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LA VULNERABILITÀ DEI CENTRI STORICI: METODI DI VALUTAZIONE DELLA RESILIENZA DEL PATRIMONIO URBANO

THE VULNERABILITY OF HISTORICAL CITY CENTRES: AN ASSESSMENT OF THE RESILIENCE OF URBAN HERITAGE

Giulia De Lucia, Stefano Salata

Italian historical city centres are among the most representative components of the national cultural heritage: not just the stratified nuclei of the great cities of art, but also the majority of small towns scattered throughout the country that preserve historical fabrics of significant cultural and social value. Urban cultural heritage is the product of a slow process of accumulation and stratification of values recognised by the resident community but also by a broader community that recognises a value of belonging. At the same time, it is evident that the morpho-typological fabric of the historical city centres is also the result of subtractions, losses, destruction and sudden selections caused by natural dynamics or attributable to environmental factors – as already underlined by the 5th AISU Conference entitled *Out of the ordinary: the city in the face of catastrophes and exceptional events* (Rome, 2011) – as well as additions, adjustments and adaptations that are partly due to political and planning choices and partly attributable to the ability of communities to absorb changes and traumas by reorganising functions [Nobile and Sutera 2012; Guidoboni 2011].

In the contemporary debate, dominated by reflections on the recurrence of seismic events, or hydrogeological disasters increased in part by the phenomenon of climate change that reveals a significant vulnerability of the built heritage [Belmonte et al. 2019], the cultures of urban history and urban heritage conservation must come to terms with the concepts of risk and resilience [Graziano and Rizzi 2016; Meerow and Newell 2016]. Indeed, the protection and conservation of historic city centres can assume considerable importance not only for the material safeguarding of their physical structures, but also in a broader perspective that considers the recognisability and well-being of the settled community: attention to the dimension of urban heritage can be considered an important indicator of the quality of life for local communities.

In this sense, there is a clear need to gather reflections on the methods of analysis used to measure and interpret the response of the historical city subject to different types of risk, (shocks such as climate change, ecological disasters, natural disasters such as

earthquakes and floods, environmental disasters and environmental migration) and physiological changes (issues such as obsolescence, loss of identity, ageing and gentrification) [ANCE/CRESME 2012 First Report]. While there is already a line of studies that examines documentary and historical sources to reconstruct the history of extreme events and their impact on the territory (see, for example, the discipline of historical seismology [Guidoboni 2009]), here attention is focused on contemporary interdisciplinary approaches and on the use of different analytical methods such as the use of composite and dynamic indicators to interpret the social, economic and heritage repercussions of the phenomena studied [Khazai *et al.*, 2015].
The focus of this session is mainly on the analysis and evaluation of the impact of governance systems, policies and tools for its implementation (plans and programmes), on the use and way of life, on the protection and development of the contemporary historical city (ancient and modern), in order to lay the foundations for a more in-depth study on the role of resilience understood as a social response to the vulnerabilities of the urban system. In this perspective, the intersection of the different historical cities' capacities to respond and to adapt to disastrous events on a broader time scale could provide interesting contributions in a broader critical debate on the management and governance systems of the city. Considering the global dimension of the phenomena treated, some research is presented relating to case studies selected from a wide-ranging comparison with the methods of analysis in order to achieve a broader understanding of the phenomenon.

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