



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

COURSE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ECODESIGN

Abstract

Migration and asylum-seeking women:

**Analysis of the phenomenon, project experiments for the
development of capabilities and social communication**

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by

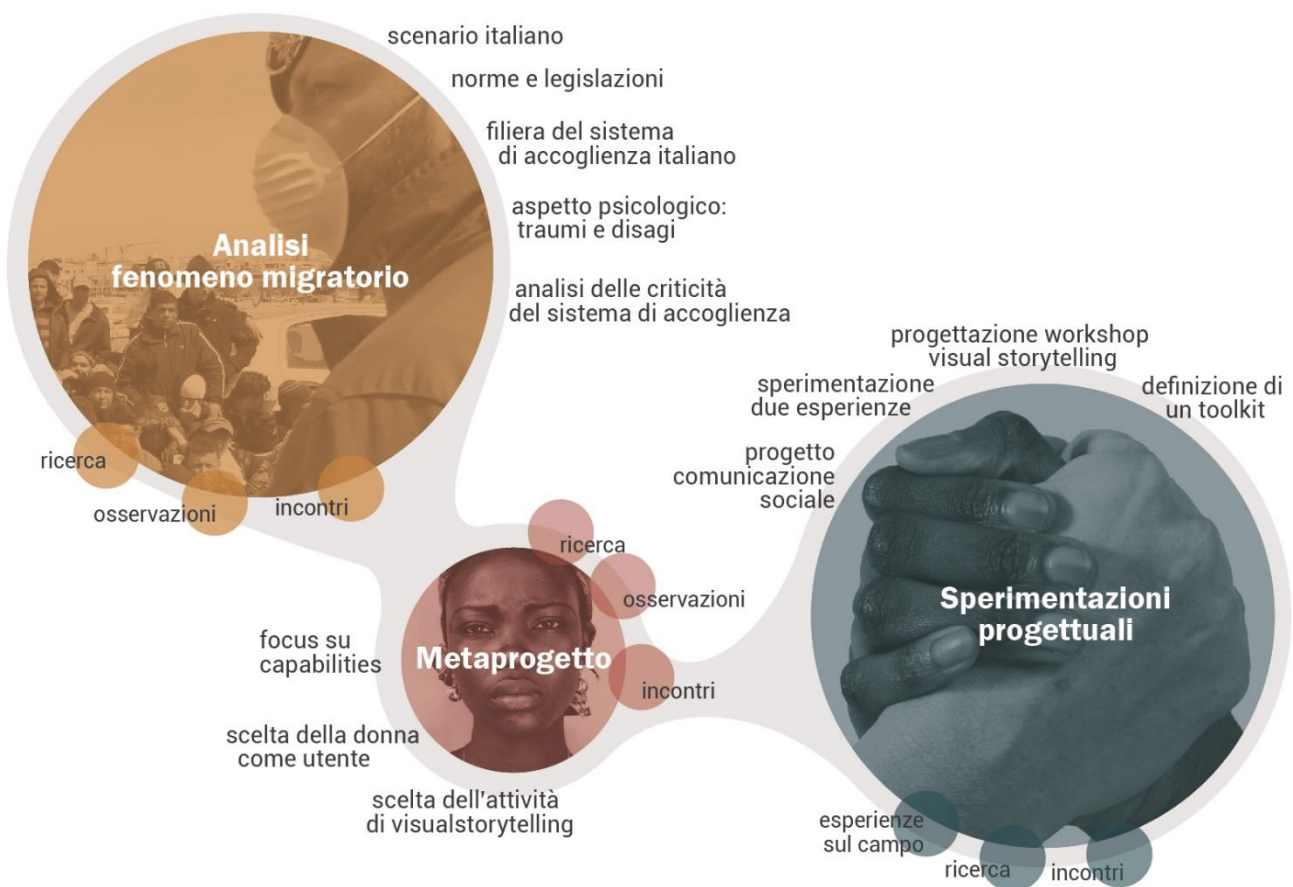
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This thesis project arises from the desire to contribute to the current, controversial and faceted scope of migration, and in particular to immigration to Italy.

We are used to hear news of thousands of people fleeing from countries in war landing on the Italian coast and unfortunately, it has become customary to see crude images of shipwrecks offshore. These images are accompanied by the widespread perception of the migrant as a threat and invader, stealing work and bringing disorder in our cities.

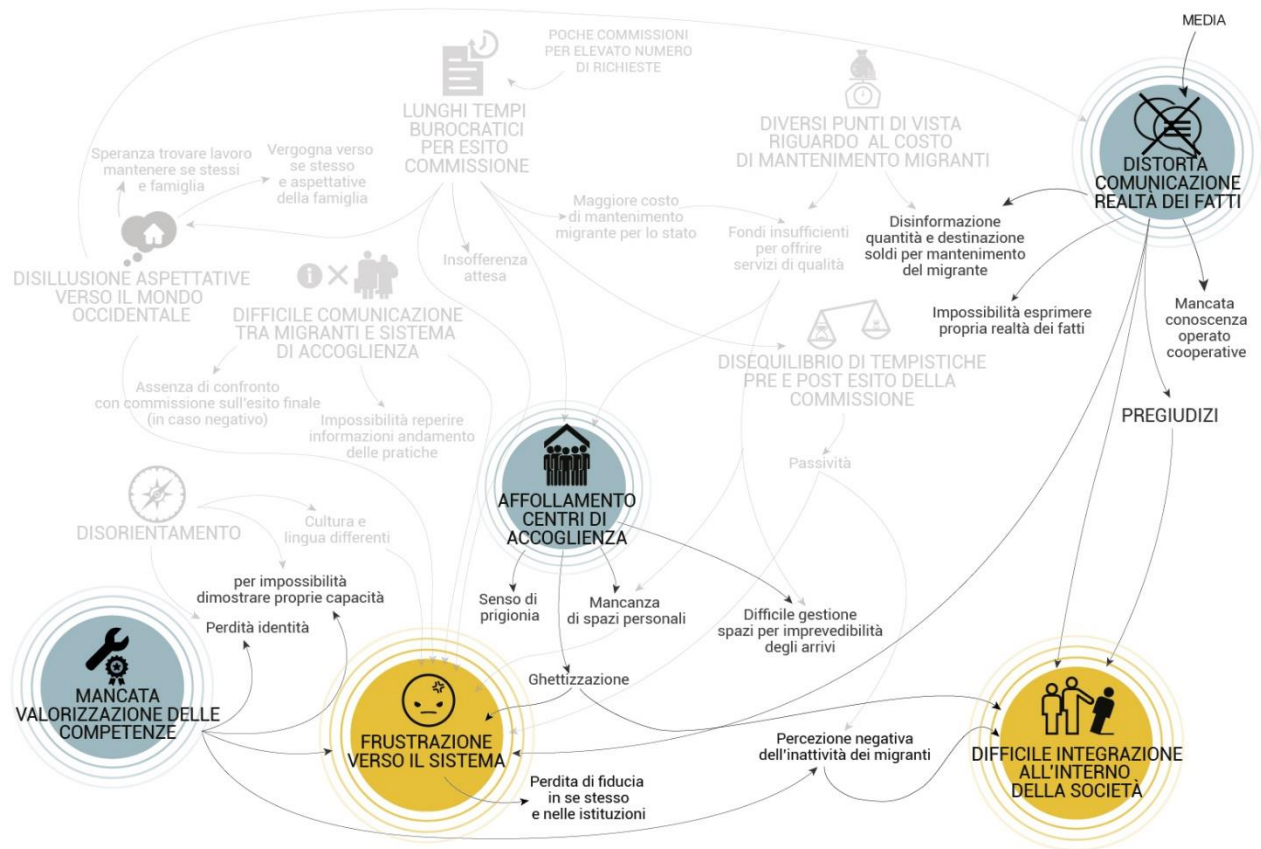
This project considers the subject from a different point of view: we would like to change the perception of migrants, seen no longer as individuals seeking help, with traumas, problems and difficulties behind them, but as people similar to us, with capacity, Interests, skills, values and curiosities, who seek to improve their status. All of these features should be considered not as a burden or threat but as wealth and potential for our country. Many meetings with the subjects working within this context have enriched the entire design path. These relationships have allowed the project to deep into the reality analyzed.



The elaborate process develops in three basic phases, highlighting the different steps of the design process:

- **The analysis phase** was meant to understand the phenomenon, starting with an excursus on the history of migrations, aimed at understanding the causes and consequences of massive displacement of people, both for the countries of origin and for the arrivals ones. Moreover, we examined statistical data on migration to Italy of recent years to have a general picture of the current situation. Furthermore, we focused on the physical and bureaucratic process that migrants have to undergo if they want to obtain international protection in Italy.

Lastly, thanks to several meetings with some cooperatives who host migrants in Turin, we have been able to identify the major criticalities of the Italian reception system.



- **The metaprojectual phase** saw the choice of the scope on which we really wanted to focus our attention: enhancing the skills of asylum seekers, and in particular of migrant women, vulnerable but proactive and enterprising. Women have very different needs from men: on the one hand due to the culture of the country of origin they are often less educated than men, on the other hand they are often mothers who have to care for the family and therefore face greater difficulties in joining the host society. For these reasons it was opportune to shift the focus from competences to the concept of capabilities, namely the achievement of self-awareness and self-determination, essential and fundamental elements for the inclusion of women within the social tissue. At this point, a range of different proposals has been outlined, all aimed at achieving the objective.

- **The design phase** has given rise to some experiments carried out focusing on one of the proposals that emerged in the previous phase: visual storytelling. This experience has allowed us to meet personally some of the women who are hosted by “Pietra Alta Servizi” cooperative with whom the project "Tell a story with the images" has been tested in two workshops at the Candelo and Lemie Cooperative sites. What was the benefit conferred as designers throughout the experience? The initiative had a dual beneficial effect: on one hand asylum seeking women who joined the workshops enjoyed themselves, on the other hand we had the possibility to use the women’s’ final work as social communication. This purpose of the social communication campaign is to raise awareness and inform society about

another aspect of the migrant's reality, focusing not so much on the differences, but on the fact that in the end we are much more similar than we think.

DANIELLE
AMA CANTARE
CANTARE
LE PERMETTE DI
DIMENTICARE
LE COSE BRUTTE
CHE HA VISSUTO

#nonsiamocosidiversi

PAULINA
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BAMBINI
CHE HANNO BISOGNO
DI AIUTO

DEBORA
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CUCIRE
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L'INFANZIA

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