

Call for Abstracts

Diachronic and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Urban Social Structure and Segregation

Kick-off Meeting, University of Genoa – January 15, 2026

Organized by the DIAMETROIT FIS Project – Diachronic Analysis of Social Structure in Italian Metropolitan Areas

Background

Urban research — spanning disciplines such as sociology, criminology, epidemiology, and economics — has long demonstrated how the places where people live shape their life choices and opportunities. Building on Blau's theoretical model (1960) and the empirical work of Sampson (2012), this framework posits that population structure, as well as territorial opportunities and constraints, significantly influence life courses, crime rates, employment prospects, civic participation, and public health outcomes. When social structures become unbalanced, they can lead to residential segregation, with particularly detrimental effects on less advantaged social groups.

In the European context, long shaped by the welfare state, rising residential segregation is now increasingly evident in major metropolitan areas. Yet, contemporary studies of social structure need to expand their focus beyond urban cores to encompass wider metropolitan regions, where evolving economic opportunities and structural constraints redefine the social and spatial fabric. Additionally, there is a growing need to approach the study of social structure from a diachronic perspective — examining how social and spatial inequalities evolve over time.

The DIAMETROIT Project, funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR) under the FIS scheme, addresses these challenges through a three-year research initiative dedicated to the diachronic analysis of social structures in Italian metropolitan areas, aiming to develop a comparative framework and an open-access database for urban studies.

Iniziativa finanziata dal Fondo Italiano per la Scienza, Bando 2. Progetto DIAMETROIT "Diachronic analysis of social structure in Italian Metropolitan Areas: a comparative-historical research and open access database for urban studies", CUP D53C24005530001, Codice progetto FIS-2023-01328



Aims of the Call

In the context of the kick-off meeting, we invite scholars from diverse disciplines and of career phases to contribute empirical, methodological, theoretically driven papers addressing the following topics:

- Analysing social structure at the urban grid level;
- Conducting diachronic analyses of social structures;
- Identifying innovative dimensions of analysis in urban segregation;
- Promoting interdisciplinarity in the study of urban segregation;
- Comparing evidence from different methods of analysing urban segregation.

The main area of research will be European cities, but the call is also open to other contexts.

Submission Guidelines

Abstracts should be approximately 500 words, written in English (references not included in the word count). Organizers will value the possibility of organizing a special issue in a scientific journal on the topics suggested in the call. Participants will have the chance to interact with experts of the Advisory Boards of the projects. Abstracts should be sent by November 30th to diametroit@gmail.com

Important dates

Phase	Deadline	Description
Abstract submission deadline	30 November 2025	Authors are invited to submit an abstract (approx. 500 words) by this date.
Notification of acceptance	5 December 2025	Authors will be informed whether their contribution has been accepted or declined.
Confirmation of participation	15 December 2025	Accepted authors must confirm their participation in the kick-off meeting.

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dell'Università
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Event Information

Selected contributors will be invited to participate free of charge in the Kick-off Meeting, to be held on January 15, 2026, at the University of Genoa, Albergo dei Poveri. Lunch and coffee breaks will be provided.

Contact

For abstract submission and further information, please contact: diametroit@gmail.com

Organising Committee

Lorenzo Barbanera, Igor Costarelli, Niccolò Morelli.

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