



# “DiverCity: towards the intercultural city”

First SSIIM Unesco Chair international workshop for young researchers

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SSIIM Unesco Chair ‘Social and Spatial Inclusion of International Migrants – Urban Policies and Practices’ encourages junior researchers in the field of international migration to attend the workshop *DiverCity: towards the intercultural city*, to be held in Venice (Italy), 26-27 March 2012.

### Rationale

The coexistence between diversity and social cohesion in European societies have been guaranteed up to now by the principles of political pluralism and tolerance. However, the crushing of space and time as an effect of globalization have massively contributed to the process of cultural pluralisation that national as well as local governments are largely unprepared to cope with.

As a consequence of an increasingly urbanizing world, international migrants head primarily to large cities because they provide a bulk of opportunities for income generation as well as they concentrate most support networks which are so crucial to newcomers. As a urban phenomenon, immigration affects all dimensions of urban policy making such as local development, education, health, housing, and the use of public space. Although international migration affects mainly Europe and the Western world in general, immigration flows are rapidly growing also in cities of the global South.

In this framework, the “understanding of otherness” becomes a key issue to design and implement better policies and practices that are necessary to promote the social and spatial inclusion of international migrants.

### Background

SSIIM UNESCO Chair research focus is on local policies and practices addressing international migration to cities. Its publications are widely circulated among European researchers, as well as researches from Latin America, Asia and Africa. The Chair has contributed to the UNESCO-UN-Habitat ‘Urban Policies and Creative Practices for Migrants: Inclusive Cities for All. *A guide for City Professionals*’ toolkit, and the 2010 annual Report by the UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, ‘The right of migrants to adequate housing’.

### Objectives

The overall objective of *DiverCity workshop* is to promote high quality scientific exchanges among Junior researchers with different scientific/disciplinary backgrounds and from diverse geographical contexts, working on issues relating to international migration and cities. The workshop will provide the opportunity to share experiences and initiate new academic and scientific collaborations and partnerships.

The specific objective of the workshop is to establish a SSIIM Unesco Chair long-term international network of young researchers collaborating on relevant topics of common interest.

### Workshop structure

The workshop will last 2 days.

On the first day participants will present their research work and interests, promoting mutual knowledge, enhancing scientific interchange and exploring perspectives for common research work.

The second day will look at future partnerships including organizational and networking matters, collaboration in training programs and courses, organization of international conferences/workshops, visiting/exchange opportunities, publications, joint proposals for international projects.



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## Presentations

The junior researchers network is intended to focus on the urban impacts of international migration. Presentations should hence fit into the frame of ‘international migration and the city’ including issues such as: the right to the city; urban citizenship, democracy and belonging; local policies and practices to cope with the challenges posed by increasingly diverse urban societies; intercultural/multicultural cities; diversity and collective space; spatial and social segregation/inclusion.

Presenters should not address research results or specific case studies. They should rather provide a widest overview of their research topic(s) and approach so as to foster discussion on the context and implications of their work with their colleagues in similar fields, all in a friendly, collaborative environment. Debate on emerging issues will feed ideas, feedbacks and expertise sharing for programming further collaboration.

## Abstracts

Presentation abstracts must include:

- Contact information: name, academic degree, position title, organization, address, telephone, email.
- a short bio (max 200 words).
- Presentation title.
- Abstract of presentation (between 800 and 1,000 words)

Presentation proposals must be submitted by e-mail no later than November 28, 2011 to: [divercity@unescochair-iuav.it](mailto:divercity@unescochair-iuav.it)

## Selection of proposals

An international scientific committee will be responsible for selecting the abstracts. In order to promote the international character of the network, a maximum of 2 researchers per country will be accepted.

Notification of acceptance: December 16, 2011

## Working language

English

## Eligibility

Candidates must be in the early stages of their career, including PhD students and PhD with no more than 5 years of experience. Researchers must be affiliated to a scientific institution. Independent researchers can attend the workshop as auditors.

## Financial support

SSIIM Unesco Chair will offer a total of 11 Fellowships (3 to Italian candidates and 8 to foreign candidates), for:

- travel reimbursement (up to 350 Euros for foreign researchers, up to 150 Euros for Italian researchers)
- accommodation in Venice (two days)
- meals and coffee-breaks during the workshop

## Auditors

A limited number of auditors will be admitted to the workshop. Please send your expression of interest to participate to [divercity@unescochair-iuav.it](mailto:divercity@unescochair-iuav.it) no later than 1 of March, 2012. No fellowship can be provided to auditors.

## Venue

**DiverCity workshop** will be held in Venice (Italy) at the Urban Planning Faculty of Università Iuav di Venezia, Palazzo Tron, Santa Croce 1957, Venice.