

Migration and Urban Space

Promoted by
Paola Briata and
Martina Bovo

How and why should
we talk about this?

Seminar series
January-March 2025
CRAFT - DASTU
Politecnico di Milano

Plans, projects
and policies



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This booklet gathers a short text by Paola Briata and Martina Bovo presenting our research interest and motivation for organising the cycle of seminars, and a series of postcards of research works developed by colleagues from the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, that intertwine the seminars' topic "Migration and Urban Space".

This work stems from a cycle of seminar funded by the Center of Competence for Anti-Fragile Territories. CRAFT is an initiative of the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies at Politecnico di Milano, focused on the development of methodologies and design approaches to address the increasing fragility of territories and the fragmentation of decision-making arenas.



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Migration and urban space

Plans, projects, and policies

Migration is a demographic reality that cannot be stopped with walls, laws, or policies forgetting the basic principle of respect for human life. This is our starting point in proposing this seminar series, and a network of researchers focused on how plans, policies, and projects can deal with contemporary societies' multi-ethnic and multi-cultural nature. The concept of multiculturalism we deal with takes distance from the mainstream backlash that emerged in the 2000s (Vertovec & Wessendorf, 2010), by looking back to the 1990s debates. In those years, multiculturalism was framed by looking at the ethnic, religious, or cultural backgrounds, as well as social conditions, age, gender, sexual preference, and so on (Martiniello, 1997). In this conception, any kind of society, even the seemingly simplest one, is multicultural. This debate has also stated that promoting policies targeted at migrant groups without considering issues affecting poor populations already present in a host society, may lead to social (and spatial) injustice. Migrants' rights are a core issue, but also the right to the city of poor groups, including an impoverished middle class, is a core issue.

In this context, as planners and experts in urban studies, we have dealt both with *landing spaces* (Bovo, 2024), and *settlements* where the migrants' presence is significant, more stable, and visible (Briata, 2019). Working in a School of Planning and Architecture, and a multidisciplinary Department, we feel close to Amin's position (2012) when arguing that the coexistence of people with different backgrounds in contemporary society is also a bodily exercise in the space. Observing multiculturalism in everyday life (Wise, Velayutham, 2009), and thinking about how plans, projects, and policies can deal with it, has become a key point in our work (Briata, 2022). This means exploring the co-presence (Crosta, 2010) of diverse populations in the space and learning from it and within it (Bovo, Briata, Bricocoli, 2023).

A network
promoted by
Paola Briata and
Martina Bovo

Our seminar series has been framed also to discuss and enrich our experiences and points of view.

1. **Landing-Staying** – is focused on how plans, projects, and policies can learn from thick descriptions of multi-ethnic and multicultural contexts.

We will deal with descriptions produced through the mobilisation of a multiplicity of viewpoints on a place, new research approaches, and new media.

2. **Which Policies and Planning Tools?** – is focused on how plans, projects, and policies could go beyond established and very criticised ways of intervention (Fincher et al, 2014) such as social mixing policies, the creation of ‘cultural quarters’, or other initiatives expressing the repressive and ‘dark side’ of planning (Yiftachel, 1998).

3. **What about teaching on this issue?** – is focused on the need to reflect on how younger generations of planners and designers could be helped to deal with the specificities of plans, policies, and projects in the multi-ethnic/ multicultural city, a still underexplored topic in planning studies, and teaching experiences.

Amin A. (2012), *Land of Strangers*, Polity Press, Durham.

Bovo M. (2024), *Migration landing spaces. Processes and infrastructures in Italy*, Routledge, London.

Bovo M., Briata P., Bricocoli M. (2023), “A bus as a compressed public space: Everyday multiculturalism in Milan”, in *Urban Studies*, 60 (15): 2979-2993.

Briata P. (2019), *Multiculturalismo senza panico. Parole, territori, politiche nella città delle differenze*, FrancoAngeli, Milano.

Briata P. (2022), “Spatial Policies and Everyday Multiculturalism. A Proposal to Work with Difference In the Field”, in Anzani A. Scullica F. (eds) *The city of care*, Springer, Cham: 171-186.

Crosta P. L. (2010), *Pratiche. Il territorio è 'l'uso che se ne fa'*, FrancoAngeli, Milano.

Fincher R., Iveson K., Leitner H., Preston V. (2014), ‘Planning in the multicultural city: celebrating

diversity or reinforcing difference?’, in *Progress in Planning*, 92:1–55

Martiniello M. (1997), *Sortir des ghettos culturels*, Presses de SciencesPo, Paris.

Vertovec S., Wessendorf S. (2010), *The multiculturalism backlash. European discourses, policies and practices*, Routledge, London & New York.

Wise A., Velayutham S. (2009 eds), *Everyday Multiculturalism*, Palgrave Macmillan, London.

Yiftachel O. (1998), “Planning and social control. Exploring the dark side”, in *Journal of Planning Literature*, 12 (4): 395-406.



Everyday Commoning: Living Diaries for Nicosia's Transnational Spaces

Since the mid-1960s, and more permanently after the 1974-armed conflict, the walled city of Nicosia (Cyprus) has experienced a decline in urban life and building stock due to the island's division. A large number of unused and abandoned buildings and spaces have created opportunities for reappropriation by transnational communities. In certain neighborhoods, particularly those near the United Nations-controlled Buffer Zone, "new" inhabitants have transformed entire buildings and ground-floor spaces, seeking affordable housing and engaging in collective activities such as human rights advocacy, religious worship, and commerce. Some of these spaces serve as bridges between public and domestic life, linking long-time residents with newcomers. Others remain "invisible" until the weekend, when a multicultural soundscape reveals their purpose.

This project aims to comprehensively trace the old city of Nicosia from the perspective of transnational communities and workers, with a particular focus on the rhythms of daily life and the ways in which they inhabit time outside of waged labor. It will also examine the impacts of top-down urban regeneration projects on these areas, reframing the ongoing transformations of the city's landscapes, from social interiors to public spaces.

Photo credit
Storefront space in Nicosia.
Spontaneous Occupation of the Threshold Between Indoor Space and the Street, (2023)
Alice Buoli

A project funded by the Graham Foundation –
Grantee 2024.
Project coordinators are Alice Buoli (DASTU,
Politecnico di Milano), Popi Iacovou, and Socrates
Stratis (Arch-UCY)

Project's page on Graham Foundation's website:
<http://www.grahamfoundation.org/grantees/6602-everyday-commoning-living-diaries-for-nicosia-s-transnational-spaces>



Mapping San Siro / CURAlab

Mapping San Siro (MSS) started in 2013 as a workshop aiming to challenge the negative narratives associated with the San Siro neighbourhood, one of Milan's largest public housing estates. San Siro is also multicultural: half of the 12,000 inhabitants have migrant backgrounds from 85 different nationalities, and 1 out of 4 is under 18 years old.

In 2014, MSS developed as a stable action-research platform by re-opening a vacant shop in the neighbourhood, which became the groups headquarters. Through an immersive and collaborative methodology, MSS aims to produce shared and usable knowledge by involving local actors and inhabitants in triggering local change. In 2019, Mapping San Siro became the first "Off Campus", and in 2023, it turned into CURAlab (Collective and Urban Research Lab): an interdisciplinary research lab that applies the approach and the experience developed in San Siro to investigate the marginalization process and inequalities issues in the contemporary cities.



Women for Integration. From neighbourhoods to Europe

The research stands in the framework of the project "Women4Integration", which is promoted by Soletterre Foundation (IT) with a network of European partners. The project aims to develop an innovative approach to migrant women's social and economic integration in marginal urban neighbourhoods, reflecting on their role in the community and, vice versa, on how the local community – meaning local networks and policies – can support their social and economic integration raising their voices as relevant actors in the city.

The project investigates four different neighbourhoods in Europe: San Siro in Milan (IT), Raval in Barcelona (ES), Rosengård in Malmö (SW) and Amsterdam Oost in Amsterdam (NL). These neighbourhoods are all defined as marginal due to a mix of social and spatial conditions of deprivation. The different integration practices and strategies set up by the local actors will be the basis to develop a common methodological and theoretical framework to conduct local action, starting from three main pillars: the feminist/womanist approach to inclusion, the territorially sensitive approach and the activation of local resources.

Photo credit
W-in
Alice Ranzini

A project funded by AMIF (2021-2023).
Projects partners are Fondazione Soletterre (project leader), DASTU – Politecnico di Milano, ass. Telai o delle Arti, Ass. Piano C, Comune di Milano, Malmö University, Yalla Trappan, Netwerkpro, Fundació SURT

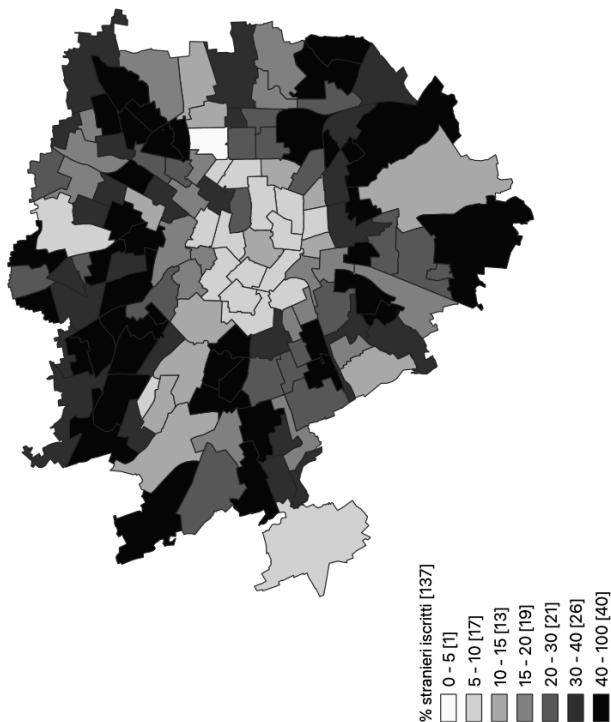
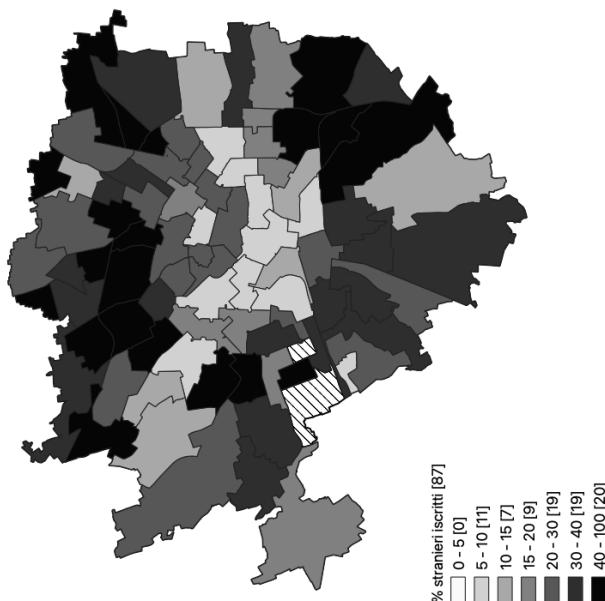
Project's page: <https://workisprogress.org/en/portfolio/women4integration>
More info at: https://www.curalab.polimi.it/?page_id=1801



Desinc Live: Designing and Learning in the Context of Migration

The challenge of inclusion of third country nationals, asylum seekers and refugees in European cities touches several areas, including education and training. These persons tend to encounter obstacles in the recognition of skills and must divide themselves between various integration domains, from housing to employment to social ties. In this context, the planning of cities and the design of inclusive and appropriate urban spaces and services appears to be a key issue.

The project aims to design, test and promote a new training offer aimed at different figures: students, mainly in architecture, urban design and urban planning; university professors; civil society organizations, which in particular work with migrants; professionals and volunteers in the reception sector. DESINC Live aims to renew the disciplinary and transversal skills required of those who work in marginal contexts and the production of urban and social inclusion of particularly fragile populations. The project involves a partnership of 4 universities and three civil society organizations from four different European countries.



Scuole e Territori. La segregazione scolastica a Milano

La segregazione scolastica, ossia la concentrazione di gruppi svantaggiati in determinate scuole, è un'espressione delle disuguaglianze sociali e territoriali. Sebbene il contesto in cui si manifesta sia quello scolastico, considerarla un problema limitato esclusivamente alla dimensione educativa sarebbe riduttivo. Le sue cause e conseguenze si estendono ben oltre la sfera scolastica, coinvolgendo la relazione tra scuola e territorio e alimentando meccanismi di opportunità e di esclusione sociale.

Concentrandosi su un caso di studio rappresentativo quale è Milano, questo volume prende in considerazione i processi che portano alla segregazione scolastica e le sue conseguenze. L'analisi adotta una prospettiva territoriale, che permette di ampliare il campo di indagine, evidenziando il legame inscindibile tra dinamiche territoriali, opportunità, percorsi educativi e mobilità sociale.

Photo credit
Stranieri iscritti primarie e secondarie: distribuzione percentuale degli iscritti nelle scuole, primarie a sinistra, secondarie di I grado a destra.
Segregazione si ha quando la % supera il 40%.
Marta Cordini e Andrea Parma, 2025

**Un libro di Marta Cordini e Andrea Parma
(DASTU - Politecnico di Milano).
Edito da Il Mulino (2025)**



MOST of Pioltello. Migration Over the Satellite Town of Pioltello

M.O.S.T. of Pioltello. Migration Over the Satellite Town of Pioltello is a research and design project funded by the Polisocial Award in 2017. It fosters social integration and urban regeneration in a highly populated neighbourhood within the metropolitan area of Milan.

The Satellite Town represents an emblematic case of the 'private multicultural periphery' that formed over the years in many major cities in Italy and Europe. In these areas, multiple aspects of fragility are often present and interact negatively. They concern housing access and uses and the degradation of the building stock, public spaces use, weakening of social bonds and relationships, illegality and crime, poverty and cultural conditions of the inhabitants.

The Satellite Town looks like 'a world in a neighbourhood' where multiple and interconnected issues set the multi-problematic nature of such places. From an interdisciplinary perspective, the research has provided a relevant perspective for the regeneration of the metropolitan periphery.

The project has been promoted by Politecnico di Milano, with the participation of Università degli Studi di Milano and Milano Bicocca, Università degli Studi di Siena, Città Metropolitana di Milano, Centro Studi PIM, and Comune di Pioltello, and the support of Save the Children and the Camera Metropolitana del Lavoro di Milano.

The main achievements of this project are published in the book: Di Giovanni A., Leveratto J. (2022, eds.), Un quartiere mondo. Abitare e progettare il Satellite di Pioltello, Quodlibet, Macerata, ISBN 9788822906854.



Io non vedo il mare

This film tells the story of marginalised young people in Naples, who came together for the first time during the coronavirus pandemic to write a letter to the city of Naples. The result is a mosaic of small, fantastical, irreverent autobiographical accounts, almost paradoxical in nature, which project a potentially different story that we as observers can rewrite. In English, the Italian title means "I don't see the sea". This phrase comes from a project participant who is one of those young people that doesn't speak much due to speech and social difficulties, but when they do, always hit exactly the right nerve.

This phrase expresses precisely what is happening in Naples: in the capital of the Mediterranean, the sea - which represents openness, freedom and emancipation - marks the real boundary between those who achieve all that and those who don't make it and are forced to leave, or struggle to stay. In my film, I wanted to tell the story of these invisible boundaries within the city.

The collective film can be seen at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kLZ0PMG_Tf0&ab_channel=DAADWorldwide
More info on it at: <https://www2.daad.de/der-daad/daad-aktuell/en/84652-my-film-talks-about-the-invisible-boundaries-of-the-city/>



On the Fault Line: Inhabiting Extended Transiency in Fikirtepe, Istanbul

For many urban dwellers, inhabitation is increasingly shaped by impermanence, uncertainty, and provisionality: an extended condition of transiency that stretches over time and affects populations beyond those typically considered ‘temporary’ or ‘in transit’. This doctoral thesis focuses on Fikirtepe, an informally developed neighborhood in Istanbul undergoing a large-scale but flawed redevelopment since 2005. As its social and material fabric unravels, various transient inhabitants – long-time residents, seasonal workers, people on the move, and others – navigate a landscape suspended between ‘soon-to-be’ and ‘not quite yet’. Through socio-spatial mapping and ethnographic fieldwork, the thesis explores how they inhabit this prolonged in-between space amid Turkey’s authoritarian urban planning.

This research maps the diverse ways heterogeneous transient populations negotiate informality, vulnerability, and temporariness in the city. In doing so, it challenges simplistic binaries – between ‘host communities’ and ‘displaced groups’, ‘permanent’ dwellers and people ‘in transit’, displacement and emplacement. It also reveals how these interactions and transactions connect to broader systems, including housing provision, waste economies, urban restructuring, and global migratory routes.

I argue that while extended transiency is particularly evident in sites of urban geopolitics where human mobilities meet capital-driven restructuring, it is an increasingly widespread urban condition, shaped by planning policies, bordering mechanisms, and deepening inequalities. Expanding our understanding of transiency is therefore essential to critically address the flawed assumptions underlying planning, migration, and humanitarian policies, which often fail to respond to the challenges of increasingly unsettled, precarious, and mobile inhabitation.

Photo credit
Fikirtepe
Francesco Pasta

PhD Thesis by Francesco Pasta (DASTU,
Politecnico di Milano; PhD course in Urban
Planning, Design and Policy), Supervisor:
Gabriele Pasqui. Defended on January 2025



Exploring Urban Integration through Trajectories of Dwelling

Increased migrations and displacements over the last decade, have raised debates on exclusion, segregation, and belonging. The integration policies responding to these changes tend to prioritize immediate support and economic inclusion but overlook long-term frameworks for settlement and well-being. This project examines the urban and social integration of disadvantaged migrants and refugees in arrival cities of Europe, using a lens of fluid infrastructures.

Through studying trajectories of dwelling, the project explores the settlement struggles of Pakistani migrants in Brescia - a multicultural hub and arrival city in Northern Italy. The researcher investigates the informalities of space, services and actors which emerge as migrants navigate access to housing and social infrastructure. She employs qualitative ethnographic approaches of in-depth interviews, passive observation, photo documentation, and mapping.

The study addresses how migrants' housing access and transitions impact their long-term settlement and home-making processes. The research reveals how migrants' experiences of inclusion and inhabitation are complex and multilayered, primarily facilitated by precarious informal networks rather than state services. It advocates for a nuanced approach to integration informed by on-ground realities, underscoring the need for community-driven research to shape urban policies. The study contributes to the crucial growing discourse on the intersection of migration and urban studies.



The Multicultural Gym. People, places, practices and projects in Les Halles, Paris

The work stems from long-term research on planning and everyday multiculturalism (Briata, 2019) and an ongoing methodological reflection on urban analysis where ethnographical approaches ‘for designers’ (Cranz, 2016; Briata, Postiglione, 2022) mix with policy analysis. At the same time, this work aims to contribute to streams of research that look at life in contemporary cities as a form of ‘coexistence among strangers’, where living together and getting used to differences is seen also as a ‘bodyly exercise in the space’ (Amin, 2012). In this direction, fieldwork on people, places, and practices has been carried out from February to July 2024 at the Nelson Mandela Garden in Les Halles, Paris.

Les Halles is a very interesting area as its centrality in the geography of Paris, but also its relevance as an infrastructural node for the Île de France Region makes it a daily place of coexistence of very diverse populations such as commuters, local residents, and tourists from all over the world. Moreover, Les Halles is one of the few places where young people living ‘beyond the périphérique’ (the ring road running around Paris, constituting a physical and a mental barrier between central Paris and its banlieue) feel comfortable, and spend time without ‘feeling different’ (Truong, 2012; Bacqué 2021).

The work introduces a fine-grain analysis of practices of everyday life in Les Halles and, at the same time, reconstructs the story of the area in terms of planning and projects from the 1970s to the present time. The works has shown how Les Halles represents a sort of ‘multicultural gym’ where people can get exposed and trained to differences, but also that this specific value of the place has often been denied if not repressed by plans and projects for the area.

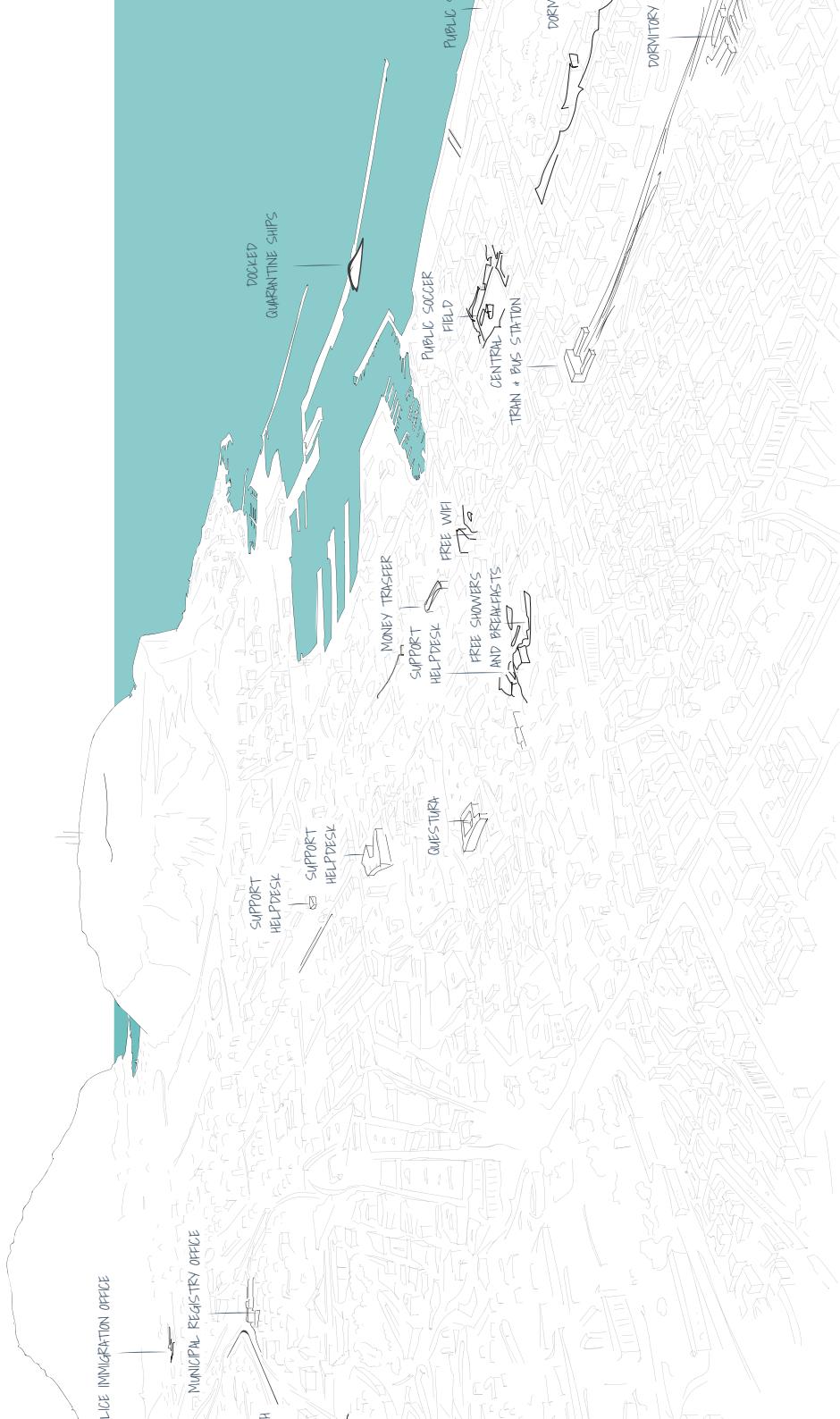


Photo credit
Palermo
Martina Bovo

Migration Landing Spaces. Processes and Infrastructures in Italy

The work stems from long-term research on planning and everyday life. This book looks at migrant landing spaces, exploring the processes and infrastructures which people encounter as they navigate urban spaces along the central Mediterranean route.

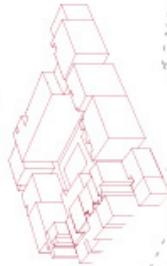
The book argues that there remains a theoretical and practical difficulty in grasping the complexity of migrant arrivals. Migrants are often unsure whether they will stay or leave, their mobility is uncertain. Despite this, they face rigid binaries and categories within administrative policy and planning which tries to pin them down as either permanent or temporary. Drawing on extensive original research in southern Italy, this book suggests that we should instead think of 'landing spaces': parts of the city that work as infrastructures for landing, that allow for an open and dynamic use of the urban space and provide opportunities for encounter and information exchange as migrants consider their next steps.

Combining an ethnographic gaze with insights from urban planning, architecture, geography, social sciences and migration studies, this book invites us to look closer at the interactions between people, practices and places as migrants land in Europe.

A book by Martina Bovo
Edited by Routledge (2024)

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Cultural Fabrics!
The two sides of the Raval



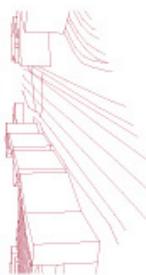
gracia

Gotic
Touristville or shared home
for the many?



horta
guinardo

Bodies on the Beach
Coexistence/ or connection
at La Barceloneta?



eixample

cuitat vella

sant andreu

sant martí

Palo Alto Momentum
A drop of change amidst
waves of gentrification

sant andreu

sant martí



Following the Fish, Catalonia in Venice

Following the Fish – Catalonia in Venice has been a relevant teaching experience to activate cooperation between experts in Urban Studies and experts in Interiors sharing an ethnographic approach to urban space. This workshop has been carried in the context of Following the Fish, the winning project to represent Catalonia at the XVIII Venice Biennale of Architecture. The ‘Catalan Pavilion’ has framed the topic proposed by the curator of the Biennale Lesley Lokko The Laboratory of the Future, by giving visibility to the African diaspora in Europe. The life path that has led the activists involved in Top Manta from Senegal to Barcelona across the Atlantic Ocean was the core focus of the exhibition.

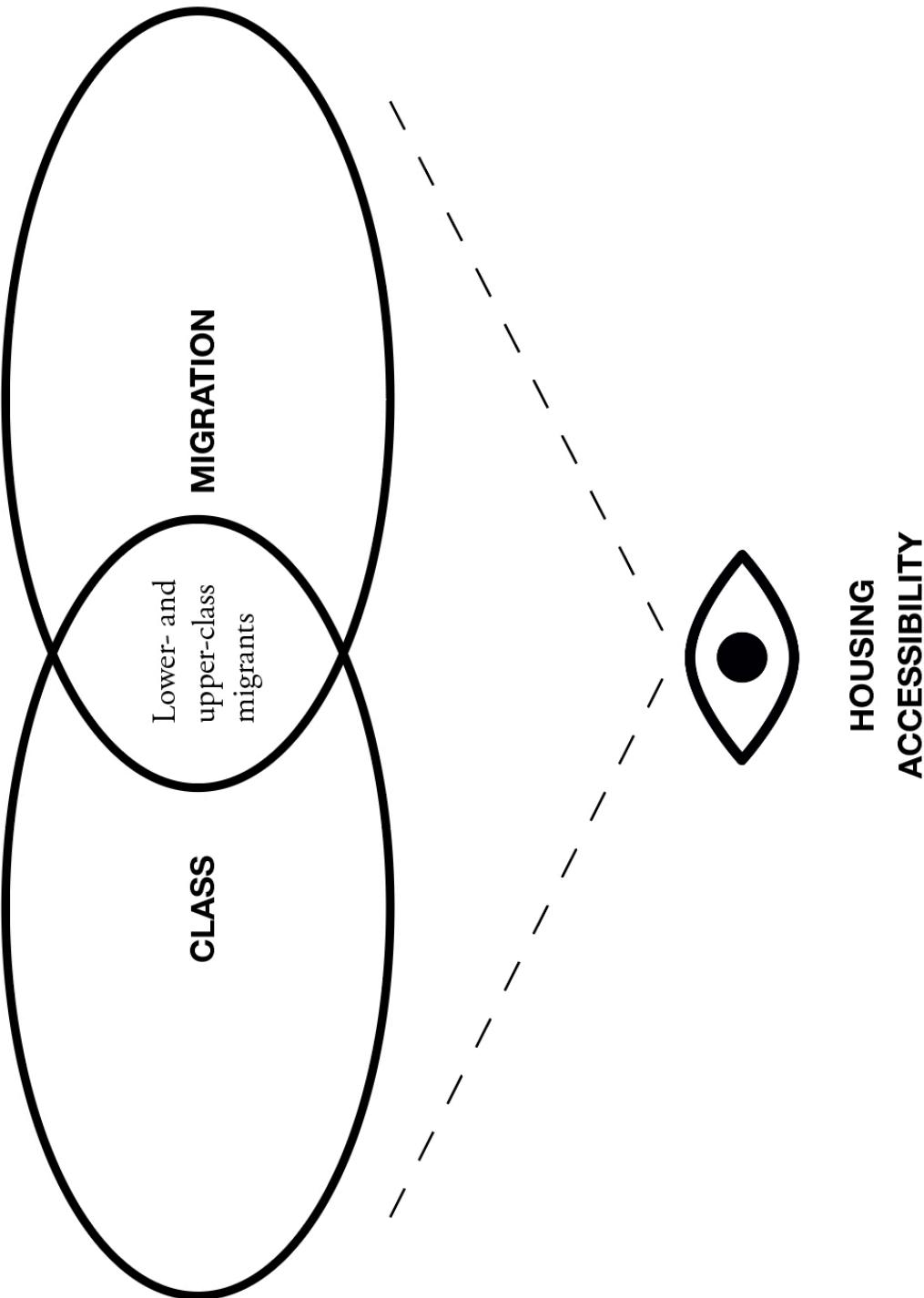
Students from Politecnico di Milano, ETSAV Barcelona, and the University of Lund were involved in fieldwork in Barcelona, and could establish a dialogue with the experts of the Municipality involved in the Pla de Barris' implementation. The 'neighbourhoods' plan' was promoted by Ada Colau, and for its implementation the Municipality bought a series of spaces on the ground floors of deprived areas. The design challenge for the students was to rethink these spaces as welcoming places for people to sleep, work, eat, and spend convivial time together.

In a second phase, students were guided to develop an urban analysis aimed at understanding the role that some interiors on the ground floor could play in a broader city/ neighbourhood context. Then, design work on the ground floors was developed

Finally from July 2023, the students' projects have been exposed at the Catalan Pavilion in Venice, generating knowledge sharing for all the participants.

Photo credit
The designed spaces in Barcelona
Vanessa Ayala

A project funded by the Erasmus Plus programme.
Project partners are ETSAV Barcelona, the
University of Lund, and Politecnico di Milano
(Martina Bovo, Paola Briata, Barbara Brolio,
Davide Colaci, Gennaro Postiglione, Lola Ottolini,
Pierluigi Salvadeo)

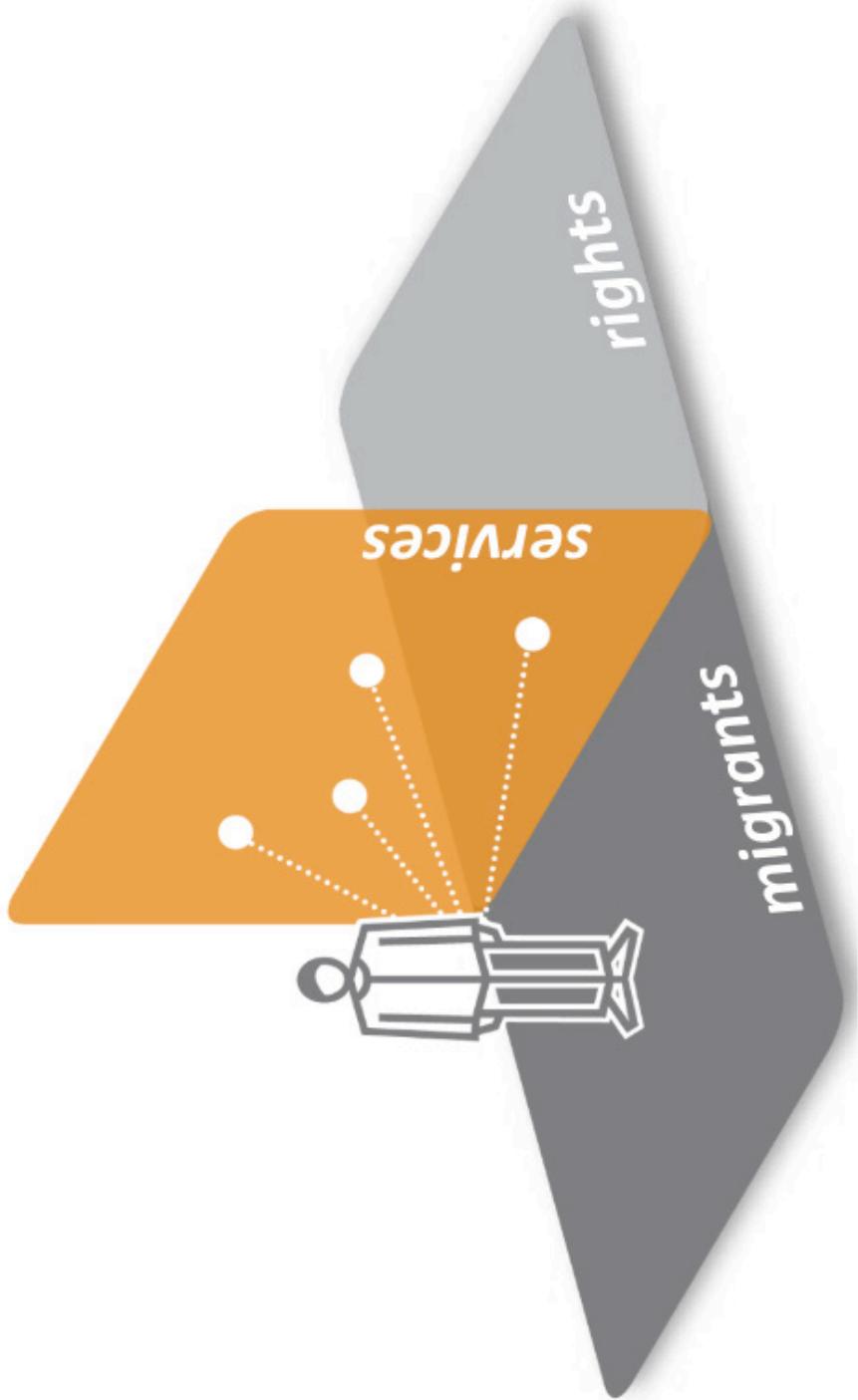


Class Matters for migrants' housing accessibility: The conditions, mechanisms, and strategies to gain housing access for migrants in Zurich's urban area

In housing studies, migrants are recognized as one of the most vulnerable groups in the rental housing market. However, the relationship between housing and migration has been mainly studied from the perspective of the unprivileged, and by country of origin, legal status, and ethnicity. This study tries to go toward a more nuanced and less deterministic understanding by adding a class perspective.

Accordingly, the objective is to understand *why, how, and for whom* class determines the conditions, mechanisms, and strategies for housing access for migrant groups in the Zurich urban area, an economically competitive context witnessing a consistent immigration influx and severe housing pressure. The goal is to: first analyze the **political, spatial, socio-economic, and racial conditions** for housing accessibility; second, study the housing access process by looking at **class-related access mechanisms**; and third, focus on **individual strategies** deployed by migrants depending on their class.

The key finding is that the economic resources – at the intersection with the migratory background - play a more prominent role in securing housing for migrants since they significantly influence the extent to which migrants' applications are selected and their housing needs - in economic, social, and spatial terms - are met, showing that *class matters* for migrants' housing accessibility.



easyRights. Enabling immigrants to easily know and exercise their rights

The easyRights project aimed to create a co-creation ecosystem where different actors belonging to the local governance could collaborate to improve the access and use of public services for migrants. It was implemented in four pilot cities: Birmingham (UK), Larissa (GR), Palermo (IT), and Malaga (ES), each focusing on two services. The project has adopted a co-design approach throughout the entire project implementation, involving migrants in mapping service pathways, identifying obstacles, and designing solutions through hackathons.

The project developed two leading solutions: a chatbot to guide migrants through service pathways and connect them to language support tools, enhancing service accessibility. Additional tools were also created through hackathons to address specific operational issues migrants face. Beyond service improvements, the project also developed policy guidelines to promote human rights literacy in service design and delivery.

Additionally, easyRights contributed to the development of the Mediation Grammar (CEN July 2023), a pre-standard with CEN (European Standardization Body) and UNI (Italian Standardization Body). This standard lays the groundwork for ensuring the quality of public services for migrant social integration in Europe, providing a common framework to harmonize public services across the continent.

A project funded by Horizon 2020 – Research and Innovation Action (2020-2022).
Project coordinator is Grazia Concilio (DASTU, Politecnico di Milano)

Project's page: <https://www.call-researchlab.polimi.it/project/easyrights/>
<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/870980>

Actualisation
of rights

Language
Accessibility

MEDIATION
GRAMMAR

Information
Adequacy

città-IN. Città' inclusiva e qualita' dei servizi pubblici I servizi scolastici nel quartiere San Siro a Milano

The Città-IN project aimed to identify and address barriers immigrants face in accessing primary and supplementary school services, focusing on annual enrollment, register consultation, insurance payments, pre-post-school programs, and summer school programs in the San Siro neighborhood of Milan.

The project applied and tested Mediation Grammar, a service quality standard developed within the Horizon 2020 easyRights project, addressing linguistic accessibility, information adequacy, and the realization of rights. Through questionnaires, interviews, and participant observations, the project identified obstacles in linguistic, informational, and rights-based dimensions, producing guidance reports for service providers such as the municipality of Milan and educational institutions.

The analysis highlighted issues such as digital access barriers (e.g., SPID or CIE requirements) and language challenges, with many forms requiring at least an A2+ level of Italian. Cultural barriers also impacted registration timelines and school relationships, particularly for migrant mothers, who relied on third-sector organizations, limiting their integration. To address these issues, the project developed service redesign guidelines and, in collaboration with 'Mamme a Scuola' association, created the "Parliamo di Scuola" manual, improving school service accessibility and supporting language learning.

Project's page: <https://www.call-researchlab.polimi.it/project/citta-in/>

Project funded by Polisocial Award 2023.

Project coordinators are Grazia Concilio and Maryam Karimi (DASTU, Politecnico di Milano)

Sì

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E-welfare in the city

The project "E-Welfare in the City - Digital and Physical Spaces for Social Inclusion in the Metropolitan Area of Milan" is part of the Ecosystem MUSA_Multilayered Urban Sustainability Action, Spoke 6_WP3.2.2, focusing on improving welfare access in the metropolitan area of Milan.

Launched in 2023 under Mission 4 of the Italia PNRR, the project will run until 2026. It examines how the digitalization of welfare services reshapes existing socio-spatial inequalities and explores the potential role of physical spaces in mitigating these disparities. The project targets three vulnerable groups: the elderly, migrants, and young people at risk of school dropout. A pilot initiative is being developed in Rozzano, a municipality south of Milan, facing social vulnerability and supported by a network of public and third-sector actors addressing educational poverty.

The main objective is to create a dedicated space that facilitates access to welfare services, engaging local stakeholders in the process. The project adopts a multidisciplinary approach, involving the Polimi departments of Architecture and Urban Studies and of Design, and experts such as sociologists, urban planners, and designers. The goal is to test proposals that integrate both digital and physical resources, promoting social inclusion and reducing inequalities in the access to welfare services.

A project funded by the European Union –

NextGenerationEU, NRRP Mission 4

University Project partners are Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Università degli Studi di Milano Statale, Università Bocconi, Politecnico di Milano

Politecnico di Milano team members:

DASU – Stefania Sabatinelli (PI), Paola Savoldi, Carlotta Caciagli, Paola Piscitelli, Marta Cordini, Andrea Parma, Francesca Cognetti, Simona Chiodo

Department of Design – Laura Galluzzo, Claudia Mastrantoni, Mathew Spialtini

Many master students also addressed the topic of Migration and Urban Space, among the theses recently supervised by DASTU colleagues:

Right to the city, right to access education services: A Case Study of Schools in San Siro by Aliaksandra Rameika - supervised by Maryam Karimi; April 2024 , <https://www.politesi.polimi.it/handle/10589/219265>

Beyond Demographics: Redefining “ethnic” neighborhoods through lived experiences, spatial dynamics and generational shifts by Vanessa Ayala - supervised by Carolina Pacchi, Paola Briata and Martina Bovo; July 2024, <https://www.politesi.polimi.it/handle/10589/223338>

“Because There are Other Filipinos There”- Collective Negotiations for Spaces in Milan by Hoi Mun Yee - supervised by Massimo Bricocoli and Martina Bovo; October 2023, <https://www.politesi.polimi.it/handle/10589/209802>

Design and supply services towards human rights: how to overcome the challenges for the realization of human rights through public services.- supervised by Maryam Karimi and Grazia Concilio; July 2022, <https://www.politesi.polimi.it/handle/10589/191791>

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