

## Summer school Anti-Racism, Social Justice and the European City



This summer programme is designed for Master's and PhD students and combines academic seminars, activist mentorship, and group projects. You will explore colonial legacies, anti-racist urban geographies, and participatory democracy through a decolonial approach.

This School will allow you to build lasting collaborations with scholars and activists across Europe and contribute to a growing academic-activist network across Europe. Partners include: Prof. Giovanni Picker (University of Glasgow), Prof. Ale Boussalem (University of St Andrews) and Prof. David Eric John Herbert (Bergen University).

This is a challenge-based learning Summer School in which seminars will task students to discuss case-studies and answer specific questions while staging small-group and open discussions. Collectively designing one intervention to support a local anti-racist campaign in five days will be a substantial challenge, appropriately supervised by local activist-mentors.

Preliminary daily structure:

- 3-hour morning seminar (6-10 July)
- 4-hour afternoon student group-work (6-10 July)
- 1-hour lunch

In the afternoon of the first day, 6 July, students will be taken on a 2-hour, decolonial urban tour, led by the local collective Decolonize your eyes. That day, student group-work will last 2 hours.

Five seminars will be taught by Padua faculty and scholars-partners, in person or in blended form. Topics:

- Urban geographies of anti-racism;
- State and police violence in cities;
- Visual and embodied methodology for urban research;
- Democratic participation in European cities.
- Colonial heritage and European urban space.



Student group-work: seven small groups of students will be formed before the beginning of the summer school. Every small student group will be assigned one antiracist activist who will act as a mentor. Each group will decide on one scholarship-based intervention, aimed to improve one Padova-based anti-racist initiative. Groups will be formed according to each participant's CV and interests. Potential examples of interventions are:

- Photo exhibition on colonial street names with rationale and display plan;
- Campaign advice paper, with rationale and implementation plan;
- Art installation, with rationale and display plan.

On 11 July, the last day of the Summer School, all of the student small-group interventions will be presented to the public and later stored on the Summer School website.

By the end of the Summer School, students will have gained an in-depth knowledge of the urban dimension of racism in European cities. Organisers, collaborating scholars and activists will have consolidated and expanded an already existing network of collaboration, which will enable further collaborative grant-application, as well as further iterations of the Summer School in other universities of the network, with and beyond Arqus. At least four small-group student interventions, or their virtual documentation, will be retained on the Summer School website, to serve for the next editions of the Summer School.

## KEY INFO

**Dates:** 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026 – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2026

**Target:** Master's and PhD students

**Minimum number of participants:** 12

**Maximum number of participants:** 24

**ECTS:** 3

**Location:** University of Padua – Department of Philosophy, Sociology, Education and Applied Psychology

**Fee:** 500 euros per week / 20% fee waiver for students of partner universities / 50% fee waiver for Arqus students (including UNIPD students). Additional reductions and facilitations will be available for a limited number of participants.

**Contact:** [summerschool@unipd.it](mailto:summerschool@unipd.it)

**Application dates:** 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026