

**PhD Course in Urbeur – Urban  
Studies XXXVI cycle,  
a.y. 2020/2021**

**n. 1 scholarships funded by Department, linked to research project: "Greening the Visual: an Environmental Atlas of Italian Landscapes"**

**Abstract**

*The project will investigate the visual construction of the environmental discourse in Italy, both from a historical perspective and in contemporary visual practices. Specifically, it aims at analyzing the emergence and the features of the environmental discourse behind the visual representation of environmental issues in Italian seascapes.*

*In the first phase, the project aims at (1) providing*

- 1. an overview of the current academic debate on environment representations, combining the conceptual framework the eco-critical geopolitics approach with visual analysis;*
- 2. a theoretical apparatus to the visual realm*
- 3. a methodological framework, combining different methodologies and scientific approaches, such as critical discourse analysis, eco-critical geography, visual ethnography, and netnography.*

*While keeping as a pivot the general focus on seascape representations and their role in the making of environmental narratives, the research will be articulate first to the analysis of tourism stereotypes about the sea and the capacity of social media to undermine them and to focus on environmental issues; and then will take into account videos of environmental denunciation to investigate how visual media – in particular documentaries, environmental/social campaign videos, educational videos, and YouTube – represent such issues and concur to increase their recognition.*

**Posizioni con Percorso Executive**

**n. 1 positions of PhD-Executive for employees of WHITE WAVE MALDIVES PVT.LTD**

**Title: *The Maldives as a sports space***

*Sport encompasses a set of practices deeply rooted in the culture, economy and social structures of the contexts in which it takes place. The "deep play" nature of sport and its embeddedness make it a field of study of great interest to the social sciences. Sport can effectively function as an access point for the study and interpretation of many spheres of society. The project aims to investigate some of the structures and dynamics of Maldivian society starting from the observation of sports activities practiced in the islands. Three are the main focuses of interest. A first dimension centres in the analysis of sport as a mechanism for regulating social relations within the islands. In this perspective, the sporting practices of the inhabitants will be investigated. Times, places dedicated to activities, prevalent types of sports, forms of interaction, mechanisms of distinction and aggregation*

*(by age, gender, etc.) will be analysed to assess their functions in relation to the wider social relations of the island. Times, places dedicated to activities, prevalent types of sports activities, forms of interaction, mechanisms of distinction and aggregation (by age, gender, etc.) will be analysed to assess their functions in relation to the wider social relations of the island.*

*The second dimension concerns relations between islands. It is a question of investigating what is the role of sport - in its structured forms through championships and tournaments - in fostering mobility, the relationships between the different islands of an atoll and between the different atolls. In this sense, the type of regulation and governance (both on the local and national scale) of this type of events and the space dedicated to sport in public policies become central. In this context, also falls the role that sport plays in connecting the Maldives to the surrounding geopolitical space, through participation in the main international sports federations (AFC, FIFA, IOC ...).*

*The third dimension - given the centrality of the tourist vocation of the Maldives - concerns the role of sport in structuring the tourist offer in these islands. This field of investigation, which is partially distinct from the previous ones, also involves several possible tracks of research. On the one hand, it would seem essential to go deeper into the space dedicated to sport within the tourist offer: which sports? which types of infrastructure in the resorts? for which targets? It is a question of investigating what is the role of sport - in its structured forms through championships and tournaments - in fostering mobility, the relationships between the different islands of an atoll and between the different atolls. In this sense, the type of regulation and governance (both on the local and national scale) of this type of events and the space dedicated to sport in public policies become central. In this context also falls the role that sport plays in connecting the Maldives to the surrounding geopolitical space, through participation in the main international sports federations (AFC, FIFA, IOC ...). The third dimension - given the centrality of the tourist vocation of the Maldives - concerns the role of sport in structuring the tourist offer in these islands. This field of investigation, which is partially distinct from the previous ones, also involves several possible tracks of research. On the one hand, it would seem essential to go deeper into the space dedicated to sport within the tourist offer: which sports? which types of infrastructure in the resorts? for which targets? On the other hand, sport also seems to play a central role in the organisation of relations between workers within the tourist facilities. And not infrequently, according to initial observations in the field, team sports can become one of the possible moments of contact between tourists and workers. The research on the points mentioned above will be conducted through various methodologies. In-depth interviews and participant observation in sports events (both formal and informal) on the islands will be crucial for the development of the tourist offer: which sports? which types of infrastructure in the resorts? for which targets?*

*On the other hand, sport also seems to play a central role in the organisation of relations between workers within the tourist facilities. And not infrequently, according to initial observations in the field, team sports can become one of the possible moments of contact between tourists and workers. The research on the points mentioned above will be conducted through various methodologies.*

*In-depth interviews and observation participating in sports events on the islands (both formal and informal) will be crucial to investigate the relationship between sport and local social structures.*

*The space of political regulation at different scales will be investigated through interviews with privileged witnesses and through analysis of documentation produced by the different local and supralocal sports federations and by political and economic bodies involved.*

*In order to investigate the role of sport in tourism in the Maldives, it is proposed to proceed through case study of resort, investigating both the offer addressed to tourists and the regulatory dimension that sport takes on in the life of the workers involved in the management of the resort.*