

# THE CHANGING ITALIAN CITIES: EMERGING IMBALANCES AND CONFLICTS

Gran Sasso Science Institute (L'Aquila),  
December 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013

## Submission and Participation

Young researchers working in the broad area of 'urban studies' are invited to submit a proposal on the subject of the seminar. Proposals intended for presentation should be emailed as a pdf file to [francesco.chiodelli@gssi.infn.it](mailto:francesco.chiodelli@gssi.infn.it) not later than October 27, 2013. Please, note that the language of the seminar is English.

Proposals may be anticipated to – and reviewed with – the Scientific Committee writing to Antonio Calafati ([antonio.calafati@gssi.infn.it](mailto:antonio.calafati@gssi.infn.it))

Submissions should include an abstract (between 1,000 and 1,200 words) and a short bio (100 words) of the author(s). Successful applicants will be notified by November 11, 2013.

The Gran Sasso Science Institute will cover food and accommodation costs for successful applicants fully. Participants are expected to attend the entire seminar, presenting the paper and contributing to the overall discussion. Papers presented at the seminar will be considered for publication in an edited volume, to be published in 2014.

Attendance of the seminar is free and open. All prospective attendants are kindly requested to register by sending an email to [francesco.chiodelli@gssi.infn.it](mailto:francesco.chiodelli@gssi.infn.it) with name, contact information and affiliation.

Scientific Committee: Antonio Calafati (Gran Sasso Science Institute), Francesco Chiodelli (Gran Sasso Science Institute), Marco Cremaschi (Roma Tre University)

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Under the pressure of economic, demographic, institutional and cultural changes Italian cities are experiencing profound structural transformations. The heterogeneity of the Italian urban system – highly polycentric and characterized by a very large number of small- and medium-sized cities – makes the 'process of structural change' highly place-specific. The 'structure' (and size) of the Italian cities – their resistance and resilience capacity – and the shocks hitting them are different city by city and, consequently, their evolutionary trajectories may be expected to be very different too.

There is a general lack of knowledge – in particular knowledge that can be used for a comparative analysis – on the current state and potential development trajectories of the Italian cities.

The seminar – which will be the first of a series on this theme planned at the Gran Sasso Science Institute – will contribute to a better understanding of the state of the Italian cities.

It will explore the recent evolution of Italian urban system from an interdisciplinary perspective with the aim of discovering the emerging imbalances and conflicts associated to the current structural changes. In this first workshop the focus will be on empirical investigations and field studies in an attempt to highlight the emerging imbalances and the ensuing conflicts that characterize Italian cities in this historical phase.