

# Rositsa T. Ilieva, Ph.D.

*Post-Doctoral Research Fellow*

---

The New School • TEDC • 79 Fifth Avenue, 16th fl. • New York, NY 10003 • E: ilievar@newschool.edu

## PROFILE

---

Rositsa T. Ilieva is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Tishman Environment and Design Center (TEDC) of The New School in New York, NY, where she is currently teaching and conducting research on urban sustainability transitions and on ways to utilize social media to understand social-ecological relationships in cities. Dr. Ilieva holds a Bachelor's (2006) and a Master's (2009) degrees in Architecture and a Ph.D. Cum Laude in Spatial Planning and Urban Development (2013) from the Polytechnic University of Milan in Italy. During her Master's studies she attended the Collegio di Milano – a nationally accredited college of excellence in Milan, and the Alta Scuola Politecnica – a double-degree Master's program of the Polytechnic University of Milan and the Polytechnic University of Turin with focus on interdisciplinary work and innovation. In her Ph.D. dissertation, Dr. Ilieva used transition theories to investigate the emerging urban food planning movement and provide insights into the underexplored interface between food systems, sustainable development and planning. For the international orientation of the work and research conducted abroad – at Cardiff University (U.K.) , Massachusetts Institute of Technology (U.S.), and Wageningen University (The Netherlands) – in 2013, Dr. Ilieva was conferred the Doctor Europaeus certificate.

## EXPERIENCE

---

**Fall 2013-  
present**

**Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, The New School, New York, NY**

The post-doctoral research experience has hitherto involved the development of scientific papers on the role of cities in food system change through the study of innovative projects and social practices in New York City; the development of undergraduate courses on urban food systems and urban planning and sustainability; preparation of public talks and civic engagement with the themes of sustainability, resilience, food systems, green infrastructure and climate change; participation in scientific conferences in New York City and abroad; and, the writing of a grant proposal for an international research project on city-driven food system transitions.

**Spring 2015**

**Teacher, "Planning Sustainable Cities," The New School; New York, NY**

The course explores how urban planning affects the sustainability of cities, for better or worse.

Students study land-use practices that have, over decades, led to traffic congestion, air pollution, inefficient energy consumption, loss of open space, inequitable resource distribution, and the loss of community. They explore and evaluate planning principles and tools that are designed to halt, reduce, and reverse the negative effects of poor planning on the urban environment. Students work in groups to design “Planning Sustainable Cities” Walking Tours that critically examine at least three sites in New York City illustrating a principle of sustainability planning in one of the thematic areas explored throughout the semester – brownfield redevelopment, green infrastructure, food systems, water supply, transportation, and waste management.

**Fall 2014**

**Co-Teacher, “Urban Food Systems,” The New School; New York, NY**

The course examined sustainable urban food systems, from farm to fork, including the social, political, economic, and environmental dimensions of food production, distribution, and marketing. Students critically assessed alternative and local food movements, and explored the roles that activists, policymakers, practitioners and scholars play in transforming the conventional food system. Part of the assignments for the semester was the creation of a “NYC Food Practices Innovations Atlas” and each student was asked to identify and analyze five path-breaking projects in the city challenging the dominant urban food system regime.

**2013-present**

**Member of the “Short Food Movie” Evaluation Committee for the World EXPO 2015 in Milan; Milan, Italy**

The project is titled “Racconto Collettivo” and aims to create a collective narrative of local food stories from around the world and screen it throughout the exposition (May-October 2015). Chair of the Committee is the renown Italian film director Ermanno Olmi.

**2013**

**Teaching Assistant, “Urban Policies Design Studio,” Politecnico di Milano; Milan, Italy**

The Urban Policies Design Studio aimed to integrate policy analysis and urban design. Students projects were based on the exploration of aims, resources and interests of local actors as well as on the interpretation of characteristics of the physical environment. The Studio focused on the redevelopment of abandoned railway yards in Milan located along the railway belt between the center and the first outskirts ring of the city.

**2012**

**Lead Organizer International Research Seminar “Growing Food-Sensitive Cities For Tomorrow,” Politecnico di Milano; Milan, Italy**

September 17th, 2012. Keynote speakers: Dr. Philipp Stierand, Arch. Craig Verzone, Dr. Viviana Ferrario, Dr. Andrea Calori, Dr. Pietro Lembi, Prof. Stefano Bocchi. Discussants: Arch. Luisa Pedrazzini, Prof. Corinna Morandi, Prof. Alessandro Balducci.

**Fall 2012**

**Visiting Ph.D. Candidate, Wageningen University; Wageningen, The Netherlands**

Urban food systems related research under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Arnold van der Valk within the Land Use Planning Group.

- Fall 2011**                    **Visiting Ph.D. Student, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Boston, MA, U.S.A.**  
Urban food systems related research under the supervision of Prof. Judith Layzer in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning.
- Summer 2011**                **Visiting Ph.D. Student, Cardiff University; Cardiff, U.K.**  
Urban food systems related research under the supervision of Prof. Roberta Sonnino in the Department of City and Regional Planning.
- Spring 2011**                **Landscape Planning Intern, Lombardy Region; Milan, Italy**  
Collaboration in a transnational cooperation project with EU funding titled Pays.Med.Urban - INTERREG IVB with 14 regional partners which resulted in the development of Guidelines for the Planning and Management of Periurban Landscapes in the Mediterranean region. Participation in processes of landscape planning in the Lombardy Region and contribution to the development of a legislative provision for the preservation of landscapes of outstanding cultural and natural value in the Province of Milan.
- 2010-2011**                    **Co-Organizer and Teacher, "OrtoLana" Educational Project; Lombardy, Italy**  
The project fostered the cooperation between three different municipalities in Lombardy and obtained the sponsorship of private and public organizations among which the local agency Agenda 21. 227 school children were involved in the project, which consisted of a series of thematic seminars and the collaborative realization of vertical vegetable gardens prototypes as a pedagogical tool.
- 2008**                            **Landscape Architecture Intern, LAND Milano S.r.l.; Milan, Italy**  
Preparation of preliminary studies for the integration of large industrial buildings in projects of landscape design. Preparation of technical drawings for the special maintenance of the natural pond of Villa Borromeo d'Adda. Preparation of urban design studies and technical drawings for the large-scale redevelopment of a brownfields area in Milan into a large public park, a public square, parking lots, and a new street with central Rambla-like public space.
- 2007**                            **Consultant, ENI Enrico Mattei Foundation; Milan, Italy**  
Participation in the development of a household energy-consumption check-up program for ENI clients.
- 2006**                            **Architecture Intern, Studio ARC Architettura; Milan, Italy**  
Preparation of technical drawings for the Tortona Drama Theater project under the supervision of chief Arch. Luca Rascaroli.

## EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

---

- 2013**                    **Ph.D. in Spatial Planning and Urban Development *Cum Laude*, Polytechnic of Milan; Milan, Italy**  
Dissertation titled "Growing Food-Sensitive Cities for Tomorrow: How to integrate sustainable food systems and spatial planning for a brighter urban future in the 21st century?," advisor Prof. Alessandro Balducci, Vice-Rector of the Polytechnic of Milan.
- 2013**                    **Doctor Europaeus Certificate**  
Certificate conferred by Polytechnic of Milan upon evaluation of the dissertation by two external academic reviewers.
- 2012**                    **G.I.S. Specialization Diploma**  
Course in Geographic Information Systems and Integrated Territorial Government: Territorial data bases, territorial data management models, and design of plans through geographic information systems.
- 2010**                    **Architect**  
National Qualifying Examination sustained in Milan, Italy.
- 2009**                    **M.Sc. in Architecture *Cum Laude*, Polytechnic of Milan; Milan, Italy**  
Thesis titled "A Green Future for the City of Sofia" published in the Yearbook with the best theses of the Polytechnic of Milan for the academic year 2007/2008.
- 2009**                    **Alta Scuola Politecnica Certificate *with Merit*, Polytechnic of Milan and Polytechnic of Turin; Milan-Turin, Italy**  
The thesis examined the ecological footprint of a great urban event. The thesis was selected for the "Researchers Night" presentations in Turin on Sept. 25, 2009.
- 2007**                    **Collegio di Milano Certificate; Milan, Italy**  
College of Excellence with extracurricular activities.
- 2006**                    **B.Sc. in Architecture, Polytechnic of Milan; Milan, Italy**  
School of Civil Architecture, Milano Bovisa.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

---

- 2013**                    **Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship in Urban Food Systems**  
The New School, Tishman Environment and Design Center (TEDC); New York, NY, USA

2012 **G.I.S. Specialization Course Scholarship**  
Polytechnic of Milan; Milan, Italy

2009 **Ph.D. Scholarship**  
Polytechnic of Milan; Milan, Italy

## TALKS

---

2015 **The Urban Food Planning Revolution, TEDC, The New School, New York, NY**  
The talk was part of The New School's Earth Day Celebration Events "Earth Matters: Designing our Future" hosted by TEDC, and, in particular, the panel on sustainable food systems "Food for Thought."

2014 **De Hongerige Stad #6: The Future of Urban Agriculture; Amsterdam, The Netherlands**  
Co-presented with Dr. Nevin Cohen. The talk was organized by "Platform Edible Amsterdam" and "Pakhuis De Zwijger." The panel also included panelists Fabio Parasecoli, Ed Verdi, Anna Marandi and Maeve McInnis.

2014 **Fooding the City: Urban Recipes for Climate Action; New York, NY**  
The talk was part of The New School's Climate Action Week and the Pop-Up Workshops in Union Square Green Market.

2014 **Food Design: You Eat What You Are; New York, NY – February 27, 2014**  
The panel also included panelists Stefani Bardin – artist and curator, Pedro Reissig – designer, and Brian Sullivan – pastry chef and product designer, and was moderated by Fabio Parasecoli, Associate Professor and Food Studies Coordinator at The New School.

2013 **Food and the City: What urban food strategies for sustainability?, Milano Green Festival; Milan, Italy – May 7, 2013**  
Co-organized and presented at the panel with Arch. Sara Tommasi. The panel discussion included contributions from: Deputy Mayor of Milan Ada Lucia De Cesaris – responsible for Urbanism, Private Estates and Agriculture in the Municipality of Milan, Ettore Prandini – President of Coldiretti Lombardia, Claudia Sorlini – Professor in Agrarian Microbiology at Università degli Studi di Milano, Gabriella Iacono – President of Milano Ristorazione SPA, Gianluigi Valerin – President of Banco Alimentare della Lombardia "Danilo Fossati" Onlus, and Eliana Farotto – Responsible for R&D at COMIECO. The talk was moderated by Cristina Rapisarda Sassoon, Coordinator of Milano Green.

2008 **Seminar Lecturer, ENI School; Milan, Italy**

Talk given at a seminar series organized and sponsored by the project ENI School for high school teachers on the topic of Sustainable Energy Consumption. The talk focused on the role of cities in planning and design for sustainability.

## COMPETITIONS

---

- 2010**                    **1st Prize, National Design Competition on “Vertical and Suspended Vegetable Gardens - Ortinparco”;** **Levico Terme, Italy**  
Design and realization of a vertical vegetable gardens’ installation making use of reusable and recyclable materials. Project developed in collaboration with Arch. Sara Tommasi and Davide Sironi.
- 2010**                    **Top 10 classified, "Idea To Product Competition Italy 2010"; Milan, Italy**  
Competition organized by the Startup Accelerator of Politecnico di Milano and Fondazione Politecnico di Milano with the aim to help research ideas emerge and be transformed into products.
- 2006**                    **Top 10 classified, Province of Milan Competition “City of Cities”;** **Milan, Italy**  
Project “Dal Collegio alle Città: l’energia delle idee.” Feasibility analysis for the retrofitting of the building of the “College of Milan” to achieve greater energy consumption efficiency. Interdisciplinary team-work.

## IT SKILLS

---

<b>Operating systems</b>	Microsoft Windows XP-Vista-7-8 Macintosh OSX
<b>Software</b>	ArcGIS 10.0 AutoCAD – 2D, 3D Adobe CS (Photoshop, Illustrator) Rhinoceros – 2D, 3D Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) Open Office; Libre Office (Writer, Calc, Draw, Impress) iWork (Pages, Numbers, Keynote)

## LANGUAGES

---

<b>English</b>	Full professional proficiency
----------------	-------------------------------

**Italian** Native / bilingual proficiency

**Bulgarian** Native / bilingual proficiency

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Journal articles

Cohen, N., Ilieva, R.T. (2015, in press), Transitioning the Food System: Toward a Strategic Practice Management Approach for Cities, *Journal of Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*.

Ilieva, R.T. (2015), Food and Planning: Reimagining the City of Tomorrow?, *Territorio*, n.71, pp. 35-42.

Cohen, N., Ilieva, R.T. (2014), Fooding the City: Everyday food practices and the transition to sustainability, paper submitted to the journal of *Agriculture and Human Values*.

Ilieva R.T. (2012), Cibo e pianificazione urbana: un nuovo paradigma per la città del domani?, *Urbanistica Informazioni*, n. 246-246, pp. 17-19.

Ilieva R.T. (2012), Productive landscapes as devices for urban communities re-invention: key insights from the city of Detroit, *Paysage Topscap*, n.9, pp. 1063-1075.

Ilieva R.T. (2012), Empowering Local Food Connections for Resilient City-Regions. Planning through foodsheds or terroir?, *Territorio*, n.60, pp. 61-67.

Ilieva R.T. (2011), Shaping space and society for high-speed urban development. Exploring the Dubai City model pitfalls and perspectives, *Territorio*, n.57, Franco Angeli, Milano, pp. 45-56.

Fabris, L.M.F., Ilieva, R.T. (2010), Greenways in an emerging city context: a utopia or a chance for innovation?, *Landscape Architecture*, n.6, ISSN1673-1530, translated into Chinese by Liang Si-jia.

Ilieva R.T. (2008), Clima e Architettura. L'architettura che nasceva dal clima, lo ha cambiato e forse lo salverà, *Equilibri. Rivista per lo sviluppo sostenibile*, n.2/2008, Il Mulino, Bologna, pp. 279-286.

### Book chapters

Ilieva R.T. (2012), "Hybridization as a new paradigm of urban and territorial development: a glance over a newly EU emerging city", in Zanni, F. (ed.), *Urban Hybridization*, Maggioli Editore, ISBN: 8838761329, pp.399-414.

Ilieva R.T. (2009), "Un Futuro Verde per Sofia. A Strategy for an Emerging City Sustainable Development", in AA.VV., *Best Thesis 2007-2008*, Maggioli Editore, Segrate, p.37, ISBN: 978-88387-4419-X.

Ilieva R.T. (2008), "Architecture and Climate Change: the Evolution of a Turbulent Interaction," in Fabris, L.M.F (Ed.), *Environscape: a Manifesto*, Maggioli Editore, Segrate, pp.395-404, ISBN: 9-7888838-743207.

### Peer-reviewed presentations

Cohen, N. and Ilieva, R.T. (2014), Fooding the City: Everyday food practices and the transition to sustainability, AESOP 6th Sustainable Food Planning Conference, Van Hall Larnstein University, November 5-7, 2014, Arnhem.

Cohen, N. and Ilieva (2014), Greening the urban foodshed: Cities as drivers for food system change, Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS), Conference theme: Welcome to the

Anthropocene: From Global Challenge to Planetary Stewardship, June 12, 2014, New York.

Ilieva, R.T. (2013), Food and the city: introducing a newcomer into the spatial planning agenda. The emerging food system planning discourse and practice, International Seminar: "Periurban and marginal landscapes as a global issue", June 7, Milan.

Ilieva, R.T. and van der Valk, A. (2012), The challenge of integrating sustainable food systems and spatial planning: strengthening the European research agenda, Proceedings of the AESOP 4th Sustainable Food Systems Planning Conference: "Changing food systems in an urban world: evolving places, processes, products", Berlin, November 1st-3rd.

Ilieva R.T. (2011), Food Policy Councils as strategic catalyst for innovation in city-region governance and planning, Proceedings of the AESOP 3rd Sustainable Food Systems Planning Conference: "Food Planning and Sustainable Places", Cardiff, October 28th-29th.

Ilieva R.T. (2011), Productive landscapes as devices for urban communities re-invention: key insights from the city of Detroit, Proceedings of the XVI International Interdisciplinary Congress: "The Landscape-Cultural Mosaic in Transition: Dynamics, Disenchantments, Fades", Udine, September 22nd-23rd.

Ilieva R.T. (2011), Global Cities Re-imagining the Region: the Emerging "Foodshed" Paradigm. Exploring key challenges and opportunities for resilient communities' building through food systems analysis and planning, Proceedings of the 2011 UK/Ireland Planning Research Conference: "Planning Resilient Communities in Challenging Times", Birmingham, September 12th-14th.

Ilieva R.T. (2011), From project to process: school gardens as vehicle for territorial sustainability. A case study from the Milan metropolitan area, Proceedings of the 10th International SIEF congress: "People Make Places - ways of feeling the world", Lisbon, April 17th-21st.

Ilieva R.T. (2010), Hybridization as a new paradigm of urban and territorial development: a glance over a newly EU emerging city, Proceedings of the Urban Hybridization International conference: Hybrid Landscape / hybrid design. Processes and design strategies for contemporary urban territories, Milano.

Fabris L.M.F., Ilieva R.T. (2010), Greenways in an emerging city context: a utopia or a chance for innovation?, Proceedings of the Fábos International Conference on Landscape and Greenway Planning: Planning for Change, Budapest.

Ilieva R.T., Valle B. (2006), Re-use and valorisation as a large scale development strategy - the case of "Insieme Groane" cultural pole, in Proceedings of the International Conference Manors and Villas: Cultural Heritage as a Generator of Economic Development - Varaždin, Acta Architectonica, Zagreb, pp.303-316.

New York, NY  
May 10th, 2015