

# RESEARCH THEME

XXXIX cycle – a.y. 2023/2024

**Title of the doctoral research**                      Designing against food waste and poverty. Innovative strategies, methods and processes in community-based systems.

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**Abstract**

The political, environmental, and economic crisis has brought to the forefront a general increase in both food poverty and food waste with diversified impacts on a social level. This issue, which has been compounded by the recent pandemic, has not only affected developing and low-income countries but also developed middle-income nations. Design for Social Innovation can contribute to guarantee equitable access to food by intervening in the systems of relationships by testing bottom-up and localized initiatives with situated communities. As indicated by the Sustainable Developments Goals number 1 (No poverty), 2 (Zero hunger), 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and 12 (Responsible consumption and production) by the United Nations, the matter at hand has been deemed of crucial importance in the pursuit of a more equitable and just world. Within this context, the objective of this proposal is to explore both existing and innovative models for addressing current food and social needs, with a particular focus on the potential role of Space and Service Design and Systemic Design methods and tools. In particular, the proposal aims to investigate how design-driven strategies can help to:

- support short-range food management systems;
- foster the developments of a network of proactive actors for the management of food flows;
- enhance civic engagement for the fight against hunger and food waste;
- design a context-based service to help communities in need;
- understand the implications and impact of these flows considering the complexities of such systems.

In analyzing this topic, it is important to give special consideration to the spatial dimension, particularly with respect to the rising and pivotal function of neighbourhood hubs as places for the activation of these processes.

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**Keywords**    Design for social innovation, design against food poverty and waste, spaces and services.