

# CforC

# Call for Contributions



Funded by  
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NextGenerationEU

## PULSE

“PULSE - The Port-  
clUster LandScapE:  
Developing a  
Spatial and Design  
Approach to Port  
Clusters”

# The Port-Cluster Landscape: New Words, New Maps, New Strategies

# CforC

# Call for Contributions

– deadline for abstracts  
July, 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023

The Port-Cluster  
Landscape: New Words,  
New Maps, New Strategies



**UniGe**

**DAD**



## PULSE

[www.pulse.unige.it](http://www.pulse.unige.it)  
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EU Funded Research Project |  
**MUR** – Ministry of University  
and Research, IT |  
**Next Generation EU** Recovery  
Package | National Recovery  
and Resilience Plan - **NRRP**  
| Mission 4 “Education and  
Research” – Component 2  
“From Research to Business”  
– Investment 1.2 “Funding  
projects presented  
by young researchers” |  
**Young Researchers Public  
Notice 2022**

### RESEARCH PROJECT

“PULSE – The Port-clUster  
LandScapE: Developing a  
Spatial and Design Approach  
to Port Clusters” |  
CUP D33C22001650001

### HOST INSTITUTION

Department Architecture  
and Design – DAD |  
University of Genoa – UniGe  
(IT)

### PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR & CforC EDITOR

PhD Arch. Asst. Prof.  
Beatrice Moretti

### PULSE NETWORK

**AIVP** – The worldwide network  
of port cities (FR)  
[www.aivp.org](http://www.aivp.org)

**PortCity Futures** – PCF  
Research Group (NL)  
[www.portcityfutures.nl](http://www.portcityfutures.nl)

**Assoporti** – Italian Ports  
Association  
[www.assoporti.it](http://www.assoporti.it)

**CIELI** – Italian Centre of  
Excellence on Logistics  
Transport and Infrastructure,  
UniGe (IT)  
[www.cieli.unige.it](http://www.cieli.unige.it)

**COASTAL DESIGN LAB** Integrated  
Design Studio, UniGe (IT)  
[www.coastaldesignlab.wordpress.com](http://www.coastaldesignlab.wordpress.com)

The CforC is implemented  
within PULSE’s Work Package  
WP06 Dissemination,  
Communication, Exploitation.

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**FRAMEWORK AND TOPICS**

By theorizing the notion of *planetary urbanization*, Neil Brenner and Christian Schmid affirmed that «we need first of all new theoretical categories through which to investigate the relentless production and transformation of socio-spatial organisation across scales and territories. To this end, a new conceptual lexicon must be created for identifying the wide variety of urbanisation processes that are currently reshaping the urban world and, relatedly, for deciphering the new emergent landscapes of socio-spatial difference that have been crystallising in recent decades. Last but not least, we require adventurous, experimental, and boundary-exploding methodological strategies to facilitate the empirical investigation of these processes». (2011)

More recently, in order to address those extended spaces, united by their exceptional status in terms of new geographies of production and governance, Jeffrey S. Nesbit and Charles Waldheim illustrate the special character of the so-called *technical lands* (2023). Waldheim himself, almost two decades earlier, had discussed, in his cutting-edge *Landscape Urbanism* theory, the process of semantic solicitation that, at the end of the 20th century, profoundly changed the notion of *landscape(s)* by defining, among others, *logistics landscapes* (2008) as products of the transformations that the logistics system – connected to trade, manufacturing, airports, ports, etc. – had imposed on the built environment.

In the context of contemporary port cities, these theories and applied research investigations confirm the trend towards a marked widening of gaze, i.e. oriented towards conceiving today's ports as complex urban and territorial devices. As Carola Hein has stated «ports – large industrial complexes, urban territories and their neighbouring regions – share physical spaces, natural ecosystems, and social connections. To address climate change, the energy transition, changing technologies and the transformation of work conditions and economies, port-city regions need new regional collaboration and spatial reconceptualization». (2020)

Linked to the early 2000s Port Regionalisation phenomenon, with which economists Notteboom and Rodrigue has shown how ports are moving beyond their maritime facilities by boosting the transport systems towards inland regions, several new processes are highlighting the *spatial turn* and *spatial stretching* of contemporary territories, especially those that are highly infrastructural. In the port context

this is activating theoretical-strategic shifts due to the introduction of the notion of the port system, or rather *port cluster*. Intended as the administrative aggregation of two or more single ports that have been merged to form port clusters, Port Clusterisation is triggering radical changes in the institutional sphere of ports. However, not only does this phenomenon have no control over cities, but its spatial component is being overlooked. As a result, both port and city institutions lack concrete planning tools to intervene on highly infrastructured spaces like port clusters. Such tools would enable these institutions to act together along common borders and to tackle urgent challenges, such as the limitless coastal consumption, the harmful perception of the port in the city and the need for sustainable and resilient port-city infrastructures.

#### GOALS

Within the framework of the research of excellence PULSE – “The Port-clUster LandScapE: Developing a Spatial and Design Approach to Port Clusters”, the PULSE Call for Contributions – CfC aims to address the emergencies outlined above by studying the Port-Cluster Landscape – i.e., the spatial product of Port Clusterisation – in order to provide a spatial framework for the phenomenon and to develop a planning approach to port clusters.

Main goal of this CforC, as well as PULSE research, is the study of formal and compositional aspects of ports as infrastructures and of port clusters as exceptional spatial formations. The form (or rather the forms) of contemporary ports, products of radical processes of production, trade and logistics, is the subject of study by research and the subject of design by practice. This goal is crucial as it contributes to claiming the design of port infrastructure, as well as the equipment and extended landscapes that constitute it, in the field of architecture. Moreover, an examination of the spatial footprint of port clusters will allow research to move beyond its state-of-the-art by targeting a phenomenon that, though pivotal and ongoing, is under-researched.

The CfC intends to collect unpublished scientific texts and/or completed or ongoing project experiences and practices, capable of proposing new lexical categories, new ways of mapping and unprecedented project strategies in the field of architecture and urban-territorial design.

Albeit with different aims and approaches, new lexical categories, cartographic representations and strategic tactics could be indispensable tools for the reconceptualization of complex

spatial forms, such as “conurbations,” “city-regions,” “urban regions,” “metropolitan regions,” and “global city-regions”, which have more and even more to do with the project of port-city regions and clusters.

Firmly believing in the interdisciplinary nature of research about contemporary port cities, this CfC welcomes contributions from PhD students, researchers, scholars, professors and professionals in the field of urban and architectural design, as well as in spatial disciplines and regional, economic, social and anthropological sciences.

#### **KEYWORDS**

#port clusters  
#drivers of agglomeration in cities  
#spatial patterns of functional relationships  
#technical landscapes  
#coastal and marine environments  
#port-city regions and architectures  
#spatial & morphological indicators  
#space-based methodology

#### **RESEARCH FIELDS**

Proposed contributions – in forms of scientific abstract/papers and implemented or ongoing projects – have to address at least one of the 3 research fields illustrated below.

##### **New Words**

Investigation and recording of new terminologies and vocabularies to acknowledge and study the extended and highly technological spaces related to port cities, port regions and land-sea spaces.

##### **New Maps**

Development and representation of maps and visual images as spatial analysis tools to describe and interpret configurations and evolutions of complex territories in urban-port regions.

##### **New Strategies**

Formulation and application of a catalogue of spatial and design development actions of port clusters and/or extended and complex territories of urban-port regions, through the illustration of outstanding case studies.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

The accepted contributions will be presented in three successive steps within the Co-Design & Co-Creation events (Co-DesCr) that will be held at the Department Architecture and Design – DAD of the University of Genoa – UniGe (IT) as part

of PULSE's dissemination and communication plan. The events are part of the educational program of ADD, the Doctorate Course in Architecture and Design of UniGe-DAD.

During the Co-DesCr events, organised at regular intervals of 5/6 months (see **CALENDAR**), participants will discuss their contribution by showing, at each step, their advancements. In line with the objectives of the European Green Deal to minimise the environmental impact of their research activities, the second Co-DesCr event (February 2024) will be held in a hybrid mode, partly in person at UniGe-DAD and partly online on a dedicated virtual platform. It is the intention of the Host Institution and the Principal Investigator to conduct the other two events in person (September 2023 and July 2024) in person; any specific needs or changes in the way the events are held will be communicated in due course.

An introductory structure of the presentation methodology is outlined below:

**FIRST EVENT "KICK-OFF" - "Investigating & Recording the Port-Cluster Landscape: Call for Words (CforW)"** - (dates: September 14th -15th, 2023)

Illustration of the abstract through a 10-minute on-screen presentation.

- foreseen IN-PERSON;

**SECOND EVENT "INTERIM" - "Representing & Crossing the Port-Cluster Landscape: Workshops Maps (WsMs)"** - (dates: February 15th -16th, 2024)

Illustration of the first version of the full paper through a 10-minute on-screen presentation.

foreseen IN HYBRID (ONLINE+IN-PERSON);

**THIRD EVENT "FINAL" - "Formulating & Processing the Port-Cluster Landscape: Strategies Brainstorming (StrBr)"** - (dates: July 11th - 12th, 2024)

Illustration of the full paper through a 15-minute on-screen presentation

foreseen IN-PERSON.

Each Co-DesCr event, in the form of a Scientific Seminar, will consist of a day of **key-note lectures** with internationally guests and a day dedicated to **presentations of contributions** submitted in the framework of the CfC. The presentations, organised in the form of a public debate, will be divided into parallel sessions according to the number of participants and led by a selected moderator. The same structure will be maintained with the event in hybrid mode for which, however, minor time changes may be envisaged.

All contributions, in their final form of written essays with images, will be included in **PULSE's scientific monograph** expected to be released in late 2025.

#### **SUBMISSION AND SELECTION PROCESS**

##### ABSTRACT – Deadline July 3rd, 2023

Contributors are invited to send ONLY to [pulse@unige.it](mailto:pulse@unige.it) an abstract in English of max 4,000 characters, spaces included. A significant image has to be attached to the abstract (high quality, Creative Commons license or owned by the author, pdf or jpg format).

Each author can submit only one abstract (individually or within a group). Each proposal has to be sent in two files in .pdf format according to the following indications: one file will be anonymous (containing only the title, abstract and image), the other file will contain the title, abstract and image, data and contacts of the author(s).

The authors must use the Word template, downloadable on the PULSE website, for the preparation of their abstract. Files, in .docx format, should be named as follows "CfC PULSE\_Author Name(s)". Abstracts arrived before the deadline will undergo a selection that the Editor will share with the support of the **Scientific Advisory Board - SAB**. The response regarding the acceptance of contributions will be communicated in mid-July 2023.

##### PRESENTATION – Deadline one week before each event

Following acceptance, authors will be asked to confirm participation in the Co-DesCr events by replying by email to the acceptance message of their abstract. Once they have entered the process, they are kindly requested to attend all three Co-DesCr events in order to follow the progress as continuously and consistently as possible. For each event, authors will prepare an on-screen digital presentation (pdf, ppt, format file; max. size 20 MB) which they will illustrate in a public discussion. Digital presentations are requested to be sent to PULSE email address one week before each event.

##### PAPER – Deadline September 2024

Following the course of the Co-DesCr events, each author(s) is requested to write a paper in English of max 15,000 character spaces included, and including notes, following the suggestions provided during the Co-DesCr events.

The paper must be matched by a maximum of 10 good quality images (jpg or tiff, 300 dpi, min width 10 cm) under Creative Commons license or owned by the author. Bibliographical references are excluded from the overall character count. The papers must be delivered in .docx format



and prepared in accordance with the Editorial Rules which will be shared in agreement with the editor of the PULSE scientific monograph.

#### CALENDAR

**May 2023** – Call launching

**July 3rd, 2023** – Abstract delivery deadline

**July 12th, 2023** – Abstract notification of acceptance

**July 14th, 2023** – Deadline for registration in the “KICK-OFF” EVENT

**one week before each event** – Presentation delivery deadline

**September, 14th-15th 2023** – “KICK-OFF” EVENT

**February, 15th – 16th 2024** – “INTERIM” EVENT

**July, 11th – 12th 2024** – “FINAL” EVENT

**September 2024** – Full Paper delivery deadline

**late 2025** – Publication of the PULSE scientific monograph

Any changes to the calendar that may occur will be promptly communicated to participants via the e-mail provided at the time of submission.

#### EVENT REGISTRATION

Registration for the “KICK-OFF” EVENT on 14 and 15 September 2023 must be sent by email to [pulse@unige.it](mailto:pulse@unige.it) **no later than 14th July 2023.**

#### GUIDELINES

Failure to comply with the indication provided above in the sections “METHODOLOGY” and “SUBMISSION AND SELECTION PROCESS” may result in the non-acceptance of the essay for the final publication in the PULSE scientific monograph.

#### SCIENTIFIC MONOGRAPH

Extracts from the monograph will be published on the PULSE webpage. Authors who have taken parts in the co-design and co-creation events organized in 2023 and 2024, will be guaranteed the publication of their scientific essays within the PULSE scientific monograph, expected in late 2025. Authors will receive a free full resolution digital copy of the volume.

#### CONTACTS

PULSE

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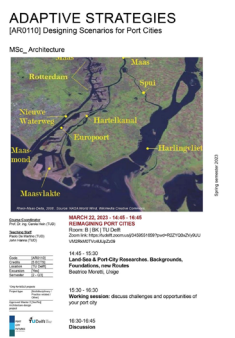
Department Architecture and Design - DAD  
University of Genoa, Italy (IT)  
Stradone Sant’Agostino, 37  
16123, Genoa (IT)

## BY THIS TIME

Recent events in which the PULSE project has been involved for dissemination activities, signing of formal agreements useful for research, public presentations, press or media reports.

### LECTURES

March, 22nd  
April, 28th



PULSE was presented at leading international universities as part of the PULSE LECTURE SERIES. In particular, at the Delft University of Technology, BK in the Netherlands and at the Politecnico di Milano, DASTU.

Within the framework of WP6 - Dissemination, Communication, Exploitation. Activity: Lectures (Le).

#tudelft  
#polimi

### AGREEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

May, 18th



PULSE was presented at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport - MIT in Rome as part of the Italian Port Days. Conducted in the presence of the Deputy Minister of Infrastructure On. E. Rixi and organised by Assoporti - Association of Italian Ports, the event saw the signing of a Framework Convention and an Implementation Agreement between Assoporti and the University of Genoa for the implementation of PULSE data collection and research activities.

Within the framework of WP1 - Investigation. Activity: Interviews & Field Visits (InfV).

#mit  
#italianportdays  
#assoporti

### INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS



PULSE collaborates with university research and teaching groups, interdisciplinary centres of excellence and associations of public institutions active in urban and port areas. They are AIVP, The Worldwide Network of Port Cities (FR), the research group PortCity Futures (NL), the Italian Centre of Excellence on Logistics Transport and Infrastructure - CIELI (IT) and the research group/integrated project laboratory Coastal Design Lab (IT).

Within the framework of WP6 - Dissemination, Communication, Exploitation. Activity: Outreach Activity (OA).

#aivp  
#pcf  
#cieli  
#cdl

### PRESS REVIEWS & MEDIA REPORTS

January, 30th  
February, 15th  
April, 7th



PULSE received wide coverage in the Ligurian press and media. In fact, it was the subject of an article published by the official university magazine UniGe.life and, together with other winning projects from the same Public Notice, was presented by RAI News Liguria as part of the "TGR Buone Notizie" TV news programme. It was also announced internationally in the AIVP Newsletter - PortCity Insight.

Within the framework of WP6 - Dissemination, Communication, Exploitation. Activity: Outreach Activity (OA).

#unigelife  
#rainews

## WHAT'S NEXT

Upcoming events through which the PULSE project will present in international conferences, will transfer knowledge through didactics or disseminate first results by organising co-design and co-creation activities.

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

June, 14th-15th



PULSE has been selected to present within the 6th International Conference of Contemporary Affairs in Architecture and Urbanism - ICCAU2023 to be held at Alanya Hamdullah Emin Paşa University, Istanbul (TK). PULSE will be part of the Special Session "Coastal and Maritime Spaces", proposed by The University IUAV, Venice (IT) Chairs: P. De Martino and F. Carella (IUAV).

Within the framework of WP6 - Dissemination, Communication, Exploitation. Activity: Conference Participation (CPa).

#iccaua

### CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS LAUNCH

May, 29th



PULSE will launch a Call for Contributions (CforC) from its webpage. The CforC will be addressed to PhDs, researchers, professors, professionals and representatives of institutions experienced in the world and territories of port cities. The CforC will have an interdisciplinary slant and will close on 3 July require the submission of a short text abstract (by 3 July).

Within the framework of WP6 - Dissemination, Communication, Exploitation. Activity: Co-Design and Co-Creation (Co-DesCr).

#CforC  
#words  
#maps  
#strategies

### COURSE FINAL PRESENTATIONS

June, 22nd



PULSE applies its research topics in the field of teaching at the Department Architecture and Design, UniGe. In particular, the course Coastal Design and Other Extreme Environments, the final results of which will be presented in a collective exhibition at UniGe-DAD, deals with the hybrid and amphibious port-city architectures, advancing typological and formal experimentations.

Within the framework of WP4 - Training. Activity: Transfer of Knowledge (ToK).

#cdextreme  
#unige

### CO-DESIGN & CO-CREATION EVENTS

September, 14th-15th  
February, 15th-16th 2024  
July, 11th-12th 2024



PULSE will organise 3 scientific seminars during 2023 and 2024, Call for Words, Workshop Maps and Strategies Brainstorming, inviting external guests and expert representatives from the Host Institution.

Within the framework of WP6 - Dissemination, Communication, Exploitation. Activity: Co-Design and Co-Creation (Co-DesCr).

#Co-DesCr  
#CforW  
#WsMs  
#StrBr

PULSE

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