

**Acronym** – TUPACH

**Title** – Transnational Urban Projects Assembled within Cultural Heritage sites: protection, accessibility, and valorization in Italian cities

**Scientific coordinator** – Matteo Basso

**Department** – Department of Architecture and Arts

**ERC sector** – SH7

**Strategic emerging topic** – Human Wellbeing

**Cluster** – Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society

**Principial Investigator** – Laura Lieto

**Organization of PI** – “Federico II” University of Naples

**Iuav role** – partner

**Other partners** – Polytechnic University of Milan

**Duration** – 24 months

**Start** – 30/11/2023

**Closure** – 29/11/2025

**Project budget** – € 265 683.00

**Iuav budget** – € 51 297.00

**Funding to Iuav** – € 51 297.00

**Source of funding** – MUR (Ministry of University and Research) - Call PRIN 2022 PNRR

**Description** – Cultural heritage has become a key asset in public and private investments as an element to enhance the image, tourist attractiveness, and retail appeal of an area, city, or even an entire region. While promising the physical conservation or restoration of cultural heritage, these processes may come at the expense of using transformative projects to generate and extract economic value from places, their uses, and cultural meanings.

The TUPACH project breaks new ground by utilizing assemblage theories and methodologies to debunk typical assumptions regarding the role of transnational actors and projects in heritage-rich cities, pose innovative questions, and collect new evidence. The research will develop and draw on six case studies of transnational projects in the heritage-rich contexts of Naples, Rome, and Venice. It will mobilize multiple institutions and local actors within three workshops (dedicated to heritage protection, accessibility, and valorization), and carry out extensive dissemination in the academic realm and transfer in different urban policy arenas. The project will generate evidence-based policy guidelines for heritage-rich cities in Italy and Europe to promote better accessibility, protection, and valorization of heritage within urban projects.

**Objectives** – The main objective of the project is to provide new insight and understanding into how major architectural and urban projects are designed and implemented and how they relate to and affect heritage-rich contexts. The literature review intersecting transnationalism, assemblage theories, and cultural heritage intends to highlight the consistency and overlaps of such theories. This will generate new theoretical positions regarding the relevance of various socio-material features and the importance given to them by designers within projects in heritage-rich contexts. The case studies will break new methodological ground across transnational and assemblage approaches and test, reformulate, and corroborate the literature-reinforced hypotheses. Through the study of six projects and their interaction with context, we also aim to provide clearer evidence of the alignment or disparity between how context is defined and investigated in practice compared to international guidelines (e.g. UNESCO, ICOMOS), to academic theory and research. The project outputs also aim to support local heritage actors and strengthen grassroots networks in the three cities across Italy.