



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863



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Carolina Pacchi teaches Urban Policy and serves as Vice Rector for Institutional and Community Relations at the Politecnico di Milano. Since 2021, she has coordinated the Master's programme in Urban Planning and Policy Design. She has been Visiting Researcher at several international institutions, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Technische Universität Berlin.

Her research activity focuses on the transformation of governance models and the role of civil society, social and spatial inequality models, the effects of cohesion policies, the evolving relationship between space and modes of production, and the link between urban development and educational systems, from primary school through higher levels. She has examined grassroots urban activism and the role of civil society in urban transformations, with particular attention to the digital dimension.

She has also explored the dynamics and models of evolution in higher education, both in relation to the regions that host universities and more broadly regarding the accessibility and potential of higher education in driving development and reducing inequalities. A specific focus on the role of technical education in Europe was part of her work with the Polimi 2040 working group, as illustrated in the book *The Age of Science-Tech Universities: Responsibilities, Challenges and Strategies* (Routledge, 2022).



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Vision

Knowledge in its various forms has long assumed a central role in contemporary societies, where innovation permeates every aspect of economic, social and political life. At the same time, societal expectations of the university system have shifted in recent years: no longer as merely a place for educating future generations, but also as a venue for contributing to the development of areas surrounding universities. The quadruple helix model identifies interactions among the research world, the economic system, public institutions and civil society as the foundation for fostering complex development, driven by the participation and commitment of distinct actors who bring different resources, perspectives and knowledge, thus creating continuous opportunities for mutual learning.

In this context, the role of a technical university is not only to educate new generations in terms of skills, but also to nurture their critical capacity regarding the evolution of knowledge and technologies, as well as their impacts on society, thereby fostering more informed citizenship.

However, the role of an institution like the Politecnico di Milano extends beyond this. Due to its specific focus on technological innovation, research and education, the Politecnico indirectly bears responsibility for fostering an open and multifaceted public discussion on the role of technology in society and the ongoing need to integrate various forms of technical knowledge in democratic debate.

In this scenario, the objectives of the office for Institutional and Community Relations are to promote the role, identity and recognition of the Politecnico di Milano in one of the most dynamic regions in Europe; strengthen and better articulate existing relationships with institutional stakeholders and interest groups on various levels, including the university system; create new channels for interaction, exchange, and mutual learning; and connect educational processes, research and the production of knowledge within the university to the world beyond.



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