

Acronym – MIND - Mountains INSiDe the Mountain

Title – Narratives, dynamics and development paths: new readings

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Department – Department of Architecture and Arts

ERC sector – SH2_11

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Organization of PI – University of Udine

Iuav role – partner

Other partners – IULM University, Sapienza – University of Rome, University of Molise, Tor Vergata University of Rome, University of L'Aquila

Duration – 36 months

Start – 01/06/2022

Closure – 31/05/2025

Project budget – € 867 696.00

Iuav budget – € 125 514.00

Funding to Iuav – € 93 105.00

Source of funding – MUR (Ministry of University and Research) – Call PRIN 2020

Description – This research aims to examine the ongoing debate about the position of centrality and marginality in Italian mountain areas (Camaldoli Manifesto) by considering the work conducted at the European level (CIPRA, EUSALP) and its impact. The project will analyse the economic-social-cultural dynamics through an investigation of ongoing processes, while taking into account issues introduced by the current pandemic. The project will focus on the promotion of competitiveness and innovation, mobility and connectivity (the flow of people/ideas/funding), which constitute the main axes of the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region. We attempt to overcome the current fragmentation present within contemporary Italian mountain studies by offering a new and articulated reading of mountains through a hybrid and heuristic outlook. Our outlook will present perspectives on local and regional specificities. Our research team is divided in five OU distributed between the Apennines and Alpine area, and is structured to exploit a multi-scalar analysis approach which moves from the macro-regional scale to the sub-regional one. Specific regional case studies will provide substantive and comparative data needed to produce a holistic notion of the Italian mountain; a more abstract and theoretical idea contrasted against this framework of fieldwork. This trans-scalar analysis aims to offer a contribution on the policy plan for the governance and territorial management of Regional Structures by taking part and intercepting programming tools at European level (2021-2027) and on a National one (PNRR). The objective of the first phase will be to identify and establish a series of indicators based on demographic distribution, architectural heritage, broadband coverage and local public transport access. In the second stage, the five OU will generate a body of knowledge about the processes underway at our pilot case study sites connected to these indicators. Debates on neo-ruralism, territorial gaps, territorialization processes, economic and social 'colonization', tourism and climate change inform our plans, complementing the innovative research approaches we intend to utilize. Our methodology is focused on an approach which plans to facilitate reflexive qualitative analysis which potentially reflects the centrality of place and people at our research sites. Particular attention will be paid towards the trinomial Territory-Landscape-Tourism nexus in order to decode current issues affecting the conceptualization and the pervasiveness of the generic Italian mountain trope (e.g. Milan-Cortina 2026). The overall result will be the development of an 'Attractiveness map', which will account for and visualize the ongoing processes taking place in Italy's key mountain zones; our conceptual and practical map will be useful for fostering better governance and provide recommendations for the streamlining of draft regional and larger-scale European policy.

Objectives – The main objective of the research is to provide a full picture of the Italian mountain today: a description of the issues, their interpretation and possibly their solution. The research will comprise a synchronic reading of the ongoing processes. In the Apennines, a diachronic reading will reconstruct some of the main socio-economic, demographic and territorial dynamics that defined the mountain, in order to provide a context for the current situation. In the Alps, the diachronic reconstruction will be based upon the vast existing literature and further integrated by analysis that will draw inspiration by those carried out by the apenninic OUs. Gender and generational equality will be a central issue within and without the research group. The OU will carefully evaluate the effects and consequences of their activities and their respective results on young people and women.

Website – <http://www.mindthemountain.it/>



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