



**POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO**

# Honors thesis

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Course of Territorial, Urban, Environmental and Landscape  
Planning

*Abstract*

**Turin as a university city  
Urban strategies and student population**

*Tutor*  
Marco Santangelo

*by*  
Erica Mangione

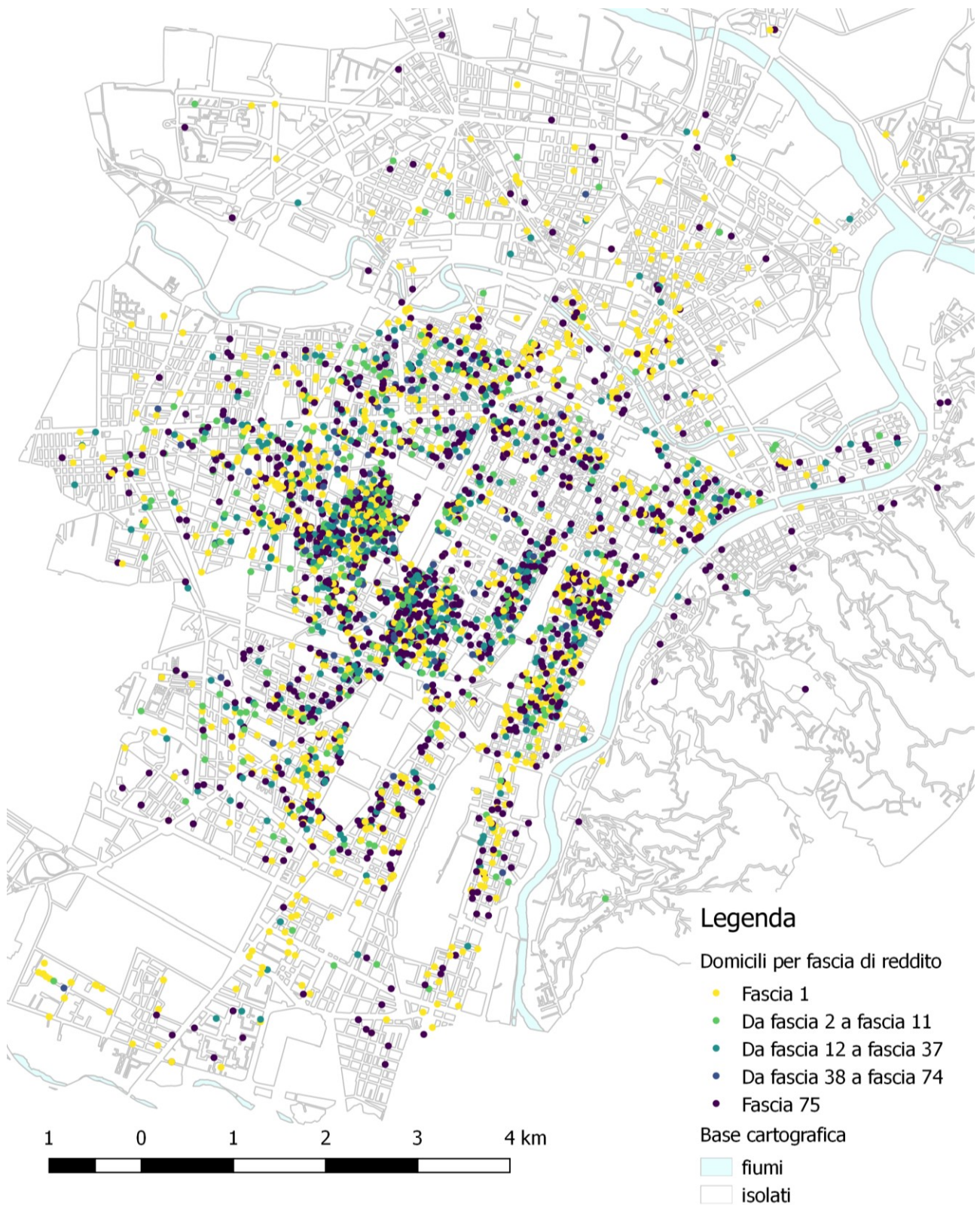
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Nowadays, in the Italian context, Turin is going to be one of the favourite cities to live in among universities students, especially for ones coming from other Italian regions or abroad. This because of the presence of the University of Turin and the Polytechnic of Turin, two of the richest and most attractive universities within the country, with a population of more than 105 thousand students. These are the key elements to identify Turin as “university city”. Nevertheless, this definition brought many other theoretical and practical meanings and implications that the thesis wants to investigate.

How the city reaches this particular “status”? What does “university city” means in terms of physical and social structures of the contemporary city of Turin? Which kind of university system is likely to implement in the future? To respond to the main questions the research highlights, the thesis analyses endogenous and exogenous factors influencing the attraction to the city, the universities success and their territorial impacts. A multidisciplinary and mixed qualitative-quantitative approach has been used.

First are analysed the urban planning strategies the metropolitan city moves forward in the last fifteen years, as fundamental tracks to follow and re-draw the recent image of Turin as university city. The strategic plans are a partial but fundamental point of view, of those with political and economic power to the city. This “power” is identified in a complex system of public and private, formal and informal actors. Once the stakeholders are identified, a participative process of workshops, interviews and questionnaires leads to the definition of the system and of to the particular role of each actor inside it. These interactions also enable to recognize fundamental and diverse links between the actors, of a political economic or sustain nature, meanwhile in collaborative or conflictual relation.

On the other hand, an in-depth analysis on the “new” inhabitant is simultaneously conducted. In fact, contemporary studies on university cities rarely refer to university students as urban population with relevant transformative potential on the cities, and moreover none from an internal point of view. Through the in-depth analysis, students are not only considered part of the “system” but also, according with literature, defined and studied as migrant and highly mobile population, so to highlight in this theoretical framework the relevance of their presence and action – direct as well as indirect – on socio economic city balance. This part of the work starts with a systematic and statistic examination of data on student population in Turin. A first but essential result are the chart-maps, thanks to which student’s dwelling spreading in the urban area is graphically represented. Furthermore, interviews and questionnaires on a sample of one hundred persons permit to describe student’s life experience and their own perception of the city. In conclusion, the work aims to redraw the image of Turin as university city in a complex way, underling critical issues in terms of urban planning and political decision that the “university system” needs to face, to pursue an equal and sustainable territorial development.



Polytechnic student's dwelling distribution by family incomes (of students coming from abroad). A.A. 2016/2017 – Author's elaboration

For further information please contact:

Erica Mangione  
 erica.mangione.91@gmail.com