

# 5th Winter School on **Research Methodology in the Field of Planning and Urban Studies**

**18-19 January, 2018, Florence (Italy)**

School of Architecture - Via della Mattonaia 8 – 50121 Firenze

## **The structure of the Winter School**

A network of scholars from a number of Italian universities, engaged with doctoral courses, have voluntarily set up a PhD learning project on research methodology in the field of planning and urban studies. This is a sort of “research methodology school” that offers graduate students, PhD candidates, young academics and scholars on doctoral courses the opportunity to interactively build learning and training paths in research methodology.

The school is organized around three main pillars:

- *Basics*. Basic questions are addressed in this section, for instance related to how writing an academic article or a PhD Thesis, or how to publish on international scientific journals.
- *Methodological questions*. Some parallel workshop are offered, addressing, for instance, questions related to methods of qualitative and quantitative research and to the research-action approach; the challenge of working with comparative approaches beyond the stereotyped ‘divides’ that have influenced international research (north/south divide; formal/informal etc.).
- *Challenges*. A hot topic in the field of planning and urban studies is addressed, through a talk by two leading scholars in the field, approaching the topic from a different methodological perspective.

# The contents of the Winter School 2018

The contents of the Winter School of this year are the following

## **Basics**

### **Academic Publishing and Writing**

(Francesco Chiodelli, *Gran Sasso Science Institute*, and Stefano Moroni, *Polytechnic University of Milan*)  
The first part of the workshop (“Academic writing”) aims to present PhD students with a series of pointers that will serve as a template for formulating their thesis. The second part (“Academic publishing”) aims to introduce PhD students to the challenging world of publishing on international scientific journals in English.

## **Methodological questions**

### *Workshop 1*

#### **The role of visual methods in urban research**

(Michele Lancione, *University of Sheffield, UK* and Giovanni Attili, *University of Roma La Sapienza*)  
Screening of "A început ploaia / It started raining. Fighting for the right to housing in Bucharest", a documentary film by Michele Lancione (University of Sheffield, UK). The film will be preceded with a discussion on the role of visual methods in urban research, with Michele Lancione and Giovanni Attili (University of Rome La Sapienza).

### *Workshop 2*

#### **Materiality-Oriented Case Methodology**

(Laura Lieto, *University of Naples Federico II*)

The workshop offers essential guidelines about case methodology with a strong orientation to the materiality of urban life, basically drawing on Actor-Network Theory and the new materialism. Examples of an ‘object-oriented case methodology’ will be presented and discussed as the empirical backbone of the workshop program, and to provide students with clues for discussion and critical interaction.

### *Workshop 3*

#### **Urban Practices. Filling the gap between research and action**

(Laura Sajja, *University of Memphis, US*, and Daniela De Leo, *La Sapienza University of Rome*)

The workshop focuses on the development of research agendas aimed at bridging the gap with practice. It covers a range of approaches and experiences, from stories of practices to action-research. It includes: lectures framing concrete examples within larger epistemological and ethical frameworks of traditional and contemporary planning research approaches; an interactive exercise on the relationship between knowledge and action of participants' research projects; suggestions on how to pursue a successful ‘engaged’ academic career in the face of the growing ‘publish or perish’ culture.

### *Workshop 4*

#### **Methods in policy analysis**

(Valeria Fedeli, *Polytechnic University of Milan*)

The workshop suggests a method for policy analysis. It introduces the main theories in the field of policy analysis, with a focus on their methodological aspects; then, it guides students toward framing a research project in the field of policy analysis

## **Challenge**

### **Institutions and Rules for contemporary cities**

(Ugo Rossi, *University of Turin* and Nurit Alfari, *Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beersheva, Israel*)

## Attendance and registration

Attendees are asked to register by the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 at this email address: [researchmethodologyschool@gmail.com](mailto:researchmethodologyschool@gmail.com)

They are required to specify the following details: name, surname, affiliation, role; which workshop among No. 2, 3 and 4 they would like to attend;

The workshop will provide students with 4 credits (to be agreed with the sending schools). The participation is free of charge.

## Provisional Programme

### JANUARY 18

*9:00 - 10:00 Registration*

10:00 - 11:00 Welcome and Introduction

11:00 - 13:00: **Basics:** Academic Writing and Publishing (I)

*13:00 - 14:30: Lunch Break*

14:30 - 17:00: **Basics:** Academic Writing and Publishing (II)

18:00 - 19:30: **Methodological questions:** The role of visual methods in urban research (Workshop 1)

### JANUARY 19

9:00 - 11:00: **Challenge:** "Institutions and Rules for contemporary cities"

11:00 – 13:00: **Methodological questions:** Parallel workshops, first part (workshops No. 2, 3 and 4)

*13:00 - 14:00: Lunch Break*

14:00 - 16:30: **Methodological questions:** Parallel workshops, second part (workshops No. 2, 3 and 4)

16:30 - 18:00: Round table

## Contacts and promoters

*Contacts:*

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The Winter School is *promoted by* University of Florence (Doctoral Program on Urban and Regional Planning, Doctoral School of Architecture), *with the support of* Gran Sasso Science Institute (Doctoral Programme in Urban Studies and Regional Science) and *the participation of* a network of Italian universities: University of Florence, University of Cagliari, Gran Sasso Science Institute - L'Aquila, IUAV - Venice, Polytechnic University of Milan, Polytechnic University of Turin, Sapienza University of Rome, University of Roma Tre, University of Molise, University of Naples, University of Palermo, University of Sassari