

RESEARCH THEME

XLII Cycle – a.y. 2026/2027

Title of the doctoral research	Situated Collaborative Storytelling: Narrative-Based and Art-Based Approaches to Participatory Design from the Margins
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Abstract	The doctoral research is expected to investigate storytelling as a situated and relational design practice (Gottlieb, 2024; Udoewa&Gress, 2023) supporting participation and agency in marginalized contexts (hooks, 1984). Building on in-field research, storytelling is framed as a tool for Narrative Change (Hansen, 2020), enabling the co-creation of experiences that challenge dominant narratives and foster plural perspectives. Drawing on situated knowledge (Haraway, 2016) and agonistic design (Mouffe, 2013; DiSalvo, 2015), the research explores how communicative environments can sustain counter-narratives while supporting individual and collective imagery (re)construction. The research addresses relational and power dynamics, proposing narrative as an infrastructural framework for shaping relationships. Storytelling becomes an aesthetic and social space where connections are negotiated. In marginalised settings, a key focus is the integration of participatory art enabling communities to articulate lived experiences (Barone, 2011; Bruce 2022), with multimedia languages and technologies expanding the visibility and impact of these narratives across audiences (Jenkins et al., 2013; Manovich, 2001), supporting the circulation of plural voices. The research aims to contribute both theoretically and practically to co-design in polarized contexts by developing tools, methods and narrative formats with particular attention to fostering meaning-making processes.
Keywords	Relational Design, Narrative Change, Co-design Practices