

# RESEARCH THEME

XXXIX cycle – a.y. 2023/2024

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**Title of the doctoral research**

The City of Care – Eco-systemic strategies to design healthier places

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**Proponent professor**

Anna Anzani

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**Abstract**

The increasing complexity and connectedness of contemporary reality have generated wicked problems (such as extreme poverty, climate change, environmental degradation, health crises) that defy the research and cannot be handled through a lineal approach.

The concept of health as a fundamental human right, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity but a state of complete physical, mental and social happiness (Declaration of Alma-Ata, WHO 1978) has been challenged by the recent pandemic impact, that has increased the general perception of vulnerability, and emphasized the systemic link between the planet's and people's wellbeing.

The urban scenario, characterized by the massive abandonment of postindustrial assets, a multiethnic urban dimension and the progressive ageing of the population, still plays a crucial role for the quality of life, as demonstrated through its inclusion by the UN member countries among the key players of the Sustainable Development Goals (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/cities/>).

Through an active role of design as a “transversal discipline” with a strong ethical base, the proposal aims to explore care as a female knowledge based on complexity, flexibility, management of the unexpected, sense of responsibility, extracting this paradigm from the domestic perimeter, to make it accessible to all in relationships, places and communities and to investigate its eco-systemic potentials as a transition strategy to healthier and more sustainable cities.

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**Keywords**

City, systemic design, relationships, ethics, places