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Supervisor Expression of Interest MSCA - Marie Sklodowska Curie Action - (PF) Postdoctoral Fellowship 2021

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Department Name:	Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (https://www.dastu.polimi.it)
Research topic: (https://www.polimi.it/en/scientific-research/research-at-the-politecnico/departments/)	Grassroots practices in the reuse of abandoned buildings. New political and cultural meanings and forms of appropriation.
MSCA-PF Research Area Panels:	<input type="checkbox"/> CHE_Chemistry <input type="checkbox"/> ECO_Economic Sciences <input type="checkbox"/> ENG_Information Science and Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> ENV_Environmental and Geosciences <input type="checkbox"/> LIF_Life Sciences <input type="checkbox"/> MAT_Mathematics <input type="checkbox"/> PHY_Physics <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X SOC_Social Sciences and Humanities
Politecnico di Milano Areas:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Heritage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Smart Cities <input type="checkbox"/> Horizon Europe Missions <input type="checkbox"/> Health <input type="checkbox"/> Industry 4.0
Title and brief description of the Department and Research Group (including URL if applicable):	The Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, (Dipartimento di Architettura e Studi Urbani - DASTU) , is a structure of thematic and interdisciplinary research established in January 2013, with a permanent research staff of 174 professors and researchers. It is among the Italian departments selected and funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MIUR) from 2018 to 2022 within the “Excellence Departments” (L. 232/2016). The Department carries on research in the fields of architectural and urban projects, spatial planning and territorial governance, urban policy, conservation and intervention on heritage and natural environment, historical and critical interpretation of architecture, city



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	<p>and territory., and on the transformation, care and government of historical and contemporary settlements and landscapes. Based on principles of environmental, social and economic sustainability, it approaches urban contexts, local projects and rooted urban practices.</p>
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<p>Brief project description: (max 1 page)</p>	<p>The objective of this research project is to investigate the political dimension of contentious practices of reuse of abandoned or underused buildings for cultural purposes, analysing cases in Europe, but putting them in a wider global context. The political dimension emerges both from grassroots struggles for reusing such assets, and from a consideration on the condition of cultural workers in contemporary cities.</p> <p>The research project aims at critically discussing the objectives, the political and organisational mechanisms, and the societal outcomes of different grassroots strategies for the reuse of abandoned or underused public and private buildings in different urban settings across the Global North and the Global South.</p> <p>Literature on social movements has underlined the importance of space, and in particular of urban space, not only as the context in which different forms of mobilisation take place, but also as an object, an issue of mobilisation itself. Space, in this perspective, becomes a mediator between emerging political questions and systems of local actors, and contributes to shape the political opportunity structures of local struggles and mobilisations.</p> <p>Abandoned or underused public and private buildings pose significant questions and issues to public policies. Such spaces become objects of political insurgence and grassroots mobilisation, that imply forms of re-politicisation, definition of new meanings and identities, practices of appropriation and re-appropriation, but also significant risks in terms of openness and inclusiveness.</p> <p>The main research questions guiding the research project will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- How does grassroots action emerge, in relation to formal/informal insurgent strategies of appropriation/re-appropriation?- How is the interface between Local Authorities and civil society actors structured, in relation to more general governance arrangements? Who are the main stakeholders?- How is the moving threshold between formalisation and informality conceived and managed by a plurality of different actors?- Which are the results of such appropriation processes in terms of urban transformation? How contentious are such practices? How is the threshold between inclusion and exclusion redefined and re-negotiated? <p>The expected result of the research project is a better understanding of the political nature and dimensions of the diffusion of contentious grassroots reuse strategies, in connection with the status of cultural workers in urban context</p>
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