



INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

DEINDUSTRIALISATION AS A PROJECT

THE PROJECT WITHIN DEINDUSTRIALISATION

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Università degli Studi di Brescia
Parco dell'Adamello



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI BRESCIA

International Summer School 2025
DEINDUSTRIALISATION AS A PROJECT | THE PROJECT WITHIN
DEINDUSTRIALISATION

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This International Summer School (ISS) is open to master students and doctoral candidates in architecture, urban planning, and territorial planning, as well as participants from related disciplines such as geography, sociology, political ecology, political science, anthropology, history, and philosophy. It offers an opportunity to explore contemporary tensions revolving around deindustrialization, as both a political and ecological project, as well as to interrogate the spatial and political role of design within this process.

This dual approach combines the application of interpretative and analytical methods to specific built and unbuilt environments, in particular through the lenses of architecture, urbanism, and sociology.

The framework of deindustrialization will be conceptually centred around three main themes: (i) the revalorization of entire territories through different uses of space, following the shutdown of production and the shift toward "sustainable" economic growth within neoliberal policies; (ii) the forms of inhabitation that respond to deindustrialization processes, both in urban and rural contexts; and (iii) environmental contamination, understood both in terms of pollution/toxicity, as well as a historical and political relationship, which gives form to new dynamics between territories and resource extraction.

The entanglement of these dimensions highlights the contradictions of the project of deindustrialization, thereby bringing to the fore a complex, contradictory potential for future urban planning.

Three geographies will serve as the basis for these reflections: (a) Via Milano and its surrounding neighborhoods in Brescia under long-term

gentrifying pressures of a "regeneration" project for the soon-to-be-decommissioned Caffaro Industries; (b) the UCAR Carbon/ex-Selca site in Forno Allione in Valcamonica, a valley that still bears the brunt of its industrial history; and (c) Valsaviore, a high valley in Valcamonica, where deindustrialization consists in the automation of hydropower infrastructure.

Thus, the ISS will explore how deindustrialization triggers interconnected processes of revalorization, contamination, and inhabitation, and will examine the latter in light of their social, economic, and environmental contradictions. These areas will not be analysed merely through a comparative lens but as a unique and complex deindustrialized region – one that brings to the fore spatial, historical, and economic continuities between lowlands and uplands – so as to suggest critical perspectives on small and large-scale planning.

Lectures

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