



Photo by Ianira Vassallo

THE PARADOXES OF THE CARING CITY.

Ambivalences and ambiguities of care infrastructures under austerity urbanism.

10 September 2026
h 2.30 - 4.30 pm

Sala Vigliano - Castello del Valentino

Chiar: Ianira Vassallo (DIST -Polito)
Speakers: Federica Gatta (Institut d'Urbanisme et de Geographie Alpine -UGA) and Neil Turnbull (Welsh School of Architecture - University of Cardiff)

In recent years, the concept of the "caring city" has emerged at the center of contemporary urban and political debate, proposing itself as an alternative model for rethinking urban space starting from the needs of care, proximity, and social justice. However, within contexts dominated by austerity urbanism, care infrastructures risk colliding with deep structural contradictions.

Bringing the work of the two speakers into dialogue, this seminar will seek to highlight the ambivalences and ambiguities of emerging institutional tools, as well as policies and practices of urban space oriented toward care. The goal is to question how it is possible to build and defend community spaces in a context marked by budget constraints, privatization, and growing inequalities, ensuring that the rhetoric of "care" does not turn into a mere cover for the withdrawal of public welfare.



Politecnico
di Torino



UNIVERSITÀ
di TORINO



DIPARTIMENTO
INTERATENEI DI SCIENZE
PROGETTO E POLITICHE
DEL TERRITORIO