

5/6/7.5.  
— 2025

# The Role of the University in Fragile Territories

Conference organized by  
Francesca Cognetti and Alice Ranzini

Mon 5/5 | Off Campus San Siro

Tue 6/5 | Aula Magna Politecnico di Milano

Wed 7/5 | E.N. Rogers Room Politecnico di Milano

A dialogue between **Italian, Latin American and international experiences** of "engaged research" on the challenges of **knowledge co-production and collaborative learning processes** within and with marginalized territories and communities.

Conference organized by Francesca Cognetti and Alice Ranzini (DASTU, Politecnico di Milano)  
**Scientific committee:** Giovanni Attili (La Sapienza University of Rome), Francesca Bragaglia (Politecnico di Torino), Luca Brignone (La Sapienza University of Rome), Lucia Capanema Alvares (Universidade Federal Fluminense Rio de Janeiro), Carlo Cellamare (La Sapienza University of Rome), Lidia Decandia (University of Sassari), Adriana Goni (University of Montevideo), Rossella Ferro (Columbia University), Elena Pede (Politecnico di Torino), Stefano Pontiggia (Politecnico di Milano), Francesco Puletti (Politecnico di Torino), Antonio Raciti (Umass Boston/La Sapienza University of Rome), Cristiana Rossignolo (Politecnico di Torino), Stefano Simoncini (La Sapienza University of Rome).  
**CURALab local organizing committee:** Alice Alessandri (Politecnico di Milano), Francesca Cognetti (Politecnico di Milano), Rossella Ferro (Columbia University), Paolo Grassi (Bocconi University), Maria Elena Ponno (IUAV Venice), Stefano Pontiggia (Politecnico di Milano), Alice Ranzini (Politecnico di Milano).

Monday, May 5 | h. 2:30 - 6:00 pm  
Off Campus San Siro: an urban living lab within a multicultural public housing neighborhood

Lectures and visit to the neighbourhood by CURALab, DASTU Politecnico di Milano

Tuesday, May 6 | h. 9:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Positioning. Co-research and knowledge coproduction

Lecture by Ana Fernandes, Universidade Federal da Bahia, Brazil

Tuesday, May 6 | h. 2:30 - 6:00 pm  
Training. Building capacities through collaborative learning

Lecture by Humberto Tommasino, Universidad de la República, Uruguay

Wednesday, May 7 | h. 9:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Acting. Urban Laboratories in marginal contexts

Lecture by Kenneth Reardon, UMass Boston, USA



Progetto PRIN 2022 PNRR Urban co-production and inclusive planning in marginalised contexts. Are Living Labs and the University capable of enhancing the active citizenship of fragile inhabitants? (CUP: D53D23020120001)



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See the detailed program here:



5.5.2025  
— h. 2:00

# The Role of the University in Fragile Territories | day 1

Off Campus San Siro  
via Gigante (opposite to number 5) | M5 Segesta

h. 2:00 pm | Afternoon session

## Off Campus San Siro: an Urban living Lab within a multicultural public housing neighbourhood

[language: English]

welcome coffee

Discussing Off Campus San Siro and CURAlab's approach

- Off Campus initiative: ten years of co-research | **Francesca Cognetti, Alice Ranzini** (DASTU Politecnico di Milano)
- Four universities and an Urban Living Lab. Problematizing community engagement in a public housing neighbourhood in Milan | **Paolo Grassi** (Bicocca University), **Alice Alessandri** (DASTU Politecnico di Milano)

h. 4:30 - 6:00 pm

## **Visit to San Siro neighbourhood reflecting on housing practices and policies**

- Introduction to the context and its development scenario by **Josephine Kitz** and the CURAlab research team
- Guided walk A - **Melissa Miedico, Lucia Ventura, and Ludovica Oliva** (Bocconi Legal Clinic) with **Amina Oussaid**, inhabitant and Community Leader
- Guided walk B - **Stefano Pontiggia** (CURAlab), **Davide Micco** (San Siro Neighbourhood Committee), **Mustapha Rabbah** and **Akano Rotimi**, inhabitants

h. 6:30 pm | Evening session

## **Meeting with Spazio di Mutuo Soccorso**

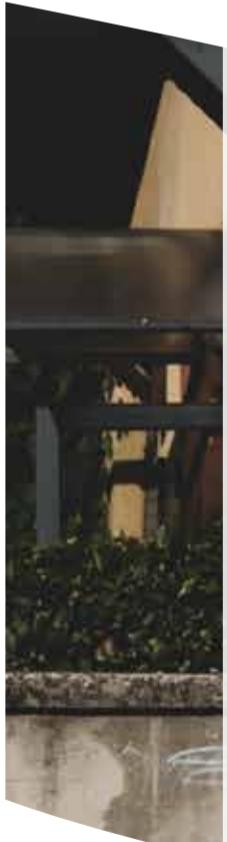
Discussion with the activists and light refreshments

A dialogue with: Lucia Capanema Alvares (Universidade Federal Fluminense Rio de Janeiro), Carlo Cellamare (La Sapienza University of Rome), Ana Fernandes (Universidade Federal da Bahia), Rossella Ferro (Columbia University), Kauan Fonseca Lunardon (Universidade Federal Fluminense Rio de Janeiro), Adriana Goni (University of Montevideo), Kenneth Reardon (UMass Boston), Cristiana Rossignolo (Politecnico di Torino), Humberto Tommasino (University of Montevideo)

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Off Campus programme



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6.5.2025  
— h. 9:30

# The Role of the University in Fragile Territories | day 2

Aula Magna (Lecture hall) | Building 1  
Politecnico di Milano, piazza Leonardo da Vinci 32

h. 9:30 | Morning session

Welcome by **Donatella Sciuto** (Rector of Politecnico di Milano) and **Massimo Bricocoli** (Head of the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies Politecnico di Milano)

Introduction by **Francesca Cognetti** (Politecnico di Milano) and **Adriana Goni** (Universidad de la República, Uruguay)

## Panel 1 | Positioning. Co-research and knowledge coproduction

Chairs: **Carlo Cellamare** (La Sapienza University of Rome), **Cristiana Rossignolo** (Politecnico di Torino)

## **Lecture by Ana Fernandes (Universidade Federal da Bahia, Brazil)** [Portoguese with Italian translation]

Panel's Contributors [Italian]:

- Going beyond the visible and questioning the idea of the simultaneity of the present to nurture relational fields and interactive environments | **Lidia Decandia** (University of Sassari)
- Finding our way: collaborative research within a decolonial perspective | **Giovanni Attili** (La Sapienza University of Rome)
- Knowledge co-production, public engagement and social change in marginalized neighborhoods: three Italian cases | **Francesca Bragaglia** (Politecnico di Torino), **Stefano Pontiggia** (Politecnico di Milano), **Stefano Simoncini** (La Sapienza University of Rome)

Discussants: **Lucia Capanema Alvares** (Universidade Federal Fluminense Rio de Janeiro), **Rossella Ferro** (Columbia University)

h. 2:30 pm | Afternoon session

## Panel 2 | Training. Building capacities through collaborative learning

Chairs: **Giuseppe Scandurra** (University of Ferrara), **Adriano Cancellieri** (Bicocca University)

## **Lecture by Humberto Tommasino (Universidad de la República, Uruguay)** [Spanish with Italian translation]

Panel's Contributors [Italian]

- Fostering networks of relations through research-based capacity building: actionable knowledge to challenge exclusionary urban visions and influence policy in Freetown | **Andrea Rigon** (Politecnico di Milano)
- Helpful research through collaborative actions in Eastern Sicily: hopes and challenges faced by LabPEAT | **Laura Sajia** (University of Catania)
- Building competencies while supporting communities: the case of the Talca School of Architecture (Chile) | **Felipe Miño** (IUAV Venice)

Discussants: **Luca Brignone** (La Sapienza University of Rome), **Sabina De Luca** (Inequalities and Diversities Forum)

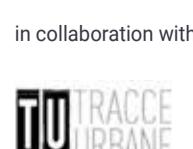
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7.5.2025  
— h. 9:30

# The Role of the University in Fragile Territories | day 3

E.N.Rogers Conference Room | Building 11  
Politecnico di Milano, via Ampere 12

h. 9:30 am | Morning session

Welcome by **Valeria Fedeli** (CRAFT DASTU Politecnico di Milano)

Introduction by **Alice Ranzini** (Politecnico di Milano)

## Panel 3 | Acting. Urban laboratories in marginal contexts

Chairs: **Paolo Grassi** (Bicocca University), **Elena Ostanel** (IUAV Venice)

### Lecture by Kenneth Reardon (UMass Boston)

[English with Italian translation]

Panel's Contributors [English]:

- Collaboration between the University and the Grassroots in the Brazilian case | **Kauan Fonseca Lunardon, Lucia Capanema Alvares** (Universidade Federal Fluminense Rio de Janeiro)
- Participatory approaches in Urban Planning with University Urban Laboratories in Montevideo | **Adriana Goni** (Universidad de la República, Uruguay)
- Reckless forays. Some methodological reflections from the Neighbourhood Labs experience in Rome | **Serena Olciure, Francesco Montillo** (LABSU, La Sapienza University of Rome)

Discussion with: **Sandro Balducci** (Politecnico di Milano/Fondazione Housing Sociale), **Gaia Romani** (Deputy Mayor for Decentralization, Neighborhood Plan, Civic Services, and Public Participation Milan Municipality), **Alessia Pontoriero** (Quarticciolo Ribelle Neighbourhood committee, Rome), **Erika Mattarella** (Bagni Pubblici via Agliè, Turin)

h. 1:00 pm | Afternoon session

**Visit to the exhibition by Laboratorio Carcere - Off Campus San Vittore**

Dialogue with **Andrea Di Franco, Marianna Frangipane and Gianfranco Orsenigo** (Politecnico di Milano)



**MAY 26th, 2025 | h. 2:30 pm**

DASTU Meeting room, second floor, Building 12

**Armando Savignano** (Università di Trieste) presents the book "Missione dell'università" by **Josè Ortega y Gasset**.

A dialogue with **Carolina Pacchi, Gabriele Pasqui, Agostino Petrillo** (Politecnico di Milano), and **Cristiana Rossignolo** (Politecnico di Torino).

Coordinator: **Stefano Pontiggia** (Politecnico di Milano)



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