

# URD Ph.D. Seminar



## SOURCES OF SOLIDARITY IN SUPERDIVERSITY: A TRANSVERSAL ANALYSIS OF 20 CASE-STUDIES IN BELGIUM

28th June 2017  
14:30 - 16:30

Sala Vigliano,  
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### guest lecturer

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### discussant

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The participation to the seminar is recognised as PhD activity and entitles to Hard Skills credits. For information, please write an email to [chiara.basile@polito.it](mailto:chiara.basile@polito.it)

In the DieGem project (2013-2016), more than ten researchers, from various disciplinary backgrounds studied the development of innovative forms of solidarity in superdiversity in Brussels and Flanders. Through a transversal analysis of 20 case-studies conducted in factories, schools, sports fields, cultural projects and superdiverse neighborhoods, this seminar focuses on the sources of solidarity. It builds upon a long lineage of sociological theories to derive four main sources of solidarity (interdependence, shared norms and values, joint struggle and encounter). Each of these four sources specifies a distinct basis for feelings of shared fate and a specific perspective on the value and role of social difference in society. Each of them also reflects a particular ideological position on how societies develop social order, cohesion and solidarity (cfr. Oosterlynck et al., 2016). Once identified, the paper focuses on their manifestation in the case-studies. First, it shows that encounters alone are rarely sufficient to nurture solidarity and that (combinations of) the three other sources are generally essential. Second, it demonstrates that each of the four sources has an inclusionary as well as an exclusionary side, but that the fault lines of exclusion and belonging are not necessarily ethnic, cultural or national. Third, it states that it is crucial to negotiate the value of a contribution (in case of interdependence), the specific goal and methods of a joint struggle, the particular norms and values to be shared or the terms of an organized encounter if solidarity is to be nurtured. This conclusion also opens up an intervention perspective on solidarity in superdiversity.

Oosterlynck, S., Loopmans, M., Schuermans, N., Vandenabeele, J., Zemni, S. (2016). Putting flesh to the bone: looking for solidarity in diversity here and now. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 39 (5), 764-782.