



Inhabiting Radical Housing

Project overview for job applicants

European Research Council Starting Grant

PI - Professor Michele Lancione (complete profile, [here](#))

Host institution - [DIST](#), Polytechnic of Turin, Italy

Grant agreement ID - 851940

Duration - 1st Sept 2020 to 30th Aug 2025

Hiring of Post-Docs: advertised in late June 2021

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Abstract

Millions of people are forcibly evicted from their homes every year, and 1.6 billion have inadequate housing. In response to the increasing dwelling precarity worldwide, grassroots housing movements are becoming more and more common. However, little is understood about the significance and impact of these struggles globally. How is the global fight for inhabitation reshaping our cities across geographies? The EU-funded *RadicalHOUSING* project aims to fill this critical gap in knowledge. It will achieve this through an innovative radical housing approach and research on translocal networks and grassroots struggles in the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia. The project will lead to a better understanding of the global fight against housing precarity and its urban politics.

A summary of the whole project is available by clicking [here](#).

Objectives

Inhabiting Radical Housing is designed to achieve five objectives (mirrored in the methodology):

- I. To sketch the contemporary *history* of housing precarity across the globe from an intersectional perspective (looking at how it intersects with class, gender and race dimensions);
- II. To investigate the organisational structures and politics of housing activist *networks* in the Americas, Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Asia;
- III. To explore radical inhabitation *practices* on the ground, in eight paradigmatic cities worldwide;
- IV. To facilitate trans-local *knowledge* exchange and support situated housing struggles;
- V. To set a new agenda for a global *scholarship* of radical dwelling practice and theory.

Main activities

1. **Global research** on the struggle for inhabitation, divided into five work packages:
 - WP1: Multi-language review on housing precarity
 - WP2: Research on trans-local networks globally
 - WP3: Extended ethnographic fieldwork in 8 paradigmatic cities worldwide
 - WP4: Knowledge-exchange with activists and support to their struggles
 - WP5: Collective theorisation
2. Opening of a new **Beyond Inhabitation Lab**, which will include:
 - International visiting (including housing activists)
 - Transdisciplinary seminar series
 - Opportunities for researchers to join the Lab, to prepare European grants
 - Non-academic exchanges and interventions in public debates
3. **High-profile engagement**, including:
 - High-quality academic papers and books (also open-source)
 - Situated interventions in support of local housing struggles
 - Rich multi-media web site, used as a platform for interactive global connections
 - A full-length film documentary on housing struggles globally



Project Team

Core

Role	Who	Time on project	Duration
Principle Investigator	Michele Lancione	70%	5 years
Post Doc or RTDA (Admin)	TBA	70% admin 30% research	3 years
Post Doc - PDRA1 (borsista)	TBA	100% research	3 years
Post Doc - PDRA2 (assegnista)	TBA	100% research	3 years
Post Doc - PDRA3 (assegnista)	TBA	100% research	3 years
Post Doc - PDRA4 (assegnista)	TBA	100% research	3 years
Post Doc - PDRA5 (assegnista)	TBA	100% research	3 years
Post-Doc - shorter scholarships	TBA	100% research	1 year

Associates (Beyond Inhabitation Lab)

Role	Who	Duration
Visiting professor/ Co-Director	AbdouMaliq Simone	4 years
Visiting scholars/activists (bi-yearly)	TBA	3 months each
International core partners	10+ research centres globally	4 years each
International associate scholars	Selected scholars, TBA	4 years each
Internal (DIST) partners	Four members of the Department	4 years each

Required post-doc profiles

Initially, the positions to be fulfilled will be the admin post, PDRA2, PDRA3, PDRA4 and PDRA5 (PDRA1 has already been advertised; later, two 1-year scholarship might be available). The profile of the researchers will have to reflect general and specific criteria (more details will be made available when the positions will be advertised):

General characteristics

- At least two languages spoken fluently, including English
- Publications in peer-reviewed journals in a relevant disciplinary area (or submitted to)
- Proven interests in debates related to geographies of inhabitation, decolonial and feminist methodologies, urban ethnography and willingness to engage politically with local struggles

Specific characteristics

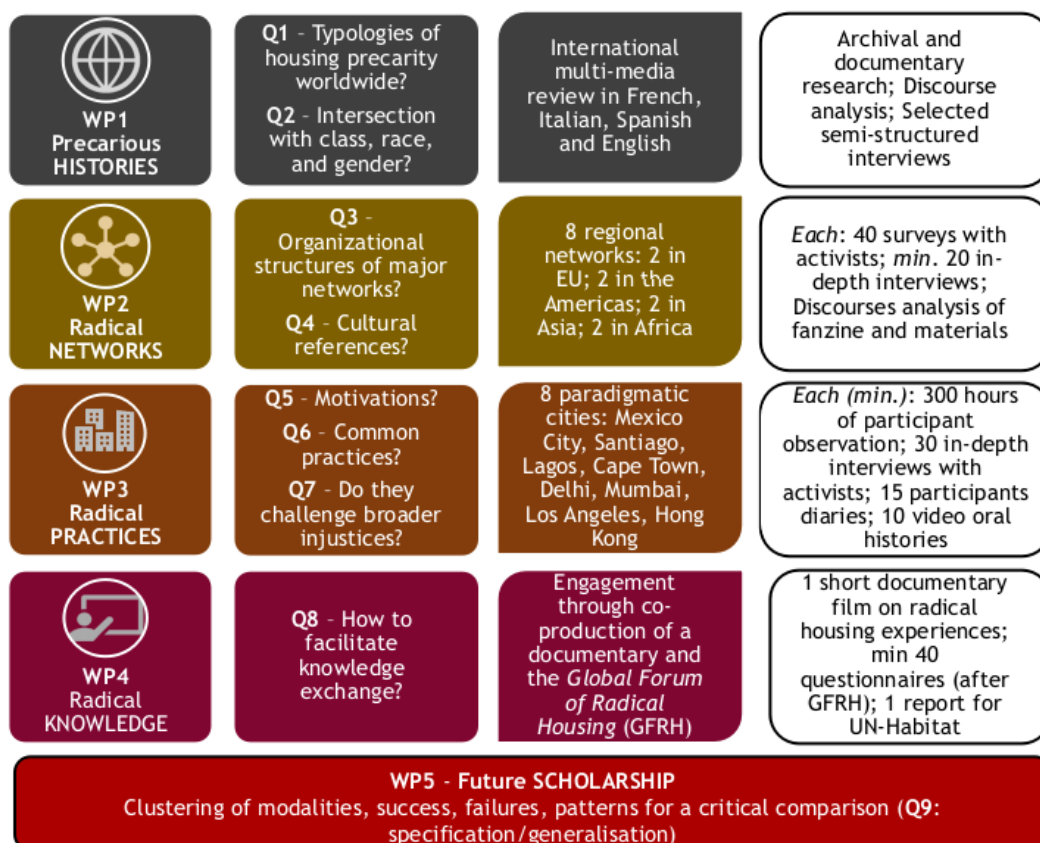
- Admin: Knowledge of Italian; understanding of EU funding scheme; good organiser;
- PDRA2: Proven direct knowledge of European and CEE housing struggles;
- PDRA3: Direct extensive knowledge of relevant contexts in the South-American region;
- PDRA4: Direct extensive knowledge of relevant contexts in the Indian or South-Asian areas;
- PDRA5: Direct extensive knowledge of relevant contexts in the African region.



Methodology

Overview

The first column shows each WP's title; the second lists the research questions, the third the empirical focus and the fourth an outline of the methods.



Work packages

WP1	Precarious-HISTORIES
Who	PDRA1, PDRA2, Admin
What	Macro-level international literature review (English, Spanish, French) on secondary sources (including media content and films) to get an in-depth understanding of housing struggles and the depth/extent of housing precarity
How	Remote literature review
Where	Turin, plus field visits for review of Southern literature
When	Lit review months 5-17



Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database for project • Reasoned literature review for project
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WP2	Radical-NETWORKS
Who	PDRA1, PDRA2 and PI
What	Meso-level focus to map significant grassroots organisations/networks fighting housing precarity across four worldwide macro-regions and identify how they organise themselves
How	Undertake organisational literature review including analysis of activist publications (blogs/fanzines) to populate a global database; short fieldwork in each geography and surveys and interviews with activists belonging to significant networks
Where	1 network per researcher/area with 4 in total - Europe (PDRA1), North and South America (PDRA2), India and Africa (PI)
When	Fieldwork months 17-25
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 collective papers on modes of organising • Material for the edited book • Material for monograph

WP3	Radical-PRACTICES
Who	PDRA3, PDRA4, PDRA5 and PI
What	In-depth research in eight cities to investigate real-life experiences of activists and residents fighting housing precarity and how they express this through radical political action
How	Researchers to spend 5 months in each city to undertake ethnographic fieldwork, including literature reviews of local conditions in each city (fanzines/bogs); and semi-structured interviews, participant observation/go-along, photo diaries and photo-elicitation and filmed oral histories with activists and residents (the latter will lead to the production of a documentary, co-produced in WP4).
Where	<p>PDRA3 - South America (Mexico and Santiago or Sao Paulo)</p> <p>PDRA4 - India (Delhi and Mumbai)</p> <p>PDRA5 - Africa (Lagos and Cape Town or Addis Ababa)</p> <p>PI - North America (LA) and SE Asia (HCM or Hong-Kong)</p>
When	Fieldwork months 20-25 and 35-39
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 papers each from PDRA3, PDRA4 and PDRA5 • 2 papers from PI



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edited volume with contributions from activists of the investigated cities • Material for documentary and material for a monograph
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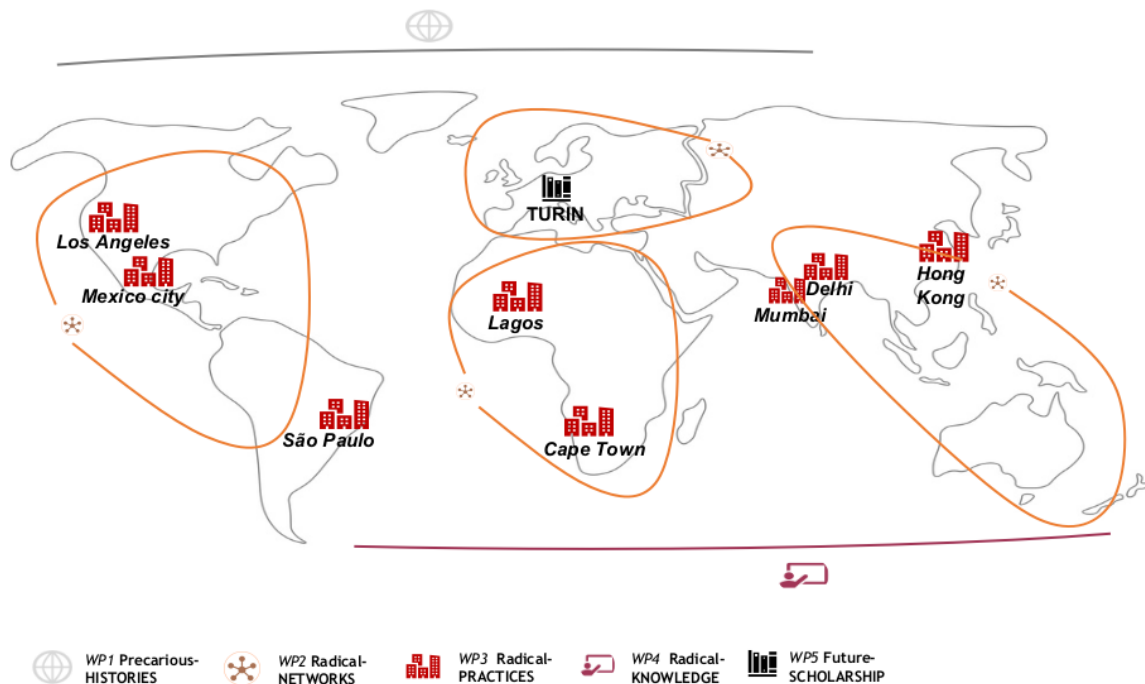
WP4	Radical-KNOWLEDGE
Who	PI + PDRAs (in particular PDRA1 and PDRA2)
What	It aims to establish a meaningful form of knowledge exchange at the core of the project, offering a platform and resources for conversations amongst activists, scholars, and organisers globally.
How	Three key activities: a) Activists in residence (selected from the eight cities in WP3, to co-design the Global Forum of RH); b) IRH seminar series (5 events per year, with activists, organisers and scholars); c) Global Forum of RH (an international event + an online platform for global activists in the form of a social network)
Where	Turin
When	Across the project - Events in months 40-44
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Forum of Radical Housing event • A social network of global housing activists (online platform) • IRH seminar series • Documentary film • 1 collective paper on engagement

WP5	Future-SCHOLARSHIP
Who	PI + PDRAs
What	To produce critical decolonial knowledge on the global fight against housing precarity and on the notion of 'inhabiting radical housing.'
How	Conceptual work across the WPs. Primary findings will be presented/discussed at a final conference in Turin and with a cohort of selected visiting scholars.
Where	Turin
When	Data analysis month 40-50 and final conference months 46-50
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research centre on 'Inhabiting Radical Housing.' • Monograph • Special issue • Radical Housing Report made up of contributions to the symposium presented at the WUF alongside the documentary film • RH visiting scholars series • Wider conference presentations • Website and blog hosting non-specialist briefs • PDRAs trained to become leaders in their fields



Visualisation

Cities in WP3 are only indicative. They can change according to the experience of the PDRAs. On the map, 'Turin' indicates both the location of the Lab and the nexus where visiting scholars and activists will be invited to foster collective learning and exchange.



Deliverables

The major project's outputs will include:

1. **The constitution of a research group**, or Lab, on Inhabiting Radical Housing
2. **An agenda-setting research monograph** by the PI, for a leading publisher;
3. **Twelve academic papers** (minimum), published in leading international journals (like *Urban Studies*, *Public Culture*, *EPD*, *IJURR*, *Antipode*). Nine will be based on the research results of WP2 and WP3, one on the RH approach, one on engagement from WP4, one on WP1;
4. **A special issue** on radical housing in the *Radical Housing Journal*;
5. **One edited volume** on the global fight against housing precarity, including contributions from the project's international collaborators;
6. **An IRH international seminar series** (recorded and hosted on the project's website);
7. **A Global Forum on Radical Housing** with activists and scholars in Turin;
8. **An online platform** where global housing activists can share ideas and experiences;
9. **A programme for visiting activists** to foster meaningful knowledge exchange;
10. **A programme for visiting scholars** to enhance the discussion of critical projects' deliverables and improve the networking opportunities of the PDRAs in the team;
11. The commitment to find ways of using the project's infrastructure to **support the situated struggles** the project/researchers will encounter;



12. A **film documentary** on practices and experiences of housing struggle and an accompanying **IRH report**, to be presented at WUF 2024;
13. A **final two-day conference** in Turin, with contributions from academics and research participants;
14. **Conference presentations** in Urban Studies (RC21), Housing (HSA), and Geography (AAG, RC21), **Interventions** in non-academic outlets, including online blogs, fanzines, and journals, as well as an **IRH website**, with briefs, podcasts, and materials from the RHA findings;
15. **Post-docs trained** in urban debates, ethnographic practice, high-level scholarship, and meaningful engagement.

Benefits and career opportunities

- **Post-Doctoral salary:** starting from €1.770 per month, *after-tax* (clean in your pocket).
- **Research expenses:** each post-doc will be provided with a laptop and a yearly budget for books, conferences and international travel. Generous funding for field activities will be available.
- **Work arrangements:** Moving to Turin is required for all positions. The working language will be English. Post-docs will work in the project's office, a purposely arranged collaborative space in the beautiful [Castello del Valentino](#).
- **Support:** The PI will offer career support to the Post-Docs, connecting them to relevant researchers globally and helping them to build up CVs for their international careers.

PI's profile

Michele Lancione is Professor of Geography at the Polytechnic of Turin, Italy, and Visiting Professor of Urban Studies at the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom. He is a member of the Common Front for Housing Rights (Bucharest), co-founder and editor of the Radical Housing Journal and corresponding editor at IJURR. His work focuses on radical forms of inhabitation and housing struggles and the politics of life at the margins in the contemporary urban. Recent and forthcoming volumes include 'Global Urbanism' (with Colin McFarlane), 'Urban Grammars' (with Ash Amin), and his first monograph, 'Home(lessness): For a Liberatory Politics of Home' (due in 2022 with Duke).

Contacts

If you are considering applying for one of the post-doc positions on offer - which will be advertised in late June 2021 - please contact Michele (he/him) at michele.lancione@polito.it

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