
The 2024 IUS Field Training School and Research Seminar on Urban Ethnography and Theory

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This annual Field Training School and Research Seminar was organised and hosted by the *International Urban Symposium-IUS* in collaboration with an international group of senior scholars from leading universities. It was held in Montecatini Terme, Italy on 21-27 July 2024 (<https://www.internationalurbansymposium.com/events/2024-field-training-school/>). The working language was English.

The School offered an interactive learning environment and ample opportunity to discuss in depth the rationale and practices of traditional and new research methods and mainstream debates. The primary aim was to train participants in the “art” of conducting ethnographic fieldwork and develop the link between ethnographically-based analysis and social theory.

The School’s teaching staff included sociocultural anthropologists, qualitative sociologists, architects and urban planners. They were, in alphabetic order: Gary Armstrong (City, University London, UK); Nicola Brady (Transport for London & Practitioner-in-Residence, City University of London, UK); Jerome Krase (Brooklyn College-CUNY, USA); Erin Lynch (Concordia University, Canada); Karolina Moretti (University of Athens, Greece); Italo Pardo (University of Kent, UK); Giuliana B. Prato (University of Kent, UK); James Rosbrook-Thompson (City, University London, UK); and Matthew Rosen (Ohio University, USA).

The 2024 IUS School brought together 15 postgraduate students, doctoral and postdoctoral scholars from Canada, France, Germany, Hawaii, India, Italy, Singapore, Spain, Turkey and the USA.

The School opened with a 60-minute Session including a Welcome address and a detailed explanation of the event’s structure. This was followed by an 80-minute Session introducing the intellectual scope of the programme, which over 7 full days included:

- Twelve 80-minute focused Teaching Seminars led by members of the staff;
- Discussion of the reading materials that were circulated among the participants one month prior the start of the School. Participants were asked to read and actively discuss the literature in relation to each specific seminar;
- A Field Excursion to the medieval hamlet of Montecatini Alto and a Field Trip in the city of Montecatini Terme (preceded by 60-minute methodological instructions from the staff);
- A 1-day dedicated session during which participants reported on their field trip;
- A 1-day Research Seminar Session during which participants presented their own research. With a view to honing and developing junior scholars’ skills as future professionals, this full-day Research Seminar offered to participants the opportunity to

discuss their work and benefit from peer-discussion and expert feedback from the teaching staff. Each presentation was allocated 30 minutes, including discussion. In June, the abstracts from all papers were circulated via email among the participants and the staff. The Seminar Sessions were chaired by members of the staff;

- The School concluded with a Session on the publication process, potential outlets, indications on how to revise and explanation of the peer-review procedure.

Social events included a communal light dinner, visits and evening concerts at the historical Terme Il Tettuccio, a World Heritage Site, and a farewell reception, which was attended by the Mayor of Montecatini Terme, Mr Claudio Del Rosso.



From left to right. Back row: Federico Meneghini Sassoli; Franca Henriette Webel; Janka Visky; Andrew Lewis; Julia Faulhaber; Gladice Alida Makamno Talom; Prateck Paul; Andrew Shauff; James Rosbrook-Thompson; Erin Lynch. Front row: Elisa Zanoni; Srilekha Ati; Italo Pardo; Claudio Del Rosso, Mayor of Montecatini Terme; Giuliana B. Prato; Danna Massielle Gutierrez Lanza; Karolina Moretti; Sophie Bartlein; Conny Hansel; Patricia Garcia; Cigdem Erdal; Mattew Rosen. Not in the picture: Jerome Krase; Gary Armstrong; Nicola Brady.