**Industrial heritage, management, and values conflict.**

Object of this research is a review of industrial heritage practices in Italy. Until a few decades ago industrial heritage was a term that did not even exist. Physical spaces of industrial production existed, but no particular attention was devoted to them beyond their (present or past) functional dimension as plants or other infrastructure for productive activity. Only recently, there has been a surge of attention for industrial heritage, both among policy makers, urban planners and researchers. The concept of industrial heritage started to gain momentum and a whole discourse generated around it, around what it is, whether it is worth being preserved or destined to new culture-related uses.

The general context is the one of the move from the industrial to the post-industrial society, which began in the 1950s-1960s in the UK, and in the 1970s in Italy. Whereas the functional value of industrial sites started declining with social and technical innovations leading to new production processes or a change in demand, the cultural-historic values of these sites, instead, did not suffer the same decline and even increased. In other words, the growing abandonment of industrial areas due to the outsourcing of production in developing economies, the obsolescence of some public infrastructures and the more general changes of the new economy raised the issue that these sites are, first, testimony of some material and immaterial culture (e.g. heritage of the industrial revolutions) and, in turn, of what to do with them.

One of the most interesting elements in this wave, however, is the different ways in which industrial sites can be re-used, with a variety of solutions ranging from uses that are close to their historical meanings as industrial realities, to solutions having no connection to the past but the building itself (as in case of heritage transformed in spaces for cultural events or activities). Such a competition in potential re-uses provides an arena for value conflict that we would like to investigate.

All in all, considerable debate has now accrued and many experiences have accumulated too, in and around industrial heritage sites, also in Italy. It is time to understand what is going on and what the perspectives are for the future. In particular, beyond simply reconstructing the state of the art, in this research we will critically explore the extant discourse of industrial heritage regeneration and empirically analyze the strategies through which this is carried out, particularly questioning the role of culture and value conflict in mainstream discourses and practices of industrial heritage regeneration.

A systematic literature review will be carried out, mapping main practices that can be found in the Italian context, identifying three case studies that will be reconstructed in their evolution.