



Nicolò Di Prima

Researcher in Design and Anthropology | Ph.D in Design

**Research Fellow
Adjunct Professor**

Designing and developing the Circular Economy (MA)
Anthropology for Design (BSc)

Department of Architecture and Design, Polytechnic of Turin

CONTACTS

PHONE +39.349.580.99.73

EMAIL nicolo.diprima@polito.it

Turin, ITALY

Profile

Born 1987, I am a researcher in design and anthropology living in Turin, Italy. I hold a Ph.D in *Management, Production and Design* obtained from Polytechnic of Turin (IT). Since 2020, I have been teaching *Anthropology for Design* and *Designing and developing the Circular Economy* at the Department of Architecture and Design, at the Polytechnic of Turin (IT).

On a methodological level, I combine methods and tools from cultural anthropology and design to improve socio-cultural sensitivity and promote a critical and conscious approach in design practice and to increase the direct impact of social research.

The projects in which I am involved aim to promote processes of sustainable community transformation through socio-technical changes and towards the reduction of social inequalities. I adopt participatory and context-centred design approach and qualitative research methodology in order to co-design artefacts and services that could generate concrete and equal social, economic and environmental impacts on the people everyday lives and on the planet. My research focuses on fostering participatory action-research and design processes within the third sector system investigating benefits, limitations and impacts of projects in terms of social change.

Education

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2018-2022

Ph.D. in Management, Production and Design
Polytechnic of Turin (IT), Department of Architecture and Design.

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2014-2017

MA, Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology
University of Turin (IT)

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2006-2011

BSc, Industrial Design
Polytechnic of Turin (IT)

Selected Publications

(For full list see end of CV)

Di Prima, N., & Campagnaro, C. (2023). **Design partecipativo e sociale con il terzo settore, tra trasformazioni tangibili e riflessività / Participatory and social design with the third sector, between tangible transformations and reflexivity.** In E. E. Giunta (Ed.), *Design for social. Accelerare innovazione nell'impresa sociale / Boosting innovation in social enterprises* (pp. 33–37). Studio Shift.

Campagnaro, C., Di Prima N., Leonardi, D., Meo, A. & Stefani, S. (2022). **Re-Orienting the Turin Reception System to Address Homelessness. Findings from an Italian Participatory Action-Research Study.** *European Journal of Homelessness*, 16(2), 97-119.

Research Interests

Since 2014, I have been doing research within public/private third sector services dealing with social vulnerability. My research approach is characterised by participatory research through design and anthropology methods. This means that participatory design (or redesign) of places, systems and services is as useful in providing innovative, concrete, assessing and usable design solutions as it is in better understanding the phenomenon being investigated from a social research perspective.

I'm interested in exploring how the representations of different stakeholders and system policies take shape in the everyday practices and governance of organisations, bringing out, at different scales, which socio-economic and political issues are at stake in facilitating or impeding equitable and sustainable social change, with greater focus on the most vulnerable actors. This is possible thanks to research processes that are collaborative and therefore involve the participation of the different social actors within the systems under investigation.

My research experiences have taught me both to work with multidisciplinary teams and research perspective (design, anthropology, sociology) and to interface and engage in dialogue with different social actors: from local policymakers to the management figures of different organisations, to frontline workers, to social service beneficiaries.

Research Experiences

— 2023-today

Research Fellow (post-doc)

Research Grant: "Progettare e sviluppare l'economia circolare, prodotti, processi e sistemi" FOUNDS: PNRR M4C2, Investimento 1.3 - Avviso n. 341 del 15/03/2022 - PE0000004 3A-ITALY Made in Italy circolare e sostenibile - E13C22001900001.

Polytechnic of Turin (IT), Department of Architecture and Design.

— 2017-2018

Research Assistant

Research Grant: "Design and social inclusion processes".

Polytechnic of Turin (IT), Department of Architecture and Design.

— 2015-2017

Research Assistant

Research Grant: "Designing with homeless people: housing, health and empowerment for homeless people".

Polytechnic of Turin (IT), Department of Architecture and Design.

> Research Projects

— 2023-today

MICS - Made in Italy circolare e sostenibile. *Spoke 2: Eco-Design strategies: from materials to Product Service Systems – PSS*

— 2018-today

Participatory Action Research Project: **Re-Orienting the Public Homelessness Reception System of Turin.**

> *service design, design for policy*

— 2014-today

Action Research Project: **Costruire Bellezza. Participatory and inclusive design workshop.**

> *co-design, service design, design for inclusion, self-production and crafting, circular economy*

— 2015-2018

Co-Design Project: **Cantiere MAMBRETTI. Participatory renovation of Milan shelters.**

> *co-design, interior design, self-production and crafting*

Teaching Experiences

— 2020-today

Adjunct Professor

Course: **Designing and developing the Circular Economy** (ICAR/13)

MSc: Architettura per la Sostenibilit  - Architettura per il Progetto Sostenibile - Design Sistemico - Architettura per il Patrimonio - Architettura Costruzione Citta' *Polytechnic of Turin (IT), Department of Architecture and Design.*

— 2020-today

Adjunct Professor

Course: **Anthropology for Design** (M-DEA/01)

BSc: Design e Comunicazione *Polytechnic of Turin (IT), Department of Architecture and Design.*

— 2019

Teaching Assistant

Course: Design for Industrialization (ICAR/13)

BSc: Engineering Program *Ecole d'Ing nieurs Arts et M tiers (ECAM), Lyon (FR)*

— 2016-2019

Teaching Assistant

Course: Scenario Design – Design II (ICAR/13)

BSc: Design e Comunicazione Visiva *Polytechnic of Turin (IT), Department of Architecture and Design.*

> BSc Thesis Supervisor

In 2021 I started to supervise students for BSc thesis in Design.

> Tutoring in Educational Workshops

Mar. 2024 "Cortile Comune. Progettare spazi inclusivi con il bamboo - Polito Design Workshop"

> *co-design for the public social service for foreigner people in Turin*

Sep. 2023 "Circular Design e Autocostruzione. Un belvedere nel Monferrato

> *co-crafting of a public viewpoint for a Piedmont landscape recognized by UNESCO*

Mar. 2023 "Laboratorio Zero - Polito Design Workshop"

> *co-design for homeless shelter in Turin*

Mar. 2018 "Design per i sistemi di welfare (Welfare system design) - Polito Design Workshop".

> *co-design for social service spaces in Turin*

Mar. 2017 "Gobenching - Polito Design Workshop"

> *co-design and co-crafting of interior furniture for homeless and migrants Milan shelters*

Mar. 2016 "Il Cortile che non c'è - Polito Design Workshop"

> *co-design for a Turin public library*

Mar. 2015 "MIND (MAD IN DESIGN)"

> *interdisciplinary co-design workshop with people affected by mental health disorders*

Research Skills, Tools and Methods

Qualitative Research: ethnography, interviews, focus group, participant observation. Qualitative data analysis.

Design-anthropology: participatory and co-design workshops, prototyping and evaluation.

Technical Skills and Software Package

Mac Os x, Windows

Microsoft Office: Excel, Powerpoint, Word

Graphic: Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign

3D Modelling: Rhinoceros, Solidworks (CSWA certificate)

Programming Language: Html e Css (basic level)

Video Making: Adobe Premiere

Craftsmanship: wood, metal, resins, textiles, paint

Languages

ITALIAN: written and spoken (native)

ENGLISH: written and spoken (intermediate)

FRENCH: written and spoken (sufficient)

Other Experiences

2007-2016

Freelance Graphic Designer

> <http://cargocollective.com/registered-c>

2007-2016

Founder and Creative Director of CATTIVO GUSTO.

Artist collective: visuals, participatory art productions, clothings, manufactures and applied arts.

> <http://cattivogusto.it>

2012-2014

Curator of ENTE PER IL PROMOVIMENTO DEL PENSIERO MANUALE. Independent research project about contemporary design and self-production.

> <http://pensieromanuale.tumblr.com>

2014

Internship at Studio Nucleo. Contemporary art and Design studio based in Turin.

Awards

The Costruire Bellezza project has been mentioned in the ADI DESIGN INDEX publication (ADI - Associazione Italiana per il Disegno Industriale).

The Costruire Bellezza project has been awarded the PREMIO SIAA 2018 (Società Italiana Antropologia Applicata).

The Cattivo Gusto's artwork *Macchina della feciLITÀ I* is part of the collection of MIAAO (Museo Internazionale delle Arti Applicate Oggi), Turin.

Workshops attendance

Aug. 2019

Critical Concrete Summer School "Practice and Theory of Sustainable and Social Architecture" - Porto (PT)

> *Tutors: Hugo Dourado (coletivo mel), Samuel Kalika (Critical Concrete), Ana Antunes (A3-Ateliê), Gianluca Stasi (ctrl+Z)*

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Nov. 2014
Spazi Senza Dimora (Paratissima) – Turin (IT)
> Tutors: Civico 13 and Walter Visentin.

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Sep. 2013
Cantiere Barca #4 - Turin (IT)
> Tutor: RaumLabor (Berlin), in cooperation with "a.titolo"

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Nov. 2010
Visualising Transformation (Artissima Design) – Turin (IT)
> Tutors: MARC, Uda, Nucleo, in cooperation with IN Residence Design Dialogues e Artissima 17 (Internazionale d'Arte Contemporanea).

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Nov. 2008
IN Residence Design Dialogues: Workshop #1 – Nature Through Artifice - Turin (IT)
> Tutors: Pieke Bergmans, Tomáš Gabzdil Libertiny, Julia Lohmann, Liliana Ovalle, Raw- Edges Design Studio.

Conferences Discussant

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Nov. 2023
Symposium Critica Pratica. Per una critica della normalità: nuove visioni e paradigmi progettuali.
November 29 – Università di Genova, Dipartimento Architettura e Design, Italy
Paper Title: *Anthropology when everybody Design. Insegnare l'antropologia per uno sguardo critico nella progettazione.*

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Jun. 2023
Conferenza Nazionale SID 2023: "Design per la diversità" – June 12-13, Pescara, Italy
Paper Title: *Progettare oltre la marginalità sociale. Evoluzione di un laboratorio per il design sociale partecipativo. / Designing beyond social marginality. Evolution of a participatory and social design lab.*

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Jun. 2023
Potere, sogno e autodeterminazione. Esperienze di lavoro sociale con le persone senza dimora, a partire dal progetto HOOD "Homeless's Open Dialogue" – June 5-6 – Turin, Italy.
Paper Title: *"Costruire Bellezza". Laboratorio di design partecipativo per l'inclusione sociale e la didattica interdisciplinare.*

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May 2023
FRID 2023 - Fare Ricerca in Design: "Keywords. Parole della ricerca in design" - May 4-5 - Venezia, Italy.
Paper Title: *L'etnografia nel design. Tra ambiguità e possibilità / Ethnography in design. Between ambiguities and possibilities.*

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Sep. 2021
15th European Research Conference on Homelessness - September 24 – On-line.
Paper Title: *Re-orienting Turin Reception system to Address Homelessness: Findings from an Italian Participatory Action Research.*

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Sep. 2021
SID POST2020 - Assemblea Annuale della Società Italiana di Design: "Design per connettere: Persone, Patrimoni, Processi" - February 25-26 - Palermo, Italy.
Paper Title: *Progettare connessioni inclusive a contrasto dell'homelessness.*

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Feb. 2020
FRID 2019 - Fare Ricerca in Design 4th Edition: "La doppia prospettiva della ricerca in design" - February 10-11 - Venezia, Italy.
Paper Title: *Design e antropologia. Un dialogo inclusivo.*

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Sep. 2019
SED2 - Socially Engaged Design Conference – "Initiate, sustain, expand" - October 5-6 - Limassol, Cyprus.
Paper Title: *Participatory design processes towards inclusion: three case studies within italian social care system.*

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Jun. 2019

SID 2019 - Assemblea Annuale Società Italiana di Design: “100 anni dal Bauhaus. Le prospettive della ricerca di design” - June 13-14 - Ascoli Piceno, Italy.

Paper Title: *Design e Antropologia per la trasformazione dei sistemi sociali complessi.*

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Dec. 2018

VI Convegno Società Italiana Antropologia Applicata (SIAA): “Cambiare il mondo con le parole. Antropologia Applicata e ComunicAzione” - December 13-15 - Cremona, Italy.

Paper Title: *Il Design Autroprodotto e la Resistenza Creativa. Etnografia di un laboratorio partecipativo a contrasto della grave emarginazione adulta.*

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Jun. 2018

RAI 2018 - Royal Anthropological Institute Conference: “Art, Materiality and Representation” - June 1-3 - London, United Kingdom.

Paper Title: *Artefacts of inclusion: the participatory lab of Costruire Bellezza.*

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Oct. 2018

Rsd7 - Relating Systems Thinking And Design 7 Symposium - October 24-26 - Turin, Italy.

Paper Title: *Systemic and Participatory Design Processes in Care System for Marginalized People.*

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Dic. 2017

V Convegno Nazionale Società Italiana Antropologia Applicata (SIAA): “Collaborazione e mutualismo. Pratiche trasformative in tempi di crisi” - 14-17 June - Catania, Italy.

Paper Title: *Via Ghedini 6. Un laboratorio di cittadinanza.*

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Apr. 2015

ASA15 - Association of Social Anthropologists: “Symbiotic anthropologies: theoretical commensalities and methodological mutualisms” - April 13-16 - Exeter, United Kingdom.

Paper Title: *Beauty, participation and inclusion: designing (and making) with homeless people.*

Nicolò Di Prima
List of publications

> MONOGRAPHS

Montacchini, E., Tedesco, S. Di Prima, N. (2021). *Progettare e sviluppare l'economia circolare. Un'esperienza didattica sulla trasformazione di rifiuti in nuove risorse per l'architettura e il design*. Anteferma Edizioni.

> ESSAYS IN EDITED VOLUMES

Di Prima, N., & Campagnaro, C. (2023). "Design partecipativo e sociale con il terzo settore, tra trasformazioni tangibili e riflessività / Participatory and social design with the third sector, between tangible transformations and reflexivity". In E. E. Giunta (Ed.), *Design for social. Accelerare innovazione nell'impresa sociale / Boosting innovation in social enterprises* (pp. 33-37). Studio Shift.

Montacchini, E., Tedesco, S., Di Prima, N. (2021). "Designing Circularity. The circular economy for landscape and territory". In F. Scalisi (ed.) *PROJECT. ESSAYS AND RESEARCH, 6, A New Life for Landscape, Architecture and Design*, pp. 158-173.

D'Urzo, M. & Di Prima, N. (2021). "Una didattica circolare e "appropriata": ambiente, tecnologia, società". In E. Montacchini, S. Tedesco, N. Di Prima (eds.) *Progettare e sviluppare l'economia circolare. Un'esperienza didattica sulla trasformazione di rifiuti in nuove risorse per l'architettura e il design*. Anteferma Edizioni, pp. 14-17.

Passaro, R., & Di Prima, N. (2021). "Domestic food design lab". In E. Montacchini, S. Tedesco, N. Di Prima (eds.) *Progettare e sviluppare l'economia circolare. Un'esperienza didattica sulla trasformazione di rifiuti in nuove risorse per l'architettura e il design*. Anteferma Edizioni pp. 24-27.

Di Prima, N. (2021). "Design e antropologia: Un dialogo concreto". In R. Riccini, A. Buffagni, S. Faoro, M. Franceschini, M., Pastore (eds.) *FRID 2019. La Doppia Prospettiva della Ricerca in Design*. Bembo Officina Editoriale, pp. 333-346.

> ACADEMIC PAPERS

Campagnaro, C., Di Prima N., Leonardi, D., Meo, A. & Stefani, S. (2022). "Re-Orienting the Turin Reception System to Address Homelessness. Findings from an Italian Participatory Action-Research Study". *European Journal of Homelessness*, 16(2). 97-119.

Campagnaro, C., Di Prima N., Porcellana, V., & Stefani, S. (2021). "La Palestra delle Cose / Triggering Things". *DIID, Disegno Industriale Industrial Design*, 70(20). 88-95. (Anvur: Classe A).

Campagnaro, C., Di Prima, N., & Ceraolo, S. (2021). "Co-Design and the Collective Creativity Processes in Care Systems and Places". *SOCIAL INCLUSION*, 9(4). 130-142.

Porcellana, V., Campagnaro, C., & Di Prima, N. (2020). "Weaving. Methods and tools against homelessness between anthropology and design". *Antropologia*. 7 (2 N.S.) *Special Issue: Antropologia e Design*. 63-82. (Anvur: Classe A).

Campagnaro, C., & Di Prima, N., (2018). "Empowering actions. The participatory renovation of a shelter". *INTERVENTIONS/ADAPTIVE REUSE*, 9. 68-75.

Porcellana, V., Campagnaro, C., & Di Prima, N. (2017). "Quando l'antropologia incontra il design. Riflessioni a margine di una ricerca-azione a contrasto dell'homelessness". *ILLUMINAZIONI*, 42. 229-251. (Anvur: Classe A).

> CONFERENCE PAPERS

Campagnaro, C., & Di Prima, N. (2022). "Progettare connessioni inclusive a contrasto dell'homelessness". *Atti dell'Assemblea Annuale della Società Italiana di Design, "Design per connettere: Persone, Patrimoni, Processi"*, 25-26 febbraio 2021, Palermo. 358-369.

Di Prima, N., Campagnaro, C., & Ceraolo, S. (2021). "Participatory Design Processes Towards Inclusion: Three Case Studies within Italian Social Care System". *Proceedings of Socially Engaged Design Conference 2, "Intiate, Sustain, Expand"*, 5-6 October 2019, Limassol, Cyprus. 110-111.

Di Prima, N. (2020). "Design e antropologia. Per la trasformazione dei sistemi sociali complessi". *Atti dell'Assemblea Annuale della Società Italiana di Design, "100 anni dal Bauhaus. Le prospettive della ricerca di design"*, 13-14 giugno 2019, Ascoli Piceno, Italy. pp. 315-322.

Campagnaro, C., Di Prima, N., & Ceraolo, S. (2018). "Systemic and participatory design processes in care systems". *Proceedings of Relating Systems Thinking and Design (RSD7) 7th Symposium*, 24-26 Ottobre 2018, Turin, Italy. pp. 289-299.

> RESEARCH REPORTS

Campagnaro, C., & Di Prima, N. (2018). *Disegnare ambienti che accolgono*. VITA Società Editoriale.

> DISSERTATIONS

Di Prima, N. (2022). *Design Anthropology. Approach for a social design*. (Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis). Polytechnic of Turin.

Di Prima, N. (2017). *The Object as Relationship. Ethnography of a Participatory Workshop between Anthropology and Design*. (Unpublished MA Thesis). University of Turin.

Di Prima, N. (2011). *Design for Homeless People: Charging Security system for mobile-phones in commonplaces*. (Unpublished BSc Thesis). Polytechnic of Turin.

> COLLABORATIVE BOOKS

Di Prima, N. (2017). "Jhafis Quintero e Costruire Bellezza". In D. Rosi and T. Taramino (eds.), *Fuoriserie*, Prinp Editore, pp. 87-93.

> OTHER ESSAYS

Di Prima, N. (2020). "Progetto 3taP, Ministero della Povertà". In V. Marchis and M. Pozzi (eds.) *Atlante degli incontri con la macchina*. Mimesis Edizioni, pp. 81-90.