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Information, Links & Opportunities ESC PhD Students

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4TH DECEMBER  
SI PUO' PENSARE  
ALTRO. SI DEVE FARE  
ALTRO.



First Self-organized Seminar by  
PhD Students in Education in  
Contemporary Society

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Doctoral students

presenters:

Eugenia Campanella  
Marta Begna  
Chiara Cattarin  
Mattia Marexiano  
Francesca Loberto  
Alessia Lambicchi  
Monica Facciocchi



The seminar aims to create an opportunity to rediscover the topicality of Basaglia's thought, in its transformative and foundational scope for many of the discourses and practices that also circulate within the pedagogical and educational sphere. It is precisely for this reason that we speak, with Basaglia, of 'optimism of practices', as it is mainly from research practices rooted in the materiality of historical, cultural and social contexts that spaces for thinking and doing something else can open up. This question must be posed radically, which is not so much to go to its origin as to place it at the centre of a critical thought that interrogates and deconstructs its profound meaning, calling into question the ethical dimension of research in its characterisations of intentionality and responsibility towards the other and thus, inevitably, towards ourselves, our positioning and our visions of the world. This is only possible through a rigorous investigation of what exists in order to extend its boundaries towards utopia and impossibility: asylums can be closed.



## 2ND DECEMBER: INTERVISION WITH MARGARIDA



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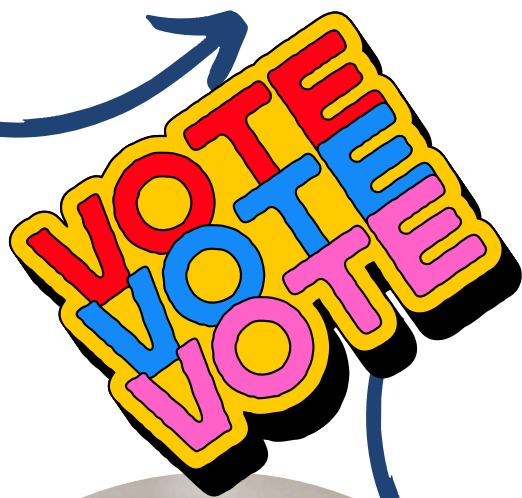
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On the **2nd of December (10.00-13.00)** there will be the interesting opportunity to join a seminar organised by **Margarida Frade dos Santons**, visiting PhD student from the University of Lisbon. She will discuss with PhD students about the doctoral experience in Lisbon, her story and her research in the field of mental health.

The meeting will end with a **round table about mental health during the PhD path**, discussing strategies and transformative ideas to take care of our mental health and our community.

It is a lucky chance to know more about the collaboration between University of Milano Bicocca and the University of Lisbon, especially for the new students interested in gaining information about the possibilities of **studying abroad given by the Department**. In fact, PhD students must spent at least 3 months as visiting students abroad (6 for the Pnrr scholarships) and they also have the interesting opportunity to do a **thesis in co-tutelle** with a foreign university! Furthermore, it could be a very special moment for all of the PhD students and an occasion to strengthen relationships among colleagues and reflect on how to create a safe space for discussing the experience of **being a early career researcher**.

Here you can find the [program](#)!



## 25TH NOVEMBER : ELECTION DAY!

Just a quick note to let you know that on **25 November from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**, we'll be holding elections for the **departmental representative**. This is a really important role for PhD students, as it helps to make sure that you're involved in all the academic activities going on! We'll be electing two doctoral student representatives from Education, Intangible Heritage and Anthropology, so please come along and cast your vote!

OUR ESC CANDIDATE:

*Leonardo Lapomarda*

Leonardo Lapomarda is a PhD student in Education in Contemporary Society and a truly passionate researcher of the human-robot relationship. He knows the immense value of open dialogue and mutual support between colleagues.

**Choose Leonardo as your representative, because he is the perfect choice for someone who really listens to our needs, for a department that puts doctoral students at the centre!**



# CALL 4 INTEREST



We are thrilled to present the first page of the newly-formed internal **ESC doctoral student newsletter**! Each month, we'll be collecting and sharing all the latest initiatives, articles, call for abstracts/papers/interest, projects and ideas that you'd like to see out there. We truly believe that this newsletter can be an amazing opportunity to increase our capacity to **work as a community of peer**. It will allow us to try and network and build communication bridges between us. There is clearly a need for support for this fantastic initiative, so:

- If you would like **to be part of the newsletter's editorial team**, we'd love to hear from you – just drop Monica or Eugenia an email using the addresses on the side.
- If you **have something interesting** (even if you're not sure what it is yet!) to share, we'd love to help you make it happen. Just send your ideas to the same email addresses above, and we'll make sure they're seen!

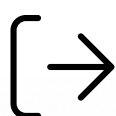
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## PHD MEETING ON ITALIAN UNIVERSITY REFORM



Meeting to discuss the newest university reform and how it will affect PhDs and post docs' career.

The meeting is organized by PhD students with ADI (Associazione dottorandi e dottori di ricerca in Italia) to inform ourselves about the expected changes and to express doubts and requests.

**When:** 4 Dec 2024 - 5.30 p.m.

**Where:** U6-32





# 19TH NOVEMBER EXCELLENCE SEMINAR: PROMOTING INCLUSIVE RESEARCH IN HETEROGENEOUS CONTEXTS

Our recent seminar, promoted by the **CAPTED Centre** brought together a distinguished lineup of researchers to address the ethical complexities of conducting digital research. This event offered an interdisciplinary perspective on the evolving landscape of online research with people.

In his presentation Professor **Paolo Monti** showed how the Departmental Study Centre CAPTED is concerned with understanding the digital in our experiences. To explain this, he used an inspiring analogy: just like Alice through the looking glass, we can see **digital screens as barriers and thresholds**. This view sees the screen as a complex medium that connects and separates at the same time. It invites us into new worlds and at the same time defines the boundaries of our experiences within them. Just as Alice enters a world that fascinates and confuses her at the same time, screens let us into places that can be equally intriguing and confusing. In both cases, what we know is disrupted; rules change, identities blur and users must navigate in a space where the boundaries of reality are constantly being redefined.

In the morning, we heard Professor **Chiara Bove** give an introduction, and then the keynote speakers gave their presentations.

Professor **Tama Leaver** from Curtin University talked about the issues of privacy and ethics in social media research.

The Professor **Edoardo Datteri** gave a talk on the epistemological issues surrounding big data-based research, particularly in the field of robotics.

After that, Dr **Davide Cino** and Dr **Anna Chinazzi** showed us two research cases that showed some of the different challenges researchers face when it comes to methodology, ethics and epistemology.



In the afternoon session, doctoral researchers presented cutting-edge projects spanning anthropology, education, and psychology.

**Lucinda Ugarte** and **Monica Facciocchi**, colleagues from PhD in Education, shared their collaborative presentation on *Safe Zones and Harmful Tones: Tech-Mediated Paths of Resistance and Reproduction of Violence*. Their presentation shed light on the dual nature of online platforms for marginalized communities (LGBTQI+ migrants and parents who have experienced violence by their children - CPV), showing how digital spaces can both support and harm.





## 40° CYCLE WELCOME DAY



On 14 November, we were lucky enough to host Prof. **Letizia Caronia** and Prof. **Paolo Sorzio**, who gave two challenging and engaging lectures. They took us back to the roots of **frames and lenses, of the postures and motivations** that drive our projects. It was a great perspective through which to welcome the new PhD students!

In the afternoon, the PhD Coordination introduced the new students to more bureaucratic matters. These issues were explored in a more light-hearted and itinerant manner in the afternoon, during a **Treasure Hunt** that saw the newly arrived students engaged in finding the key people and places of the doctoral journey, with some useful **tips for 'survival'**.

The afternoon ended by approaching the **'more heart and gut'** part of the PhD course. *Samuele Maccioni* (37th) led us to consider how much the **'love'** for our research, for the field (and also for ourselves, in a way) is and will be fundamental in our journey. Love finally guided the thoughts deposited on coloured sheets of paper during a **Tanabata** reproduction (conceived by *Rebecca Coacci* - 39th - and *Petar Vasilev Lefterov* - 38th -), in which the PhD students' **aspirations and intentions** were materially housed in the PhD students' room: the challenge will be to take care of them, all together, as a **research 'family'**.

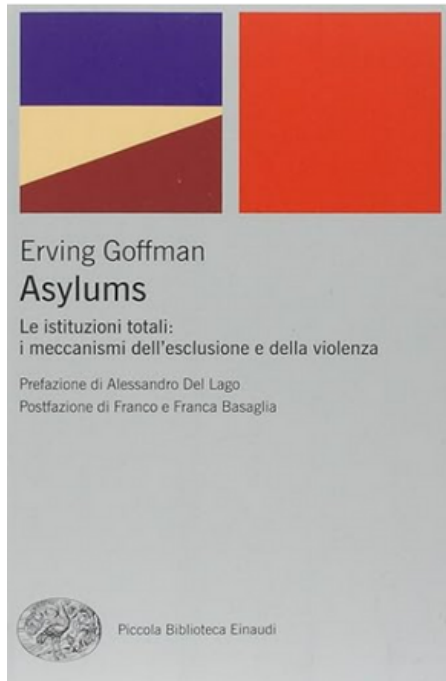
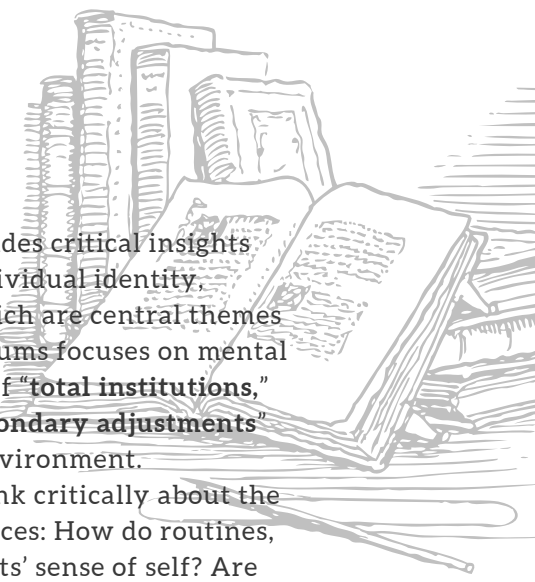


*Welcome*  
to the new ESC PhD  
Students

Alessia  
Prer Daniel  
Giulia  
Chiara  
Leonardo  
Fabiana  
Caterina  
Bogdan  
Claudia







Goffman's *Asylums* because it provides critical insights into how institutions influence individual identity, behavior, and autonomy—all of which are central themes in educational settings. While *Asylums* focuses on mental hospitals and prisons, its concepts of “**total institutions**,” the “**mortification of self**,” and “**secondary adjustments**” can be applied to any structured environment.

Reading *Asylums* encourages to think critically about the **power dynamics** in educational spaces: How do routines, hierarchies, and rules shape students' sense of self? Are there ways in which institutionalized education inadvertently restricts personal **identity or autonomy**?

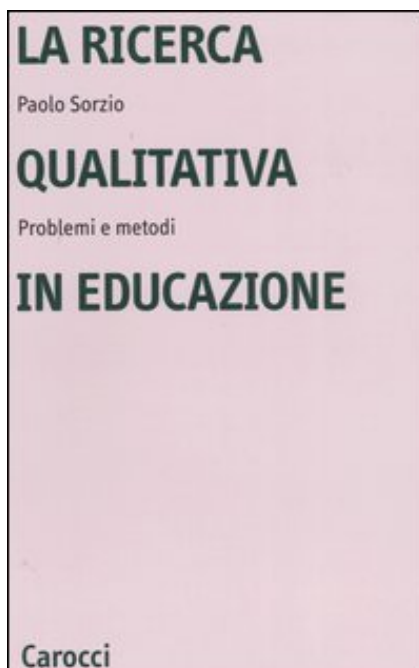
Caronia reminds us that knowledge is created through **interaction, not in isolation**. Your research will grow richer when you actively engage with others—participants, peers, mentors, and even critics. Embrace conversations, seek feedback, and be open to refining your perspectives.

Each exchange can bring you closer to new insights.

**Interpreting data is more than recording information**; it's about deeply engaging with what you find and understanding it within its context. Think of analysis as an evolving conversation, one that may lead you to unexpected insights as you connect it back to the broader field.

**Your perspective as a researcher is essential in creating meaning.**

Interpretation is not passive; it involves consciously shaping how you view and present your findings. Reflect on your unique viewpoint and the ways it informs your study.



Sorzio emphasizes the importance of approaching research with **curiosity and openness**. In qualitative research, **unexpected findings** often provide the most valuable insights. Be prepared to adapt your focus as you go, allowing your observations and data to shape your direction, even if it takes you somewhere new.

He also highlights the significance of being aware of **your own role and biases as a researcher**. Qualitative research is deeply interpretative, and your perspective influences what you see and how you interpret it. Acknowledging this can help you remain **critical and balanced** in your approach, providing more depth and rigor to your findings.

Finally, Sorzio encourages a thoughtful use of qualitative methods, **choosing techniques that fit the questions you're exploring** rather than relying on any one approach. Try combining methods like interviews, observations, and case studies to create a well-rounded view of your subject, allowing you to capture its complexity more fully.