

17 NOV 2022 4PM CET

# Isabella Clough Marinaro

# INFORMAL ROME: RULE-BENDING AS HOUSING GOVERNANCE IN CONTEMPORARY ITALY

Discussants: Chiara Caciotti (Politecnico di Torino), Penny Koutrolidou (National Technical University of Athens), Abel Polese (Dublin City University)

Italy is home to a vast range of housing informalities and its capital is no exception. In fact, much of Rome's urban development has been driven by informal housing production, motivated both by survival needs and financial speculation. This seminar draws on the recent book *Inhabiting Liminal Spaces*, published in early 2022 by Routledge, to discuss how ambiguities in housing governance condition the daily lives and tactics of some of the city's most disadvantaged inhabitants. Focusing on two groups in particular – squatters in a public housing complex and Roma living in camps – the discussion highlights how the lack of sustained public provision of low-cost accommodation, coupled with shifting and contradictory regulations, have impacted residents' everyday security, stability, and informal self-help strategies. The analysis combines fine-grained ethnography with a political economy lens to question how far informalities are able to reconfigure historically rooted power dynamics and hierarchies. It then opens up a conversation about how to move towards realistic strategies of housing governance that recognize the agency and needs of marginalized groups.

**Online only:**  
No registration is  
needed. We will  
meet in:  
Aula Astengo, DIST  
- Castello del  
Valentino Viale  
Mattioli 39, Torino

Online:  
Please register at:  
[https://polito-  
it.zoom.us/join/  
register/tZ0qd-  
Cqrz8pGdNS9DwkF  
a8sbgkV2K08z3ZE](https://polito.it.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0qd-Cqrz8pGdNS9DwkFa8sbgkV2K08z3ZE)

Isabella Clough Marinaro is Professor of Sociology and Italian Studies in the Department of Psychology and Social Science, John Cabot University, Rome. Her research focuses on the sociology of how rules are produced, negotiated, bent and broken, especially in contemporary Italy. She is currently working on projects exploring how Italian social movements campaign on issues of crime, legislative reform and social justice. She has recently published *Inhabiting Liminal Spaces: Informalities in Governance, Housing, and Economic Activity in Contemporary Italy* (Routledge, 2022). She previously co-edited two books: *Italian Mafias Today: Territory, Business and Politics* (2019) and *Global Rome: Changing Faces of the Eternal City* (2014).

The lecture series is organised by professors Camillo Boano, Francesco Chioldelli and Michele Lancione.

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CENTRO INTERDIPARTIMENTALE DI RICERCA IN STUDI URBANI