

PRIN 2022

escapes

International Seminar | Seminario internazionale

Bodies and Work

Spaces, Rights, Care

I • I

Corpi e lavoro

Spazi, diritti, cura

27 November 2025, from 9.30 to 16.30

CRAFT Centre

via Ampere 20, Milano

DASU Department

Politecnico di Milano

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Webinar

Zoom link: <https://polimi-it.zoom.us/j/95220123155?pwd=aFOSU1sDPGv1BmWcTpjPyZ3bk9yYjYR.1>
Meeting ID: 952 2012 3155
Passcode: 561148

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Alessandra Ingraio, Università degli Studi di Milano
Caterina Satta, Università degli Studi di Cagliari

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Bodies and Work Spaces, Rights, Care

The international seminar *Bodies and Work. Spaces, Rights, Care*, is one of the final outcomes of ESCAPES- Experimental Sustainable & Collective Architectural Places for Employees-Carers, a research project of national interest (PRIN 2022), supported by PNRR and financed by the European Union – Next Generation EU. Through an interdisciplinary perspective – integrating architecture, labor law and, sociology – it aims to investigate the ongoing transformations of remote work with particular attention to the spatial implications of these changes for both domestic and professional environments and with a focus on the increasingly intersections between personal and professional spheres. But what happens when paid work and care work intertwine in everyday life? Care work – one of the components of reproductive labour – remains largely invisible and is still largely performed by women. Instead, it must be recognised not as a separate activity, but as a constituent element of social and economic organisation. If work can transcend traditional boundaries, it is up to designers, entrepreneurs, researchers, and policy makers to imagine places that, instead of merely hosting it, allow it to interact with the quality of living, with solid support networks, and with the right to meaningful relationships and a dignified life. The seminar is organised into two main sessions. The morning session includes three keynote lectures, each relating to a specific disciplinary field: Chie Konno (Teco studio), Catherine Rottenberg (Goldsmiths, University of London | Care Collective) and Luisa Corazza (University of Molise | ArIA). The afternoon session is dedicated to the presentation of scientific results developed by the three research units involved in the ESCAPES project.

Corpi e lavoro Spazi, diritti, cura

Il seminario internazionale *Corpi e lavoro. Spazi, diritti, cura*, è uno degli esiti di ESCAPES-Soluzioni spaziali sperimentali per la gestione sostenibile di lavoro a distanza e cura familiare, un progetto di ricerca di interesse nazionale (PRIN 2022), sostenuto dal PNRR e finanziato dall'Unione Europea – Next Generation EU. Attraverso un approccio interdisciplinare tra diritto del lavoro, sociologia e architettura, esso indaga le trasformazioni del lavoro remotizzato e le implicazioni spaziali di tali cambiamenti sia negli ambienti domestici sia in quelli professionali, con un focus sulle intersezioni sempre più fluide tra sfera personale e sfera lavorativa. Ma cosa accade quando il lavoro retribuito e quello di cura si intrecciano nella quotidianità? Il lavoro di cura – una delle componenti del lavoro riproduttivo – rimane ancora oggi in gran parte invisibile e svolto dalle donne. Esso deve invece essere riconosciuto non come un'attività separata, ma come un elemento costitutivo dell'organizzazione sociale ed economica. Se il lavoro può valicare i confini tradizionali, spetta a progettisti/e, imprenditori/trici, ricercatori/trici, policy makers, immaginare luoghi che, invece di limitarsi a ospitarlo, lo facciano dialogare con la qualità dell'abitare, con reti di sostegno solide e con il diritto a relazioni significative e a tempi di vita dignitosi. Il seminario si articola in due sessioni principali. La mattina prevede tre keynote lectures, ciascuna relativa a un ambito disciplinare: Chie Konno (Teco studio), Catherine Rottenberg (Goldsmiths, University of London | Care Collective) e Luisa Corazza (Università del Molise | ArIA). Il pomeriggio è invece dedicato alla presentazione dei risultati scientifici elaborati dalle tre unità di ricerca coinvolte nel progetto ESCAPES.

Programme

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9:00 | Registration

9:30 | Welcome and Opening Remarks
Massimo Bricocoli, Head of DASTU Department

9:45 | Introduction
Michela Bassanelli, PI ESCAPES Project



Morning Session (English presentations)
Chairs: *Michela Bassanelli, Alessandra Ingrao, Caterina Satta*

10:00 - 10:40 | Envisioning a Politics of Care. From Neoliberal Feminism to Radical Interdependence
Catherine Rottenberg, Goldsmiths, University of London

10:40 - 11:20 | Space at Work. The Gender Perspective
Luisa Corazza, Università del Molise

11:20 - 12:00 | Caring to Commoning. Commoning Architecture
Chie Konno, Director of Teco studio, Kyoto Institute of Technology

12:00 - 13:00 | Roundtable Discussion
Nina Bassoli, Triennale di Milano
Chiara Bisconti, Human Resources Consultant
Giovanna Fullin, Università di Milano-Bicocca
Gabriele Pasqui, Politecnico di Milano

Roundtable Chair: *Carola D'Ambros*



13:00 - 14:30 | Lunch Break



Afternoon Session (Italian presentations)
Chair: *Marco Mareggi*

14:30 - 15:00 | Nuovi scenari di cura “dal” lavoro svolto a distanza. La prospettiva sociologica
Caterina Satta and Mariella Popolla (UdR UNICA)

15:00 - 15:30 | Le tutele del lavoro svolto a distanza. La prospettiva giuridica
Alessandra Ingrao and Pia De Petris (UdR UNIMI)

15:30 - 16:00 | Spazi di lavoro e cura. La prospettiva architettonica
Michela Bassanelli and Carola D'Ambros (UdR PoliMi)

16:00 - 16:30 | Closing Remarks



18:30 | Exhibition Opening “Work-Care Spaces”
Ex-Cucine economiche, viale Monte Grappa 8, Milano

Keynote Speakers



Catherine Rottenberg

Envisioning a Politics of Care. From Neoliberal Feminism to Radical Interdependence

In this talk I chart the ideas that have preoccupied me over the past decade: from the rise neoliberal feminism to a politics of care. I first discuss how my interrogation of neoliberal feminism was an attempt to understand and theorize forms of governance and domination. I then move to my more recent collaborative work on the politics of care, focusing on the notion of interdependence. Offering a more robust theorisation of interdependence, I argue, is key to reorienting our political vocabulary and practice in order to develop an emancipatory lexicon that cuts across identity claims and can more effectively challenge the hegemony of liberal imaginaries. I conclude by sketching some possible alternatives to our violent present by drawing on The Care Manifesto's feminist, queer, anti-racist and eco-socialist vision.

Catherine Rottenberg is Subject Head of Media and Culture and Professor in the School of Media, Communications and Cultural Studies at Goldsmiths, University of London. She works in the areas of feminist theory and feminist media studies, with a particular focus on neoliberal feminism and the politics of care. Her monographs include *The Rise of Neoliberal Feminism* (2018) and *Performing Americanness: Race, Class, and Gender in Modern African-American and Jewish-American Literature* (2008). She is also the co-author of *The Care Manifesto* (2020) and editor of *This Is Not A Feminism Textbook!* (2023) and *Black Harlem and the Jewish Lower East Side: Narratives out of Time* (2013). In addition to her academic work, she is a long-time union organiser and grassroots activist.



Luisa Corazza

Space at Work. The Gender Perspective

The speech explores the use of space from a gender perspective, taking into account the transformation of work in the context of the digital transition.

Historically, women's participation in the labour market has been shaped by spatial factors — whether work takes place far from home or within it, and whether it is paid or unpaid.

But what about the reverse analysis: how has the construction of space itself been influenced by women's patterns of work and participation? Has it evolved alongside the growing presence of women in the labour market? How has it been affected by the emergence of new forms of work, new professional skills, and new organizational frameworks? And has legal regulation kept pace with these changes?

Luisa Corazza is a Professor of Labour Law at the University of Molise, where she also serves as Director of the Research Center for Inland Areas and the Apennines (ArIA). After earning her PhD from the University of Bologna in 1998, she conducted research at the University of California – Berkeley (2000–2001), the University of Trento (2001–2003), and the University of Bologna (2004–2006). Her work has focused on European socialpolicies, discrimination and the promotion of equal opportunities, the labour market and business transformations, territorial inequalities, and inland areas. Since 2015, she has served as Social Policy Advisor to the Italian President of the Republic.

Chie Konno

Caring to Commoning. Commoning Architecture

Japan boasts a remarkably high ageing rate of 29.3%, with an average life expectancy of 84.3 years – the highest in the world, making it a nation of exceptional longevity. In this context, care providers in ageing rural areas are placing great expectations on architecture to foster bonds within local communities. This is giving rise to creative transformations in both the community and its environment, centred on care for social vulnerables: the elderly, people with special needs, and children. Initiatives have emerged where architects provide consistent support in the entire process. The projects introduced here represent consistent involvement, from research identifying the commons of the community, through the creation of the architecture, to establishing partnerships for the maintenance of the facilities after completion. The presentation will be about the practice of how architectural creation can be linked to the reweaving of local commons.

Chie Konno, Architect, Ph.D., Director of teco. She is leading an architectural design atelier called “teco” in Japan, and working as professor at the Kyoto Institute of Technology, also held a design studio as Visiting Academic at Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHz) in 2024. She has undertaken a wide range of architectural projects, including furniture, house, community center, welfare facilities, high school, and even art installations. And also engaged in urban research and work on establishing frameworks in the pre-design phase, to create environments that cross over existing systems. She is dedicated to creating projects that involve local people from creating the framework, architecture, and even sustainability after completion, with many of these projects relate to care for the elderly, children, and people with special needs. Especially her work “Kasugadai Center Center” is the one of the remarkable work in Japan, and won the Architectural Institute of Japan 2023 (AIJ Prize 2023).

