

# LUCA BERTOCCI

## CV

Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, Politecnico di Torino  
[luca.bertocci@polito.it](mailto:luca.bertocci@polito.it).

### 0. RESEARCH INTERESTS

My academic and intellectual interests, along with my research, span several fields. Primarily, I focus on critical urban theory and critical geography. My main aim is to develop concepts that contribute to the advancement of radical democracy through an ecological, decolonial, and trans-feminist perspective. During my Phd, I also explored studies related to the Ocean Turn. My research has thus evolved to integrate these recent advancements with critical urban geography. Especially, that seems to me crucial for addressing two significant contemporary phenomena: planetary urbanization and climate change. Among other consequences, the latter is causing sea level rise and an increase in extreme weather events. I refer to this epochal condition and research framework as "Planetary Flood". With-in it, I aim to develop concepts, research practices, and social activities that promote radical (and wet) democracy.

### 1. EDUCATION

2017 – Bachelor of Literature and Philosophy, University of Bologna.

2020 – Master in Geography, University of Bologna.

2024 – PhD in Urban and Regional Development, Polytechnic of Torino.

#### 1.1. PHD DISSERTATION

**Title:**

The Archipelago. Envisioning the Urban Revolution amid the Planetary Flood.

**Keywords:** Urban, Critique, Ocean, Water, Archipelago.

**Supervisors:**

Prof. Marco Santangelo, Politecnico di Torino, Supervisor.

Prof. Camillo Boano, Politecnico di Torino, Co-Supervisor.

**Doctoral Examination Committee:**

Prof. Filippo Menga, Referee, Università degli Studi di Bergamo.

Prof. Sara Bonati, Referee, Università degli Studi di Genova.

Prof. Andrea Pavoni, Member, ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa.

Prof. Matteo Puttilli, Member, Università degli Studi di Firenze

Prof. Isabella Consolati, Member, Politecnico di Torino

**General aims and basis of the research:**

The main aim of my research has been to foster an intersection between ocean studies and critical urban geography. The context of my department (DIST - Politecnico di Torino) has been crucial, allowing me to hybridize my philosophical and humanistic background with technical knowledge in fields such as architecture, urban planning, and engineering. Additionally, the ongoing dialogue with colleagues specializing in water-related and ocean-related issues has been pivotal.

**Abstract:**

The research has defined and investigated a new hyper-object, the Planetary Flood, together with one among its possible becoming: the Archipelago. They have constituted, at once, the abstract hypothesis I proposed, and the new historically concrete object the enquiry has put to the fore. Guiding question has been: how to bring the “urban revolution” concept back to its revolutionary origins at the time of Planetary Flood?

First part of the work has been theoretical. It has disassembled, updated, and reassembled Lefebvrian formulations by confronting them with Negri and Hardt’s ones about the multitude and the Common, Morton’s around hyper-objects and Moore’s on metabolism. The social architect, and then the urbanistic and metabolic life of the multitude are thus offered as operative and living concepts. Subsequently, Italian philosopher Massimo Cacciari’s “Archipelago” has been discussed and suggested as a new possible figure for the Urban Society. It stands for a common world to be built by means of the creative and constructive capacities of the human multitude while profiting from the turbulent materiality of the Sea.

Instead, part two of the research has reported and analyzed the material I gathered during a period of fieldwork in the Netherlands. There, by means of navigation, I observed and lived through the Dutch ubiquitous wetness. Specifically, the Room for The River Program (river courses management) and the work of Blue21 (floating urbanism) have been considered. Finally, they have been critically read to highlight (diagnosis), take care for, and orientate (prognosis) some embedded potentials of post-capitalist and post-statal ecologies.

Generally speaking, the research has been characterized by two major dimensions: a utopian momentum to break through into the possible and, consequently, a theoretical unbalance of the argument itself. That way, I aimed to show the urban-political alternatives currently existing Planetary Flood is in the grip of. The attempt has thus been made to draw the outline of a new urban critique. One which should be rooted on the becoming-architect of critical geography. Namely, on the endless and always to be renovated meta-philosophical gesture of taking seriously, engaging in and thinking through the Project in its urban-political materiality.

**2. FIELDWORK EXPERIENCES.**

- Sept. – Dec. 2019: “The green regeneration of Anderlecht, Brussels”. Affiliated with: Cosmopolis, VUB, Vrije Universiteit Brussel.  
I did fieldwork research about the process of green regeneration of the Abattoir area in Anderlecht, Brussels. The work consisted of studying how new agricultural-related projects were transforming one among the poorest neighborhoods in the city. I did semi-structured interviews with the people and practitioners involved.
- Jan. – July. 2022: “The port-city of Rotterdam”. Affiliated with: PortCity Futures, TU Delft.  
I did fieldwork research about port and port-related infrastructures in the area of Rotterdam. Moreover, I focused on water-related civil engineering projects aimed at coping with rising sea levels. I also regularly attended the seminars, workshop and other initiatives organized by the PortCityFutures network.

**3. CONFERENCES.**

- 9/12/2022 - OLTRE LA GLOBALIZZAZIONE: Narrazioni/Narratives, Como, Università degli studi dell’Insubria. Speech title: *Giacomo Leopardi and the Archipelago of Massimo Cacciari*.
- 5-8/06/2023 – IGU Thematic conference: “The Ocean and Seas in Geographical Thought”, Milano, Università di Milano-Bicocca. Speech title: *The Sea in Massimo Cacciari Geo-philosophy*.
- 22/04/2024 – AAG Annual Meeting (Hawaii). Speech title: *The Planetary Flood. Tools for conceptualizing the encounter between the World-Ocean and planetary urbanization*.

**4. SCHOOLS.**

- 1-3/12/2021 - Winter School on Research Methodology, University of Firenze.
- 21-23/06/2021 - Summer School in Global Studies and Critical Theory: political imagination after covid-19, University of Bologna.

## 5. OTHER PROJECTS/ENGAGEMENTS.

- 01-10/2021 – “Dialoghi Immunitari. Città, Territorio, Comunità”, DIST, Politecnico di Torino.  
An innovative didactic project whose aim was to organise 4 podcasts starting from the question: "How is the urban and territorial question in its main economic, value, normative and symbolic dimensions being restructured in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic?". The project consisted of: teamwork, semi-structured interviews with professors, practitioners and social activists; workshops for structuring and imagining the podcast as an educational tool.
- 2008-2018 – Political activism for environmental and social justice-oriented issues. Organization of seminars, collective initiatives, and autonomous social enquiry.

## 6. PUBLICATIONS.

### 6.1. ON PEER-REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS:

- 1) Bertocci, L., (2024, forthcoming) “La tua domanda è troppo grande”. Come lasciare l'elefante nella stanza e non entrare in loop durante il Dottorato, *Lo Squaderno*, 68.
- 2) Bertocci, L., (2023) *Galleggiare nel cambiamento climatico. Scenari dall’Olanda, Atti e Rassegna Tecnica, anno LXXVII, 1, pp. 41-46.*
- 3) Bertocci, L., Panosetti, G., Pirone, T., Spanu, G., (2020) *Urbanizzazione planetaria e Covid-19: nuove geografie per convivere con la natura?*, *Documenti Geografici, 1, pp. 605-618. DOI: 10.19246/DOCUGEO2281-7549/202001\_38.*
- 4) Bertocci, L., (2018) *SguardoSpazioImpressionista, Zaprunder, n. 46, pp. 144-149.*

### 6.2. ON NON-SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS:

- 1) Bertocci, L., (2020, 31 Marzo). *Urbaine partout, ville nullepart.* At: <http://www.intotheblackbox.com/articoli/urbaine-partout-ville-nullepart/>.
- 2) Bertocci, L. (2022, 23 Febbraio). *I due naufragi: Jeff Bezos, lo Chthulucene e l’urbanistica.* At: <http://www.intotheblackbox.com/articoli/i-due-naufragi/>.
- 3) Bertocci, L. (2023, 10 Marzo). *Progetto, metropoli e climate change. Intervista a Marco Assennato (I° parte).* At: <http://www.intotheblackbox.com/articoli/progetto-metropoli-e-climate-change-i/>.
- 4) Bertocci, L. (2023, 21 Marzo). *Progetto, metropoli e climate change. Intervista a Marco Assennato (II° parte).* At: <http://www.intotheblackbox.com/articoli/progetto-metropoli-e-climate-change-ii/>.
- 5) Bertocci, L., (2023, 17 Novembre). *L’Arcipelago Toscano. Note per navigare domandando nell’Alluvione Planetaria.* At: <http://www.intotheblackbox.com/articoli/arcipelago-toscano/>.

### 6.3. VIDEO:

- 1) Bertocci, L., (2020, 18 Maggio). *Il Covid-19, l’aria e la Webcam.* Into The Black Box – YouTube. At: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zc\\_kKGyOg4M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zc_kKGyOg4M).