



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863

DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA  
E STUDI URBANI

PhD Programme in

# Urban Planning Design and Policy

**36th Cycle (2020)**

3 Years - Thematic Scholarship

**“More than social housing. Potentials and challenges  
in the innovation and re-actualization of the social  
housing sector”**

co-funded by FEDERCASA

**OPEN CALL | Deadline: 29th May 2020**

# More than social housing. Potentials and challenges in the innovation and re-actualisation of the social housing sector

## Motivation and objectives of the research

The housing question gained more and more relevance during the past 10 years in Italy and in Europe. Increasing economic and social in-equalities, social and demographic change, new migration flows and a labour market featuring scant and discontinuous income are affecting the social housing demand, especially in cities which face an increase of housing costs. Social housing constitutes a fundamental part of the economy of the everyday life, particularly for the lower income population. Its provision is assumed as an essential action to contrast material deprivation and to foster social protection as well as social justice. The public housing system - which in Italy corresponds to almost all of the entire social housing stock in the country and to one fifth of the total rental sector - is facing an uncertain phase which calls for a renewed and perspective vision for public action. While public housing has disappeared from the debate together with its structural funding systems, public housing agencies have undergone heavy financial cuts and privatisation of the stock.

The re-orientation and financialisation of housing policies have extensively affected policies and projects that, beyond an extensive reference to the social dimension, do not match the needs and economic possibilities of the poor. The current housing question calls for research on producing further advancement in housing studies and on the role of public housing companies in the provision of social housing. More specific focus could be: new financial schemes and partnerships to increase the stock of social housing, the development of regeneration projects integrated with innovative solutions both in terms of housing typologies and welfare services on the existing social housing stock. In the recent years, as well as in several European cities, a renewed role of public actors is to be re-recorded in the development of pilot projects that have experimented new solutions in terms of planning, architecture, social organization and management.

FEDERCASA (the Italian National Federation of Public Housing Companies) and the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies are welcoming research proposals that will investigate, in a European perspective, the potentials and challenges in the innovation of social housing. PhD research projects are expected to develop: a) a critical overview of the trends and developments of public housing companies in the public arena and in the provision of housing solutions, b) a critical analysis and evaluation of a number of projects recently developed c) an international overview and critical analysis on the perspective engagement of public actors in the provision of social housing policies and projects d) a perspective vision on the challenges and priorities that have to be considered in the design and development of future strategies in order to enhance social housing and public housing companies as frontline actors in policies for social housing.

The candidate will be free to develop a mixed method approach integrating different actions and methods along the development of the project: public policy analysis research tools, for the recognition of regulatory systems and policy frameworks, revision of policy documents, maps of the involved actors, cases studies analysis; quantitative analysis of funding schemes and management approaches; qualitative analysis and representation of a user-based evaluation of implemented housing projects in the perspective of the inhabitants; an action-research approach, implying field work and qualitative research on selected cases and contexts and supporting the interaction with potential recipient and beneficiaries of the research.

### For further information:

Supervisor and Scientific Responsible of the PhD Research:  
Prof. Massimo Bricocoli, DASTU, Politecnico di Milano.  
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### Co-funding partner:

FEDERCASA - Federazione Italiana per le Case Popolari e l'Edilizia Sociale  
(the Italian National Federation of Public Housing Companies): [www.federcasa.it](http://www.federcasa.it)

# DASStU - Politecnico di Milano

## PhD programme in Urban Planning, Design and Policy

### How to Apply

**The official call for applications, along with procedures and requirements, is available on**

[www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/looking-for-a-phd/call-for-positions-and-scholarships/index.html](http://www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/looking-for-a-phd/call-for-positions-and-scholarships/index.html)

▶ **Deadline: 29.05.2020 (2pm, Italian time)**

▶ **For administrative inquiries:**

Marina Bonaventura (marina.bonaventura@polimi.it)

▶ **Information about the PhD programme in Urban Planning, Design and Policy is available on:**

[www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/phd-programmes/active-phd-programmes/urban-planning-design-and-policy/index.html](http://www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/phd-programmes/active-phd-programmes/urban-planning-design-and-policy/index.html)