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Approfondimento: SEMINARIO TEMATICO ARCHITETTURA

B020761 – 4CFU

Anno Accademico 2021-2022

Planning for Social Justice

Understanding urban spaces through food governance

This seminar is developed within and contribute to the:
RESEARCH FUNDING YOUNG INVESTIGATOR TRAINING PROGRAM 2021 (ACRI)
YITP 2020/2021 POLIMI titled ***Planning for Spatial Justice***

Department of Architecture of Urban Studies of the Politecnico di Milano (DASTU), with the contribution of ASSOCIAZIONE DI FONDAZIONI E CASSE DI RISPARMIO ITALIANE SpA (ACRI).

Laboratory of Critical Planning and Design at UNIFI is a partner of the ACRI project (local coordinator of the project: prof. Camilla Perrone)

Seminar Language:

English

Eligibility

Master's degrees and CU Architecture Students, Erasmus students, PhD students, post-docs and early career researchers from the University of Florence are invited to apply.

Docenti del seminario

Prof.ssa Camilla Perrone (*Responsabile locale del progetto ACRI*)

Ph.D Nicole Paganini – TMG Research Thinktank / BOKU Vienna (*Responsabile del progetto di ricerca e vincitrice del bando ACRI per UNIFI*)

Prof. David Fanfani

Prof.ssa Maddalena Rossi

Dott. Elisa Butelli

Course overview

Food plays a central role in today's urban systems. It contains emotions, stories and pathways in cities and shapes the urban environment. To understand the nexus between urban planning and food justice this course seeks to unveil structural inequalities and uneven power relationships that constrain sustainability of cities. To do so, this course employs and expands further on the theory of food justice as a lens to deepen the understanding of the role of migrants within their city's food system and the role of social justice in cities- by understanding how urban planning can enhance integration, or not. By applying an inclusive research approach, we ensure that fieldwork with students is conducted 'with' rather than 'about' the people. This seminar will be significantly influenced by the methodological strategy chosen, combining mixed methods with a participatory



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co-research approach. Through this commitment, the course seeks to gain an actor's perspective, which enables new questions and aspects to arise, oftentimes entailing a social justice focus and enhancing a solution-oriented discussion towards (urban) food governance.

Learning objectives

The proposed seminar follows an active research approach with different steps to involve students into an applied research process: First, exploratory research on food in cities, second, application of a food justice lens, and third, followed by in-depth, qualitative co-research on the food environment. The combination of applying a social justice lens on the urban food system and a commitment to participatory co-research allowed for key social justice issues to be illuminated. Questions of marginalisation and privilege, root causes of failures and fault lines in the urban planning and food governance. A central part of this research is the deliberate shift in perspective and methodology to a co-research approach. Co-research can be understood as a more inclusive way of conducting participatory action research (PAR) that engages “the researched” in all research processes from the set-up of a project, the posing of research questions, the design of methods, and data collection and analysis to the mutual understanding and interpretation of the findings. Applying a participatory co-research approach provides the opportunity to reflect on the general meaning of participation, which is a way of co-existing in a shared space (Sandercock, 2000), and acknowledges the power of citizens by giving importance and recognition to everyone’s story. The understanding of participation within this proposed study is significantly shaped by the two scholars Giancarlo Paba and Camilla Perrone from the University of Florence and their decades-long work on participation / *partecipazione* in urban spaces and the importance of people and their knowledge. They argue that we must apply a people-centred focus in planning and research and that it is the people who matter in a process (Paba & Perrone, 2010; Paba, 2010; Perrone, 2010). Perrone notes that participation is shaped by interaction and self-action, the cognitive exchange and potentials, the plurality of knowledge, and the accumulation of social landscape of multiplicity to and within a process (2011).

Methodology

This seminar applies a mixed methods approach. The first step is an analysis on food justice aspects (place, gender) of existing food planning documents from four Italian case studies 1. Livorno Food Strategy and Plan (2019), 2. Intermunicipal Food Plan of Lucca plain (2019), 3. Food Plan of the Province of Pisa (2019), 4. Rome Food Policy (2018).

In the second step, qualitative research will be conducted:

- Narrative interviews enable an unstructured discussion or conversation with a participant and rely on the person’s ability and willingness to tell a story.
- In food transect walks, students accompany participants within their places and join them in grocery shopping, preparing, buying or eating street food, and in recognising and perceiving food publication and food in public space. Participants take pictures of their local food environments, sometimes inspired by a question or a theme that results from the joint process. These pictures are then used in focus groups to facilitate dialogues and to stimulate discussion.

The approach of the seminar uses participatory methods, such as photo voices via smartphones, food environment walks and focus group discussions. The research work within the course is aims to answer the following broader research question on participation in urban food systems of



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marginalised communities and its implications for the planning process. This comes along with reflections on the norms of the academy and how the ontological basis of those norms may continue to entrench the hegemony that has an ongoing role in systemic inequalities in food systems.

Reading Materials

Butelli, E. (2015). Sustainable environmental planning and food: the food plan in the Province of Pisa. *Scienze del Territorio*. 3. 10.13128/Scienze_Territorio-16258.

Hemmings, C. (2011). *Why stories matter: The political grammar of feminist theory*. Duke University Press.

Perrone, C. (2011). What would a 'DiverCity' be like? Speculation on difference-sensitive planning and living practice. In C. Perrone, G. Manella, & L. Tripodi (Eds.), *Everyday Life in the Segmented City* (Research in Urban Sociology, Vol. 11), pp. 1–25. Emerald Group Publishing Limited.
[https://doi.org/10.1108/S1047-0042\(2011\)0000011004](https://doi.org/10.1108/S1047-0042(2011)0000011004)

Neve K. et al. (2021). Understanding Lived Experience of Food Environments to Inform Policy: An Overview of Research Methods. Centre for Food Policy Research Brief.
https://researchcentres.city.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/595318/Understanding-Lived-Experience-FINAL-v4.pdf

Course format

The Course follows a lecture, explorations and discussion format. Specifically, lectures present the primary themes and concepts from the assigned readings, with an opportunity for questions and comments from students. The exploratory sessions alternate between: (1) structured discussion of topics related to places (2) self-exploration reporting.

Requirements & evaluation

Students are expected to attend and participate during class meetings, inside and outside (tours and The seminar offers 4 CFU for Seminar and independent work/preparation of seminar days and the final report about findings/work (max 5 pages).

filed trips). The class participation component of the final grade consists of (1) attendance at lecture and discussion sessions as well as (2) **active involvement** in the discussion, careful listening, and respect for the opinions of others.

The periodic **Independent Research Assignments** also count towards class participation.

Application process

Please send an expression of interest (no more than 500 words) outlining your research interests, how your work relates to questions of spatial justice, and what you hope to gain from participation in the Seminar.

Submissions must include your full name, email address, institutional affiliation, program, and, if you are a student, the year of your expected graduation.

Please send application materials to camilla.perrone@unifi.it no later than **12.11.2021**.



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Master degree theses tutored by an international advisory board will be offered to students who attended the seminar with excellent results.

PhD students, post-docs and early career researchers will be included in the international research group on Planning for Social Justice.

SCHEDULE (4 CFU, 32 h.)

Introductory seminar Wednesday, 1st Dec. 2021

First block: Theoretical input on spatial justice and food justice as a lens to deepen the understanding of the role of migrants within their city's food system and the role of social justice in cities

Wednesday Dec 1st 9.00 – 18.30 (8.5 h)

Friday Dec 3rd 14.00 – 18.45 (4.5 h)

Field work during the week

Second block: Participatory action research (PAR) and fieldwork in the metropolitan area of Florence

Wednesday Dec 10th 9:00 – 18.30 (8.5 h)

Friday afternoon 14.00 – 18.30 (4.5 h)

Field work during the week

Friday Dec 10th 11-00-13.00 (2h)

Final open seminar Friday, 10th Dec. 2021

14:00 – 18:45 (4 h)

The cities' taste - Critical food planning

Speakers: Elisa Butelli, David Fanfani, Nicole Paganini, Maddalena Rossi, Camilla Perrone

The seminar explores the nexus between urban planning and food justice while unveiling structural inequalities and uneven power relationships that constrain the sustainability of cities. In particular, the theory of food justice will be introduced as a lens to deepen the understanding of the role of migrants within their city's food system. The seminar will then contribute to understanding urban spaces through just and inclusive food governance.

The seminar will be offered to the network of the ACRI international Project.

	Wed Dec 1	Friday Dec 3	Friday Dec 10	Wednesday Dec 15
AM	Theoretical overview: Food planning and justice			<i>Group work: final report finalisation</i>
PM	Group work: Analysis on food justice	Methodology Narrative interviews	<i>Analysis of Findings Group work:</i>	<i>Final Seminar The cities' taste -</i>



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	aspects (place, gender) of existing food planning documents from four Italian case studies	food transect walks	<i>Contextualisation of results</i>	Critical food planning
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