together the global dimension, the digital revolution, and the climate crisis acceleration. Within this context, the research will focus on the role of infrastructure, intended as the vast field of material and immaterial connections, physical structures as well as digital connections, which today represent essential tools of relationship, exchange, and dialogue and increasingly act as fundamental levers of urban development, economic, social and technological growth. A variety of notions that are at the core of urban quality – such as sustainability, inclusiveness, and vibrancy – are highly impacted by infrastructure design. This research activity will explore how crucial yet human-centric infrastructural projects can positively impact distressed urban environments, triggering regeneration</p>



	<p>and facilitating new opportunities.</p>
<p>Methods and techniques that will be developed and used to carry out the research</p>	<p>The PhD research will be developed through a mix of quantitative and qualitative methodologies. In particular, this research will imply a robust design and transdisciplinary attitude: it involves urban planning and urban design, management, attention to forms of co-design, and the dimensions of different temporalities involved in design and implementation processes. The candidate will articulate the research through four fundamental operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recognition of the state of the art through the extensive literature on the subject and a review of experiences. This part of the research will be addressed through a literature review and collection of significant cases. The objective is to construct a broad, articulated, and relevant definition of the <i>concept of human-centric infrastructure</i>; to build a <i>taxonomy of situations</i>, or reference framework, helpful in recognizing its declinations in various contexts and emergencies, which are the research background; to focus on the implications, design, and implementation methods, with particular attention to the processes and actors involved; - Technical in-depth <i>study of the design and management methods</i>, starting from one or more selected experiences (definition of the type of infrastructure to work on; identification of a type of case on which to start the in-depth study, evaluation of the main critical issues and opportunities that the case implies). This activity, in particular, will be developed in collaboration with OneWorks Foundation; - Identification of a project area - possibly initiated and of a scope and complexity appropriate to the theme - where to develop <i>research by design</i> experience in relation to specific themes, institutions, and local actors. The design of a new human-centric infrastructure will be one of the tools through which to bring 'new life' to contexts that have suffered trauma and devastation of various kinds. The object of the study will be outlined in relation to several current cases through interlocution with One Works in multiple locations through a sequence of project actions:



	<p>for example, an atlas defining the framework of material and immaterial resources, one or more scenarios, possible local <i>pilot projects</i>;</p> <p>- A further action will be an <i>evaluation</i> of the project process and the dynamics in different contexts to reflect on the transferability/scalability of the results achieved. This action may involve the definition of <i>guidelines</i>.</p> <p>The actions outlined here describe the character of a research/action oriented by a place-based research-by-design approach, such as activating dialogical forms of knowledge construction. A period of internship at OneWorks and a period of study at a foreign university is foreseen and compulsory during the course of the research.</p>
<p>Educational objectives</p>	<p>The project will be the core of the proposed research. The aim is to enhance the ability to imagine a possible new set-up and new modifying actions starting from existing conditions and resources -material and immaterial, such as skills, social and cultural resources, etc. - in order to improve the quality of life in a place or to breathe new life in abandoned, devastated, degraded areas. The project, thus understood, is a tool for investigation, innovation, and, specifically, for integrating objectives and techniques for improving environmental, social, and living conditions in places. The main teaching objective is to strengthen a pragmatic and operational approach linked to places in the development of transferable, scalable, and generalizable knowledge.</p>
<p>Job opportunities</p>	<p>The research project will be done in collaboration with the professional design structure of the OneWorks Foundation. Moreover, it will have a robust operational dimension in relation to different local contexts, primarily in Europe but, where appropriate, also in the rest of the world. In addition to producing traditional research results (papers, volumes, dissemination initiatives, etc.). it intends to consolidate competencies in dealing with fragile contexts with a more complex and people-centered approach and give the opportunity of dealing with operational locations requiring specific expertise and open</p>



	up possible collaborations and workspaces.
Composition of the research group	16 Full Professors 9 Associated Professors 1 Assistant Professors 54 PhD Students
Name of the research directors	Antonella Bruzzese

Contacts
<p>PhD supervisor: Prof. Antonella Bruzzese E-mail: antonella.bruzzese@polimi.it</p> <p>PhD coordinator: <i>Prof. Luca Gaeta</i> e-mail: luca.gaeta@polimi.it phone +39/02/2399.5426</p> <p>PhD Office at DASTU: <i>Marina Bonaventura</i> E-mail: marina.bonaventura@polimi.it; phd-updp@polimi.it phone +39/02/2399.5165</p> <p>Further information is available in the PhD Handbook at: https://www.dastu.polimi.it/dottorato-urbanplanning/</p>

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	650.0 €
By number of months	6

National Operational Program for Research and Innovation	
Company where the candidate will attend the stage (name and brief description)	One Works Foundation
By number of months at the company	6
Institution or company where the candidate will spend the period abroad (name and brief description)	London School of Economics
By number of months abroad	6



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

Funds for educational activities (purchase of books and material, funding for participation in courses, summer schools, workshops and conferences):

The total amount of the financial aid/research budget ("DOTE") per PhD candidate is **5.300,25 euro**, which will be assigned in 3 annual instalment of:

1st year: max 1.766,75 euro

2nd year: max 1.766,75 euro

3rd year: max 1.766,75 euro

Computer availability

In the PhD room workstations are available for shared use connected to a printer. PhD candidates can use their own laptops with a wireless connection. Workstations and other equipments are available in the various laboratories linked with the doctoral program.

Teaching assistantship

There are various forms of financial aid for teaching assistantship. PhD candidates are encouraged to take part in these activities within the limits allowed by the regulations.