UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Laboratory 2

2324-2-F8701N062

Learning objectives

Helping students to:

• to know and govern local action
• to know and criticise development
• to know and interpret sustainability (environmental, economic, social and much more)
• to contribute to the creation of participatory, democratic, and integrated partnerships

Contribute to the training of professionals capable of:

• be able to recognize and govern the relational aspects of multi-level collaboration
• have an integrated vision of local action and partnerships, consistent with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda, and criticise current fragmented approaches
• contribute to guiding complex processes of territorial, integrated and participatory development planning by bringing together the different professions and sectors towards the objectives of the 2030 Agenda
• linking local territorial development with national level and with international opportunities, especially on environmental and migration issues

Contents

• Know and govern the relational aspects of local action: collaborations, conflicts and mediations.

• Adopt the concepts of "sustainability" and "crisis" as lenses to learn about problems and margins of action in complex situations.

•Adopt a critical approach to fragmented and low-impact long-term spatial planning in favour of participatory, democratic and integrated planning.

• How to collaborate with different actors on environmental issues.

• How to collaborate with different actors on migration issues.

Detailed program

The Workshop Program takes place over three days.

The themes are as follows:

1. Relational Epistemology of Local Action
Topics:
a) Introduction to the relational epistemology of local action. Some key notions through which to understand local action in thematic partnerships will be discussed and operationalized. The perspective will be that of a relational-processual approach, which manages to hold together the multi-level, ecological and intersectional aspects of local action.
b) The "crisis" as an instrument of investigation. The climate, migration, pandemic, and geopolitical crises, require a comprehensive approach, as they are interconnected with the governance of "development." These crises bring to light otherwise hidden and complex issues, providing an opportunity for coordination and intervention.
c) Define and situate the concept of "sustainability". Not only ecological, social, and economic sustainability (highlighted in the 1987 Brundtland Report) but also cultural, intergenerational, interspecies, and inherent in many other dimensions.

2. In search of eco-social policies.
Topics:
a) Know and critique development. Know the origin of the concept, its evolution over time and its critiques starting from feminist and postcolonial approaches.
b) Conflict and cooperation on environmental issues. Political ecology invites us to recognize the balance of power over resources and ecosystems, defining ecology as an arena of (political, ethical, scientific, economic) conflict. However, this also opens up opportunities for collaborations and partnerships among diverse stakeholders to advocate for environmental interventions with lasting social impacts.
c) Define and implement "eco-social" policies. Much research has highlighted the interdependence between environmental sustainability and social sustainability (as well as economic, cultural and the sustainability of many other aspects). However, without coordinated, multi-level cooperation, it is very difficult to implement joint action plans in which sustainability can be achieved in different fields;
d) Case study 1: the geothermal conflict on Monte Amiata. The case highlights how environmental sustainability is intimately linked to the social/economic sustainability of territories. By discussing the history of the case, the actors involved, their (non-)collaboration, we will reflect on the role of coordinated local action in similar contexts.
e) Case study 2: Biodiversity promotion projects. Biodiversity is increasingly used to "situate" the concept of ecology through more targeted and direct actions. In the last 10 years it has become a keyword of projects involving supranational, national, regional and third sector entities. However, if we look closely at this process, we see that there are deep scientific, ethical, and political conflicts that need to be mediated and coordinated alongside cooperation.

3. Forced migration and "participatory" reception.
Topics:
a) Clarifying forced migration and intervention strategies in this area. Introduction to migration processes in Europe, focusing on political, economic and cultural aspects.
b) Designing reception in "hostile environments". Since the so-called "North Africa Emergency" of 2011, an increase in the number of asylum requests, we have witnessed both a multiplication of solidarity initiatives towards migrants and an increase in hostility towards them. The knowledge of these mobilizations is essential to design more effectively reception plans that can survive even in environments that are "hostile" to migration.

c) Case study 1: Volunteers in communities and community-based projects. Solidarity creativity "from below" is indispensable to promote long-term social innovation. Sometimes social innovations arise from spontaneous and independent initiatives of civil society, while in others these initiatives are recognized, encouraged and supported by local, national and supranational institutions.
d) Case study 2: homestay accommodation for refugees, between bottom-up practices and institutionalization processes. Family reception for migrants is now one of the most challenging forms of social/political innovation from below. We will examine and discuss the differences between different homestay projects on the Italian territory, some more spontaneous, free and unregulated, others co-participated and with different actors involved.

Prerequisites

Teaching methods

Teaching takes place interactively. Each seminar begins with an introduction to the topic by the teacher followed by group work and simulations.

Assessment methods

Participation to the course is de facto mandatory, as the asssessment is based on class participation and it will result in APPROVED/NOT APPROVED.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

On the epistemology of relationships and the logic of local action
• Bateson, G. (2000), Verso un'ecologia della mente, Adelphi.
• Ingold, T. (2020). Siamo linee. Per un'ecologia delle relazioni sociali, Treccani
• Ingrosso, M. (2016). La cura complessa e collaborativa. Ricerche e proposte di sociologia della cura, Aracne.
• Latour, B. (2022). Riassemblare il sociale: Actor-Network theory, Mimesis.
• Tronto, J. C. (2013). Caring democracy, New York University Press.
• Watzlawick, P. (1974), Changes, Astrolabio.

On Migration, Solidarity and Local Action Projects
• Bassoli, M., & Campomori, F. (2022). "A policy-oriented approach to co-production. The case of homestay accommodation for refugees and asylum seekers". Public Management Review,1-23.
• Boccagni, P., & Giudici, D. (2022). "Entering into domestic hospitality for refugees: a critical inquiry through a multi-scalar view of home". Identities, 29(6), 787-806.
• Bonizzoni, P. (2023). Impegnati ad accogliere: volontari e migranti oltre le crisi. Ledizioni
• Lampredi, G. (2024) La cittadinanza affettiva. Attivismo, cura, solidarietà, Orthotes.
• Omizzolo, M. (2019). Essere migranti in Italia: per una sociologia dell'accoglienza. Mimesis.
• Semprebon, M., Marzorati, R., & Bonizzoni, P. (2023). "Migration governance and the role of the third sector in small-sized towns in Italy". Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 49(11), 2742-2759.
• Sperandio, E., & Lampredi, G. (2024). "From hospitality to dwelling: a lens for migrant homesharing in Italy". Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 1-19.

On ecology and environmental issues

• Bonetti, M., & Villa, M. (2023). “The conflicts of ecological transition on the ground and the role of eco-social policies: Lessons from Italian case studies”. European Journal of Social Security, 25(4), 464-483.
• Cucca, R., Kazepov, Y., & Villa, M. (2023). “Towards a sustainable welfare system? The challenges and scenarios of eco-social transitions”. Social Policies, 10(1), 3-26.
• Eriksen T. H (2016). Fuori controllo, Einaudi.
• Georgescu-Roegen N. (2003), Bioeconomia, Bollati Boringhieri.
• Latouche, S. (2006). La scommessa della decrescita. Feltrinelli.
• Padoa-Schioppa, E. (2021). Antropocene-Una nuova epoca per la Terra, una sfida per l'umanità. Il mulino.
• Pellizzoni, L. (2023) (a cura di). Introduzione all'ecologia politica, Il Mulino.
• Villa, M. (2020), “Crisi ecologica e nuovi rischi sociali: verso una ricerca integrata in materia di politica sociale e sostenibilità”, in G. Tomei (ed.), Le reti della conoscenza nella società globale, Carocci, pp. 151-182.

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | ZERO HUNGER | GENDER EQUALITY | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS | PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS