

PhD Thesis:

Strategie d'insediamento e modelli di gestione locale della diversità religiosa. Studio di caso sui luoghi di culto delle minoranze a Torino

Abstract

Following globalization, migrations and conversions have led to a greater diversification of the Italian and European religious panorama. In this frame, cities are highly involved and more and more relevant in the study of global phenomena and socio-political change. Increasingly, they can be understood as political actors tout court, whose action has an immediate impact on social life of both established and outsiders. While religious diversity emerge as one of the key-factors of a broader super-diversity, the right to places of worship is today a fundamental element of the urban settlement and social positioning of those minorities in search of inclusion and recognition. In Italy, the emplacement of places of worship is a matter of religious freedom and, at the same time, of urban regulation by local authorities. The result is a proliferation of local laws and policies, empirical solutions and legal stratagems transforming the national landscape in a highly differentiated scenario. Introducing the notion of "urban religious field", the research assumes the city of Turin as the ground for a local comparative case study. The aim is to better understand the relations between public policies and religious strategies of material/symbolic emplacement. On the assumption that the actual enjoyment of such a fundamental right is closely related to the organizational agency resulting from different configurations of capital (cultural, economic, social, political), the study analyzes the processes and dynamics of positioning and public regulation in the urban religious field of Turin.