



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Honors thesis

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## COURSE OF ARCHITECTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

*Abstract*

### **On the edge of the crater** **Studies and scenarios on Sardinia's internal areas**

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The *crater* is a recurring figure in many studies on Sardinia, used to describe the dynamics that characterise it. Indeed, the central part of the island appears as emptier and emptier, suggesting the existence of two distinct 'Sardinias' that run at different speeds: there is a 'stronger' Sardinia along the coast, where the main urban centres are located, opposite to another Sardinia, the one formed by inland and marginal areas, the zone that we call 'the crater'.

The so called 'Sardinia Crater' constitutes the basis of this thesis, which has a threefold objective. First, it will be argued that the *crater* is a too simple figure to represent Sardinian dynamics, so a more complex concept has to be built around this matter. Second, we will promote the idea that the *crater* does not have a sharp inner edge, but that it has a thickness, that it is actually a vast, changeable, variable and heterogeneous space, an area definable as a *membrane*. Lastly, the third argument represents perhaps the strongest position of the research: the areas in the *membrane* are those with a strong potential, those to work on, and they also represent the priority and strategic space where policies, projects and transformations can operate.

The present work begins with a first chapter dedicated to the study of demographic previsions, which play a key role in photographing a worrying reality, characterized by continuous depopulation phenomena and a constant aging of the population.

The second chapter explores the various theoretical declinations of the concept of 'marginality', analysing the local development policies at regional, national and European level, emphasizing the need of rethinking these policies in light of a place based approach that puts the peculiar characteristics of the territory at the centre of new developments and transformation processes.

The third chapter deals with the spatialization of the Crater which has been defined by a personal interpretative framework built on multiple investigations (mappings, surveys, photographic documentation, etc.) in order to decide which areas can be understood as 'marginal areas'.

With the proposed methodology it is possible to clearly visualize the areas that are located "inside" or "outside" the crater. The fourth and final chapter examine the last objective to be pursued, namely that the areas in the membrane are those to work on. To do this, we selected three samples of the membrane to carry out further investigations, explorations and projects: the Anglona, the Ogliastra and the Villanova. We chose these three areas because their general features exhaustively represent the diversity of the membrane.

The final goal of this thesis is to configure the diversified scenarios that characterise the internal areas of Sardinia, so that local development policies could be effectively applied to rescue and transform them while respecting the specificities of the membrana.

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