

**PROGETTO**

**Supervisore:** Francesco Valagussa

**Titolo:** From aesthetic reflection to relational spaces: rethinking the role of contemporary museums and exhibitions

**Descrizione del progetto** (Numero di caratteri inclusi spazi: 2.000-3.000):

The German philosopher and sociologist Georg Simmel, a pioneer in the integration of sociology and aesthetics, made fundamental contributions to developments in contemporary aesthetics: his work not only enhanced our understanding of the social and cultural dimensions of aesthetic experience, but also highlighted the role of social relations and structures in informing aesthetic perceptions and judgements.

If, on the one hand, Simmel's theories continue to provide significant contributions to sociological, art-historical and cultural-historical reflection, on the other hand, his insights still appear to offer unprecedented perspectives for the development of a new critical museology. In this sense, the present research aims to redefine the role of the contemporary museum, not only as a 'gateway' to cultural heritage, but also as a space for cultural elaboration and social reflection, capable of acting as a 'bridge' between the individual and collective dimensions.

Based on Simmel's reflections on the sociology of the senses and the role of space in defining social relations, this study proposes a reinterpretation of museum space as a social and relational space. The research intends to highlight how contemporary museums contribute in an increasingly significant way to shaping and forms of social living, constituting themselves as spaces of exchange and interaction, also thanks to their territorial distribution and the tendency to think of themselves as networked.

Some of the key concepts introduced by Simmel such as the reappraisal of the role of the senses in creating interpersonal connections and the central importance of these connections in their capacity to inform aesthetic experience will be examined in order to throw light on their potential contributions to aesthetic-philosophical reflections, which can be applied to the museological field, under the banner of an approach that is as interdisciplinary as possible.

In order to explore these theoretical assumptions, this research will closely examine the developments of the "Sensory Turn" within philosophical and art-historical studies and assess their potential contributions to contemporary museology.

Furthermore, the insights gained from this preliminary investigation will be analysed in the light of a series of case studies identified at national and international level.

The ultimate aim of this research will be to reflect on the forms of the contemporary museum, emphasising its evolution from a simple exhibition space to a relational space dedicated to the negotiation and democratisation of knowledge, as well as to the elaboration of notions of identity and difference from a plural and inclusive perspective.

**Competenze da acquisire dal dottorando** (Numero di caratteri inclusi spazi: max 600):

This Phd project, understood in its scientific research aspect, provides the candidate with skills relating to the academic field of this activity, translated into the writing and editing of publications and scientific articles, archival and bibliographical research, and the presentation of research results to the public. In accordance with the very theme of the project, a field study is also planned during which the doctoral student will acquire, by interacting with the various museums in which the research will be carried out, skills relating to their operation, with particular attention to the methods of relating to the public.

**Bibliografia** (max. 15):

- Belting, Hans. *An Anthropology of Images: Picture, Medium, Body*. Princeton: Princeton University press, 2011.
- Butler, Judith. *Notes toward a Performative Theory of Assembly*. First Harvard University Press paperback edition. Cambridge, Massachusetts, London, England: Harvard University Press, 2018.
- Carnevali, Barbara, and Montemaggi, Francesca. "Social Sensibility. Simmel, the Senses, and the Aesthetics of Recognition." *Simmel Studies* 21, no. 2 (March 14, 2018): 9–39.
- Hein, Hilde S. *The Museum in Transition: A Philosophical Perspective*. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2000.
- Howes, David. *Senses and Sensation. Critical and Primary Sources*. London: Bloomsbury, 2018.
- Message, Kylie. *Museums and Social Activism: Engaged Protest. Museum Meanings*. London ; New York: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group, 2014.
- Simmel, Georg, and Donald N. Levine. *On Individuality and Social Forms: Selected Writings*. Nachdr. The Heritage of Sociology. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 2010.
- Simmel, Georg, and Lucio Perucchi. *Il volto e il ritratto: saggi sull'arte*. Intersezioni 18. Bologna: Il Mulino, 1985.
- Simmel, Georg. *Stile moderno: saggi di estetica sociale*. Edited by Barbara Carnevali and Andrea Pinotti. Translated by Francesco Peri. Torino: Einaudi, 2020.

UniSR

**Progetto proposto in applicazione del D.M. 118 del 2 marzo 2023**  
**Corso di Dottorato di Ricerca in Filosofia**

Simon, Nina. *The Participatory Museum*. Santa Cruz: Museum 2.0, 2010.

Wolff, Kurt Heinrich. *The Sociology of Georg Simmel*. New York London: Free press C. Macmillan, 1950.

**Periodo di studio e ricerca presso Impresa /Centri di ricerca / Pubblica Amministrazione**

Il periodo per un minimo di 6 mesi fino a un massimo di 12 mesi è **obbligatorio** per le borse attivate nell'ambito di investimento:

- Transizione digitali e ambientali
- Pubblica amministrazione
- Patrimonio culturale

Sono esclusi quelle di Ricerca PNRR.

Il dottorando svolgerà il periodo **OBBLIGATORIO** presso Direzione Regionale Musei Lombardia per n 6 mesi

**Sede legale:**

Paese	Italia
Città	Milano
Indirizzo	Corso Magenta 24

**Sede operativa principale**, se diversa dalla sede legale, presso cui è svolta l'attività di ricerca del dottorando

Paese	
Città	
Indirizzo	

**Periodo di studio e ricerca all'estero**

Il periodo un minimo di 6 mesi fino a un massimo di 12 mesi è **obbligatorio** per le borse attivate in tutti e 4 gli ambiti di investimento (Transizione digitali e ambientali, Ricerca PNRR, Pubblica amministrazione e Patrimonio culturale)

Il dottorando svolgerà il periodo **OBBLIGATORIO** presso Centre d'études sociologiques et politiques Raymond-Aron – CESPRA, EHESS-Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales per n 6 mesi

**Sede legale:**

Paese	Francia
Città	Parigi
Indirizzo	Centre d'études sociologiques et politiques Raymond-Aron – CESPRA, EHESS-Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales

**Sede operativa principale**, se diversa dalla sede legale, presso cui è svolta l'attività di ricerca del dottorando

Paese	
Città	
Indirizzo	