

RESEARCH THEME

XLII Cycle – a.y. 2026/2027

Title of the doctoral research	Weak Futures: Reimagining Design as Ethical Resistance
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Abstract

Today, perhaps more than ever, envisioning alternative futures beyond technological determinism and automation seems increasingly difficult. The future, once imagined as open and plural, now appears pre-scripted by narratives of inevitability that diminish human agency. This call invites critical and innovative research engaging philosophical frameworks—particularly Vattimo’s “weak thought”—and their implications for design theory and practice.

Proposals should interrogate techno-centric ideologies, exploring how creativity and conceptual invention can reclaim uncertainty, complexity, and openness in imagining alternative futures. Contributors are encouraged to address the ethical dimensions of design in the posthuman condition, investigating how speculative-material methodologies can challenge established paradigms.

Central to this inquiry is the transformative potential of design across aesthetic, ethical, productive, and socio-political dimensions. Submissions should adopt a visual-critical methodology, combining philosophical reflection with concrete case studies. The aim is to reconceptualize design as an ethical and imaginative act of resistance, capable of regenerating the multiplicity and openness of possible futures.

Keywords	Design Futures, Weak Thought, Design Philosophy, Hermeneutics
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