Education, Design and Practice – Understanding skills in a Complex World

• Paper / Proposal Title:

The Practice of Metropolitan Discipline: an integrated learning approach towards metropolitan complexity

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• Abstract (300 words):

The “difficult problem” of the metropolitan dimension emerges from the embedded complexity of the metropolitan system. We are looking for alternative ways to deal with metropolitan complexity, thus a new epistemology of the metropolis with research questions demanding a wise approach. The narrative of a metropolitan dynamic is told by the various stakeholders that brings the diverse disciplinary backgrounds and skills.

The specificity of the metropolitan discipline lays in the interpretation of the narrative (the storyboard) where needs and problems brought by the stakeholders are transformed into dynamics. This transformation means looking through needs and problems in order to reconstruct the processes generating them, under the guidance of a theoretical set of principles and rules. The reconstruction of a network of relations allows for the restoration of the meaning of each part within the system.

The TELLme training program is a part of an ongoing Erasmus+ strategic partnerships for higher education project called TELLme (Training for Education, Learning and Leadership towards a new MEtropolitan discipline). The paper explains how the Training Program promotes a non-formal learning aiming at building capacity founded on shared leadership, the introduction of transversal and managerial skills, and the ability to adapt the principles in local scale. It also emphasises the Practice of the Metropolitan Discipline, suggesting a shift from the traditional disciplinary framework to a transversal and multi-scalar narrative of the metropolis.

The aim of the interdisciplinary approach is to define a new role of architecture and urban design in the metropolitan decision-making chain. The Metropolitan Curriculum puts together the theory with new tools such as semantic package and metropolitan cartography that allows to connect interdisciplinary knowledge through “zone of readings” and represent spatially on the territory. The training aims to equip participants with the ability to articulate a dialogue/narrative on all subjects that make up the framework of metropolitan project and be able to integrate the overall urbanization process in their strategic plans.
• Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Antonella Contin arch. Ph.D. is Research Associate at DASTU / Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering at University of Politecnico di Milano. She is Coordinator of MSLab – Measure and Scale of the Contemporary city. Her research field of action in Architectural and Urban Composition was about Evaluation methods of urban and architectonic design, Urban Sets and Landscapes, Design Strategies and Montage Techniques, and Projects of rearrangement of the historical and diffused periphery. Since years she is developing the theoretical foundation of the Practice of Metropolitan Discipline.

She was Group Coordinator of some research projects at the metropolitan scale, such as: M.A.Rio Metropolitan Approach for Rio de Janeiro; ARUA (Uganda) Regional Profile (UnHabitat), Capo Delgado growing smart: a project proposal. Strategies for natural and built environment conservation and improvement of the coastal region between Pemba and Palma; The mapping desiring. A project of a new cartography: patterns of use, spatial experiences and perceptions of the urban environment; Cairo Ard al-Liwa new centrality; Dar smart sustainability of identity and Yenikapi transfer point Istanbul. The future of the past. Architecture, infrastructure and archaeology.

Patrizia Giordano is a researcher and project manager at the Fondazione Politecnico di Milano. She is a PhD in the History of International Relations and lived in Israel and the UK from 1995 to 1999 for her research; she holds a Master’s Degree in Philosophy, specialising in Aesthetics. Her research interests cover epistemology and the role of metacognition in the learning processes. Patrizia teaches at the Politecnico di Milano and the Università degli Studi di Milano.

Sandy Jiyoon Kim is a research fellow at Politecnico di Milano and works in the MS Lab (Measure and Scales of the Contemporary Cities) in Department of Architecture and Urban Studies where metropolitan complexity and metropolitan architecture are the main topic of research. She currently works on the TELLme Project, focusing on the disciplinary methodology and the implication of metropolitan systems on the sensible quality of the landscape. She is also part of the teaching staff in the final design studio.

Alessandro Musetta graduated in Architecture at Politecnico di Milano with a final thesis on the relationship between landscape and its representation. Focuses on developing products and services connected to digital cartography, multimedia experiences that produce a narrative through the data, and the design of the spaces through media. From 2013 works as cartographer, making maps at national and international scale, to support decision-making, planning, and business intelligence. He is currently a research fellow at the Politecnico di Milano, working in the MS Lab.

Stefano Sanna is a researcher and a project manager at the Fondazione Politecnico di Milano. He has a Master of Architecture from Politecnico di Milano. His thesis,
“Grounding the City”, addresses the role of the architectural project in shaping the relationship between the contemporary metropolis and its context. He collaborates with MSLab, the research unit of Politecnico di Milano dealing with the Measures and Scales of the contemporary cities, where he keeps developing the topic of his thesis as the core interest of his research. Stefano is also a teaching assistant at the Politecnico di Milano.