

PLANNING AS A TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION IN AN AGE OF PLANETARY CRISIS



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laborating with community partners to understand and act on urban just transitions? Additionally, how have these co-production experiences deepened our understanding of urban just transitions and facilitated their realization?

This paper will explore these questions drawing on the example of a community-engaged research project, called Listening Project, which aims to understand how climate actions aimed at achieving “net-zero” futures align with the everyday concerns and aspirations of residents in Scarborough—a vibrant, multicultural as well as unserved neighbourhood on the outskirts of Toronto. The project partners include various organizations dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and social services for local residents and the project involved wide-ranging research activities such as neighborhood walks, art workshops, and community mapping. This paper will expand the already rich literature on community-engaged research agenda, with reflections, and suggestions for new directions on how such an approach can facilitate and support equitable transitions at neighborhood and urban scales.

Keywords:

urban just transitions; community-engaged research; knowledge co-production; climate actions; Canada.

References:

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From Vulnerability to Resilience: Coastal Heritage as Environmental Infrastructure

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This contribution is conceived within the framework of the PRIN 2022 - *COSTA | Med - Catching Opportunities for Strategic Transformation and Adaptation of Mediterranean Coasts**. The overall objective of the research project is to formulate strategies for the transformation and adaptation of Mediterranean coastal territories. Specifically, the Pescara Research Unit investigates the potential of coastal cultural heritage (Khakzad et al., 2015; Rykwert, 2010) as a strategic tool to address current environmental and climatic vulnerabilities. The mid-Adriatic coastal stretch of Abruzzo is chosen as a case in point. Coastal areas, which are subject to a range of environmental challenges including erosion, rising sea levels, extreme heat, flooding, and saline ingression, are characterised by a high density of heritage values. These areas therefore represent a laboratory for experimentation with the issues introduced. The coastal contexts identified as case studies in the mid-Adriatic stretch (C1 - Pineto-Silvi; C2 - Fossacesia-Vasto) are distinguished by the specificity of their urbanisation processes and socio-economic and cultural dynamics. However, they also exhibit recurring Adriatic settlement patterns, characterised by the juxtaposition of coastal landscapes of varying thickness, marked by distinctive orographic conditions, infrastructural developments, and different extents of ecological relevance. In particular, within the context commonly known as Costa dei Trabocchi (C2), the richness of the natural and cultural heritage present, as well as the incremental exposure of these resources to the risks posed by climate change, serve to emphasise the relevance of environmental issues in the integrated planning and design of coastal territories. Along this stretch, a diversity of coastal protected areas, nature reserves, Sites of Community Importance, areas of fauna protection and naturalistic interest coexist with structural road axes, industrial sites and fragments of ‘seasonal’ tourist linear cities. Physical-relational and ‘unbuilt’ traces between the coast and the hinterland, activities linked to the blue economy, decommissioning and transformation processes due to the dismantling of the Adriatic railway line, are accentuating the complexity of anthropic interactions on the natural landscape and in the formation of the coastal cultural heritage.

These dynamics intensify and multiply the conditions of vulnerability of the land-sea space. The heterogeneity of this variable-thickness space, and the criticalities to which it may be subjected –e.g. in terms of resource availability, adoption of improper use practices, and deterioration of the health status of occupied soils –call for integrated governance. However, this also necessitates the definition of a different development model for urbanised coastal contexts.

The evolutionary dimension of the heritage is generated and renewed by the subjects who take care of it and is nourished by continuous exchanges with society (Magnaghi, 2020). According to this, the research hypothesis is that the coastal heritage can assume an active role in consolidating the adaptive capacity of a system (UNI EN ISO 14091, 2021).

In the context of the ongoing debate on the integration of heritage and the pressing issue of climate risk, this PRIN research frames cultural heritage as ‘environmental infrastructure’. It acknowledges the contextual forms of cultural heritage as an interconnected array of identity elements, capable of serving as a regulatory infrastructure for the environment (Pavia, 2019; di Venosa, 2022). These forms contribute to the restoration, maintenance, and activation of ecosystem services that enhance the quality of the spaces they inhabit.

This contribution specifically focuses on the activities of the Pescara Research Unit related to the development of scenarios and the setting of a planning agenda for the aforementioned areas of study. The aim is to test risk reduction strategies through the research by design approach, exploring the active role of both existing and latent coastal cultural heritage in this process (Price & Narchi, 2018).

Keywords:

land-sea; coastal heritage; environmental infrastructure; vulnerability mapping; design scenario

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Land suitability modelling for Integrated Mangrove Aquaculture to adapt to salinity intrusion in southwestern Bangladesh based on an integrated GIS-MCE-AHP approach

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