



RICCARDO PRIVITERA, Ph.D

Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture (DICAR), Lecturer of Urban Design at Architecture MSc Programme and staff member of the 'Laboratory for Spatial and Environmental Planning – (LaPTA), University of Catania (Italy).

University of Catania, Catania (Italy)
Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture (DICAR)
Via Santa Sofia, 64
95123 Catania
Lab phone (+39) 095 738 2528
Phone (+39) 340 6755949
Email riccardo.privitera@unict.it
LaPTA website: <http://www.lapta.dicar.unict.it>
DICAR website: <http://www.dicar.unict.it>

EDUCATION

Master of Science in Civil Engineering with a thesis in 'Protecting and planning regional natural parks' focused on the case study of a River Park in Sicily (Italy).

In 2010 he got a PhD in Urban and Regional Planning focusing the research on the analysis of the potential of non-urbanised areas scattered in metropolitan contexts according to a set of land-use, land cover and fragmentation analyses and modelling new forms of urban agriculture scenario through a suitability analysis and a transfer of development rights strategy.

In 2018 he got the Italian National Scientific Qualification as Associate Professor in Urban and Regional Planning.

AFFILIATIONS

He has been visiting Academic Scholar at the University of Sheffield (UK) in 2018, visiting Professor at the University of Alexandria (Egypt) in 2020, Nirma University - Ahmedabad (India) in 2023, and Luleå University of Technology (Luleå, Sweden) in 2024.

Since 2013 he's a staff member of the National Centre of Urban planning Studies (CeNSU), an Italian national-wide urban planners Association that aims to promote cultural and training initiatives on town planning issues, favour the collaboration of Associations and Public Bodies on town planning actions, act as consulting body for the National Engineers Council CNI, other institutions and administrative bodies, and enhance the participation of engineers in town planning related matters. He's also a staff member of the Provincial Centre of Urban planning Studies (CePSU), a local branch of CeNSU.

Since 2014 Member of the Italian Partner of European Land-use Institute, an independent multilateral cooperation platform that aims to build a sustainable and long lasting partnership in research, development, and capacity development in integrated land-use. ELI is actually composed by partners from twenty different countries in Europe and three other from Asia, Africa and Latina America.

At the beginning of 2017 he joined the Steering Committee of the Provincial Centre of Urban planning Studies (CePSU), Catania (Italy) and in 2018 the Valuing Nature Network, an UK research programme aimed at dealing with complex relationship between nature and cities.

Città Universitaria – Via Santa Sofia, 64 – 95123 Catania.

Segreteria: Tel +39 0957382513, Fax: +39 095330309. E-Mail: dicar.amm@unict.it

Sede di Siracusa: Piazza F. di Svevia – 96100 Siracusa, Tel.: +39 0931469691, Telefax: +39 0931469642
www.dicar.unict.it/ – P.Iva e C.F. 02772010878

TEACHING ACTIVITY

Currently he is teaching ‘Urban Design and Policy Making’ and ‘Urban and Regional Planning’ courses at the Master programme in Civil Engineering and Architecture and ‘Landscape Planning’ course at the Architecture programme, Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture, University of Catania.

In 2021-2022 he has been teaching ‘Analysis of land and urban settlements’ at the course of Urban Planning and Environmental and Landscape Sustainability’, University of Catania.

From 2020 to 2022 Lecturer of ‘Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change in Spatial Planning’ at the Alexandria University, Arab Academy of Science Technology and Maritime Industry, Suez Canal University within the International MSc. Programme Smart Environment and Climate Change Management (SECCM).

From 2018 to 2019 Lecturer of Urban Design at University of Catania (Italy), Architecture MSc Programme.

In 2015 Lecturer at University of Catania (Italy) for the Professional Master Course on ‘Energy Efficiency and Sustainability of urban networks’ for master graduated students.

From 2007 to 2017 Lecturer of Urban and Regional Planning at University of Catania (Italy), Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Civil Engineering MSc Programme, and Tutor for supporting students on developing projects within the Laboratory of ‘Urban and Regional Planning’.

SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS AND ROLES

Among his scientific interests in the field of urban and regional planning are included: sustainable urban growth, non-urbanised areas planning, urban green infrastructures, urban quality, green cities, climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, ecosystem services, land cover analysis, urban morphology analysis, land suitability analysis, urban and peri-urban agriculture, farmland protection, new form of urban agriculture, real estate development processes, transfer of development rights, renewable energy sources and energy efficiency issues at urban scale.

Based on these topics, he published more than fifty among scientific papers and books, attended several international scientific conferences as an invited speaker and session coordinator, organised and hosted some national and international conferences, seminars and workshops.

Since 2013 he has been invited as a peer-reviewer from several International scientific Journals indexed on Scopus and ISI Web of Knowledge databases: Landscape and Urban Planning, IForest, Environment Development and Sustainability, Ecological Indicators, Landscape Research, and Sustainability.

Since 2016 he’s member of the International Scientific Committee of the International Conference Geobalkanica, hosted in Skopje (Republic of Macedonia) by Institute of Geography, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University.

From February to May 2018, he got a position as Visiting Academic Scholar at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, University of Sheffield (UK) supervised by prof. John Henneberry (professor of Property Development Studies). He has been member of the research team working on the project ‘Improving Wellbeing Through Urban Nature (IWUN)’ funded by Natural Environment Research Council’s Valuing Nature Programme (UK). From January to February 2024, he was Visiting Professor at Luleå University of Technology (Luleå, Sweden), Department of Civil, Environmental and Natural Resources Engineering – Division of Architecture and Water.

PROJECTS

Since 2007 he has been working on several Urban local Plans for municipalities, provincial administrations and University, such as Land-use plans, regeneration of historical centres plans, landscape protection plans.

From 2010 to 2012 he worked as a member of the University of Catania Research Unit for the Italian National Research Programme ‘PRIN 2008’ focused on ‘Methods and Tools for landscape protection and greenways planning’.

In 2011, as a staff member of the Italian partner ‘University of Catania (Italy)’, he participated to the European project GRaBS – Green and Blue Space Adaptation for urban areas and eco-towns – a network of leading pan-European organisations involved in integrating climate change adaptation into regional planning and development and producing, with the support of the knowledge partner University of Manchester, the ‘Assessment Tool’ for use by the GRaBS partners to support the development of Climate Adaptation Action Plans. As a final deliverable has been produced the document ‘A low carbon Campus’ a Climate change adaptation action plan for the Catania University local campus. GRaBS won the 2012 RegioStars award – sustainable growth category with the following motivation: The GRaBS project is enabling urban designers, architects and planners across Europe to create or remodel outdoor spaces and buildings to ensure they are resilient to climate change and extreme weather.

From 2013 to 2016 he worked as an executive project coordinator of the Italian partner CeNSU – Italian National Centre of Urban Studies - of the SPECIAL project (Spatial Planning for Communities In All Landscapes) an European partnership representing the professional Town Planning Associations of their respective countries. The project led by Town and Country Planning Association (London, UK) has been based on renewable energy-related issues and their relations to urban and spatial planning. Final objectives of this project have been building the capacity of town planners to deliver sustainable energy solutions at local level in the European Union. Among the others, CeNSU produced, as a final deliverable, a web-based training portfolio for enhancing the integration of sustainable energy efficiency issues and spatial planning practices in Italy.

From 2017 to 2021 he worked, as a member of the Coordination Staff, to the European project ‘Climate Change Management through Mitigation and Adaptation (AdapTM)’ – Erasmus+ (Capacity building in the field of Higher Education).

From 2018 to 2019 he worked, as a researcher associate, on the project ‘Improving Well-being through Urban Nature (IWUN)’ funded by Natural Environment Research Council’s Valuing Nature Programme, at the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, University of Sheffield (UK).

Since 2019 he started working on the project ‘Marine Coastal and Delta Sustainability for Southeast Asia (MARE)’ – Erasmus+ (Capacity building in the field of Higher Education) (2019-2022).

As member of the Local Coordination team, he worked on the project ‘Urban Resilience and Adaptation for India and Mongolia (URGENT)’ - curricula, capacity, ICT and stakeholder collaboration to support green & blue infrastructure and nature-based solutions / Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) – Erasmus+: Higher Education – International Capacity Building (2020-2023).

MOST RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

Privitera, R., 2024. An urban equalisation strategy for managing the transition to climate resilience in an ordinary Italian city. *Urban Planning*, 9, 8297, pp. 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.17645/up.8297>

Shaltout, M., Elkhoully, N., Privitera, R., Elbessa, M., 2024. Simulation of the Future Warming over the Egyptian Mediterranean Coast. *Euro-Mediterranean Journal for Environmental Integration* (Springer), pp. 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41207-024-00494-3>

Privitera, R., Jelo, G., La Rosa, D., 2024. Assessing Ecosystem Services Provided by Nature-Based Solutions Alongside Different Urban Morphologies. In: Marucci, A., Zullo, F., Fiorini, L., Saganeiti, L. (eds) *Innovation in Urban and Regional Planning. INPUT 2023. Lecture Notes in Civil Engineering*, vol 463. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-54096-7_9

Privitera R., Ma J., 2022. Planning Green Spaces Investments for Improving Health and Well-Being in Cities Through Valuing Urban Nature. In: La Rosa D., Privitera R. (eds) *Innovation in Urban and Regional Planning*. INPUT 2021. Lecture Notes in Civil Engineering, vol 242. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-96985-1_5.

Palme, M., Carrasco, C., La Rosa, Privitera, R., 2021. Building Performance Simulation to support tree planting for cooling needs reduction: a machine learning approach. In: *Proceedings of the 17th IBPSA Conference, Bruges, Belgium, Sept. 1-3, 2021*, pp. 721 – 728. <https://doi.org/10.26868/25222708.2021.30196>

Privitera, R., La Rosa, D., 2021. Planning criteria for nature-based solutions in cities. In “Urban heat stress and mitigation solutions. An engineering perspective” a cura di Costanzo V., Evola, G., Marletta L. Routledge Publisher, pp. 368-384. ISBN 978-0367493639

Privitera, R., Evola, G., La Rosa, D., Costanzo, V., 2021. Green Infrastructure to Reduce the Energy Demand of Cities. In: Palme M., Salvati A. (eds) *Urban Microclimate Modelling for Comfort and Energy Studies*. Springer, Cham, pp. 485-503. ISBN 978-3-030-65420-7 (Print) 978-3-030-65421-4 (online), https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-65421-4_23

Ma, J., Henneberry, J., Privitera, R., 2021. The Challenges of Valuing Urban Nature: Accounting for Urban Ecosystem Services within the Framework of a Cost-Benefit Analysis of Nature-based Investments. In La Rosa, D., Privitera, R. (Eds.), *Innovation in Urban and Regional Planning. Proceedings of the 11th INPUT Conference - Volume 1. Lecture Notes in Civil Engineering – Springer International Publishing*. ISBN 978-3-030-68823-3, ISSN 2366-2557. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-68824-0.

Privitera, R., 2021. Avoid the unmanageable and manage the unavoidable. Cities between mitigation and adaptation to climate change. In Privitera, R., La Rosa, D., Pappalardo, V., Martinico, F. (Eds.), *Climate Change Management through Adaptation and Mitigation*. Maggioli Editore, Santarcangelo di Romagna, RN, pp. 2-17. ISBN 978-88-916-4307-0.

Palme, M., Privitera, R., La Rosa, D., 2020. The shading effects of Green Infrastructure in private residential areas: Building Performance Simulation to support Urban Planning. *Energy and Buildings* 229, 110531. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enbuild.2020.110531>

La Rosa D., Privitera R., 2020. Green Infrastructure and Private Property: The Crucial Relationship for the Sustainable Future of Cities. In: Gervasi, O., Murgante, B., Misra, S., Garau, C., Blečić, I., Taniar, D., Apduhan, B.O., A.M.A.C. Rocha, Tarantino, E., Torre, C.M., Karaca, Y. (Eds.), *Computational Science and Its Applications – ICCSA 2020. 20th International Conference, Cagliari, Italy, July 1–4, 2020, Proceedings, Part VII. Lecture Notes in Computer Science, Volume 12255*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-58820-5_29. Print ISBN 978-3-030-58819-9, Online ISBN 978-3-030-58820-5.

Henneberry, J., Ma, J., Privitera, R., 2020. Making a Governable, Value-able Nature: Calculative Practices and Eco-system Services. In: Dempsey N., Dobson J. (eds) *Naturally Challenged: Contested Perceptions and Practices in Urban Green Spaces. Cities and Nature*. Springer, Cham, pp. 59-86. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-44480-8_4, ISBN (print) 978-3-030-44479-2, ISBN (on line) 978-3-030-44480-8.

Palme, M., La Rosa, D., Privitera, R., Chiesa, G., 2019. Evaluating The Potential Energy Savings Of An Urban Green Infrastructure Through Environmental Simulation. In V. Corrado, E., Fabrizio,

A., Gasparella, and F. Patuzzi (Eds) "Proceedings of Building Simulation 2019: 16th Conference of IBPSA", pp. 3524-3530 (ISBN: 978-1-7750520-1-2) (ISSN: 2522-2708), published by the International Building Performance Simulation Association (IBPSA).

Privitera, R., La Rosa, D., 2018. Reducing seismic vulnerability and energy demand of cities through Green Infrastructure. *Sustainability* 10, 2591, pp. 1-21. ISSN: 2071-1050, DOI: 10.3390/su10082591

Privitera, R., Palermo V., Martinico, F., Fichera, A., La Rosa, D., 2018. Towards lower carbon cities: urban morphology contribution in climate change adaptation strategies. *European Planning Studies*, 26:4, pp. 812-837. ISSN: 0965-4313 (Print) 1469-5944 (Online), DOI: 10.1080/09654313.2018.1426735

La Rosa, D., Takatori, C., Shimizu, H., Privitera, R., 2018. A planning framework to evaluate demands and preferences by different social groups for accessibility to urban greenspaces. *Sustainable Cities and Society* 36, pp. 346-362. ISSN: 2210-6707, DOI: 10.1016/j.scs.2017.10.026

Privitera, R., La Rosa, D., 2018. Enhancing carbon sequestration potential of urban green spaces through transfer of development rights strategy. *Acta Geobalcanica* 4-1, pp.17-23. ISSN 1857-9833. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18509/AGB.2018.02>

Privitera, R., La Rosa, D., 2016. Urban Regeneration Programs for sustainable planning in highly vulnerable urban contexts. 2nd International Scientific Conference Geobalcanica 2016 Proceedings, 10-12 June, Skopje, Republic of Macedonia, pp. 255-262. ISSN 1857-7636, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.18509/GBP.2016.34>.

La Rosa, D., Privitera, R., Barbarossa, L., La Greca, P., 2016. Assessing spatial benefits of urban regeneration programs in a highly vulnerable urban context: A case study in Catania, Italy. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 157, pp. 180-192. ISSN: 0169-2046, doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2016.05.031>.

Privitera, R., La Rosa, D., 2015. Transferability of Greencities experiences for sustainable urban planning. *International Scientific Conference Geobalcanica 2015 Proceedings*, pp. 127-134. ISSN 1857-7636, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.18509/GBP.2015.17>.

La Rosa, D., Privitera, R., 2015. Evaluation of Ecosystem Services along urban-rural transects in Southern Italy. *Acta Geobalcanica* 1-2, pp. 75-82. ISSN 1857-9833, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.18509/AGB.2015.08>

La Rosa, D., Barbarossa, L., Privitera, R., Martinico, F., 2014. Agriculture and the city: A method for sustainable planning of new forms of agriculture in urban contexts. *Land Use Policy* 41, pp. 290-303. ISSN: 0264-8377, doi: 10.1016/j.landusepol.2014.06.014.

Martinico, F., La Rosa, D., Privitera, R., 2014. Green oriented urban development for urban ecosystem services provision in a medium sized city in southern Italy. *iForest* 7(7), pp. 385-395. ISSN: 1971-7458, doi: 10.3832/ifor1171-007.

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La Greca, P., La Rosa, D., Martinico, F., Privitera, R., 2011. Agricultural And Green Infrastructures: The Role Of Non-Urbanised Areas For Eco-Sustainable Planning In A Metropolitan Region. *Environmental Pollution* 159, pp. 2193-2202. ISSN: 0269-7491, DOI:10.1016/j.envpol.2010.11.017

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