

CULTURAL HERITAGE, URBAN REGENERATION AND EXPERIMENTATION. SCHOOLS, PROJECTS AND DISCIPLINES COMPARED

PRESENTATION OF THE INITIATIVE CALL FOR PAPERS

1 The cultural and disciplinary context

The Laboratorio Progetto Roma, in collaboration with the PhD programme in Planning, Design and Technology of Architecture of the PDTA Department, Sapienza University of Rome, is promoting a *Call for Papers* as part of a broader initiative entitled ***“Cultural heritage, urban regeneration and experimentation. Schools, projects and disciplines compared”***, which will see an international conference take place on 15-16 and 17 December 2025, at the PDTA Department, Sapienza University of Rome, Via Flaminia 70, Rome.

The initiative, which is part of the activities of Thematic Line 4 *“Actualisation_Cultural Heritage and Urban Regeneration. Towards a Multidisciplinary and Experimental Dimension”* of Extended Partnership 5 - CHANGES - Spoke 8, of which Prof. Laura Ricci is Scientific Director, is a continuation of the research, experimentation, training, third mission and dissemination activities that the Research Group has been carrying out for years on the themes of urban regeneration as a reference strategy for the governance of the contemporary city, with a specific focus, among others, on the morphological, historical-cultural and identity components of the public city.

These include the event *“Cultural Heritage and Urban Welfare. PNRR, Strategies, Plans and Projects for the Regeneration of the Contemporary City”*, held in Rome on 18-19 October 2022, and the Call for Papers of the same name, which was the first step in establishing a vast international network of universities on the themes of urban regeneration and cultural heritage. followed by the international conference *“Cultural Heritage and Urban Welfare. Strategies, Plans and Projects for the Regeneration of the Contemporary City”* held in Rome on 9 May 2024, with the design workshop *“Regenerating Tor Fiscale, Building the Public City”* from 10 to 20 May 2024. Finally, the international conference *“Cultural Heritage, Urban Regeneration and Experimentation. Towards a Structural, Territorial and Multidisciplinary Dimension”*, held in Rome on 16-18 December 2024, with a call for papers of the same name.

In this context, the initiative *“Cultural heritage, urban regeneration and experimentation. Schools, projects and disciplines compared”* stems from the need to respond to the emergence of a new urban issue, which underlies generalised conditions of marginalisation and calls for the urgent implementation of policies, strategies, procedures and tools that provide integrated responses to the demands of environmental regeneration, social revitalisation, and cultural and economic enhancement of the city, giving priority to the creation of a new *urban welfare system* to guarantee the right to health, education, public mobility, housing and the city.

Within the framework of European policies and Community programming, the implementation of this new *welfare system* highlights the need for and therefore constitutes the priority objective of an integrated and inter-scale public governance strategy for urban regeneration and territorial rebalancing, combining the characteristics of urban planning with those of social inclusion and local economic development, taking the public city as a reference structure, a network of material and immaterial, interactive and integrated networks; an expression of historical, cultural and social identity and a means for recomposing the link between physical continuity and social integration,

between formal specificity and cultural identity, between representation and self-representation of communities.

The initiative therefore recognises the urgent need for reflection that draws the attention of research and experimentation to an intersectoral and interinstitutional convergence between all policies relating to the governance of the territory, from urban planning to those relating to cultural, environmental and social heritage and social policies, giving priority to the enhancement and networking of common identity assets, on which to rebuild the structure of the public city, the quality of the urban environment and the very meaning of the collective use of spaces.

In line with the objectives of Thematic Area 4, it aims to define new theoretical, methodological and operational references for an innovative planning system which, through the integration of paradigms, regulatory and legislative frameworks, programmes, forms and contents of instruments, and implementation mechanisms, is capable of supporting regeneration strategies and projects to restore recognisability to areas affected by marginalisation; outlining the use of heritage as a strategic lever for triggering new economies focused on culture, tourism and environmental sustainability.

These projects find public institutions and local authorities playing a fundamental role in encouraging experimentation through public tenders, agreements and conventions with public and private institutions; enabling those operating in the area to carry out daily mediation activities, making disused public real estate available for the launch of processes aimed at the redevelopment of physical spaces and the social and identity regeneration of communities; promoting inclusion and cohesion, creating jobs and enhancing entrepreneurial experiences; pursuing democratisation objectives, both in terms of improving living conditions and strengthening collective enjoyment, as an implementation of the constitutional principle of equality.

To this end, the initiative highlights the indispensability of an experimental and structural approach, characterised by high levels of integration, interdisciplinarity, interscalarity and iterativity, to embrace the new dimension of the contemporary city, implementing the guidelines of the Horizon Europe Programme and the PNR 2021/2027, to govern change, adopting *“interdisciplinary, inclusive, intersectoral and comparative approaches, enabling the identification of factors of change during the development of innovative theories, specific guidelines and policy recommendations for moving forward”*.

2 Call for papers

In this context, the *Call for Papers “Cultural Heritage, Urban Regeneration and Experimentation. Schools, Projects and Disciplines compared”*, aimed at researchers, scholars and professionals from a variety of disciplines related to land management, characterised by a strong experimental connotation, aims to promote a broad interdisciplinary discussion and to select working hypotheses and contributions of ideas on the proposed topics.

This will be done, in particular, by sending an abstract in Italian and English (1.000 characters including spaces, written according to the guidelines) in Word format by **5 December 2025** to the email address **patrimonioculturale.pdta@uniroma1.it**, indicating ***“Abstract - Cultural Heritage and Experimentation”*** in the subject line.

In order to promote wide and qualified dissemination, the Scientific Committee will select the most significant contributions, which will be published in a printed volume with an ISBN, subject to submission of the full paper.



Full papers (maximum 20,000 characters including spaces, including an abstract in English and bibliography, with 4 images) must be submitted in Word format in their final version by **1 March 2026**, together with proof of payment of the publication fee of €300.00 (€250.00 for students), which must be paid by bank transfer to the PDTA Department's current account (Unicredit - Agenzia Roma La Sapienza n. 30660 Iban: IT80H0200805227000401386464).

CALL FOR PAPERS

Cultural heritage, urban regeneration and experimentation. Schools, projects and disciplines compared

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

5 December 2025

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF ABSTRACTS FOR PUBLICATION

19 December 2025

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING FULL PAPERS

1 March 2026

Abstract guidelines

Abstracts must be original and must not have been previously published or presented at other conferences. The abstract must contain:

- **Name of the author(s)**
- **Affiliation**
- **City**
- **Country**
- **Email address**
- **Title**
- **Abstract**
- **5 Keywords**

Language: Italian and English

Size: maximum 1,000 characters each, including spaces

Scientific committee: Laura Ricci (coordinator), Fabrizio Cumo, Federica Dal Falco, Tiziana Ferrante, Paolo Galuzzi, Carmen Mariano, Carmelina Bevilacqua, Francesco Crupi, Alessandra De Cesaris, Irene Del Monaco, Maurizio Francesco Errigo, Andrea Iacomoni, Domizia Mandolesi, Dina Nencini, Irene Poli, Francesca Rossi, Donatella Scatena, Elio Trusiani, Teresa Villani

Technical and organisational secretariat: Marika Fior, Paola Imbesi, Marsia Marino, Francesca Perrone, Tommaso Berretta, Federico Desideri, Margherita Meta, Alessandra Addessi, William Aiello, Chiara Filicetti, Federico Ianiri, Enrico Losardo, Lucrezia Pala, Stefano Pontani

For information: PDTA Department, Sapienza University of Rome



<https://pdta.web.uniroma1.it/>
Rome PDTA Project
PDTA Department Sapienza
patrimonioculturale.pdta@uniroma1.it