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**Title**

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**Abstract**

Urban contentious dynamics are an interesting entry point to understand the articulation between austerity, neo-liberal policies and urban capitalisms, following different kinds of actors (and not only the most visible ones) in their situated interactions. Starting from a large empirical base of previous researches realized in European metropolitan regions, I argue that urban conflicts are not just dynamics of ecological contention and develop a framework of three main dimension that are at stake in urban conflicts: collective goods (redistribution); a normative dimension about living together and social ties; recognition. Then, I will try to show that many urban conflicts are affected by social, political and economic dynamics independent from neoliberal policies. So, I will explore reactionary mobilization in metropolitan regions showing the main impacts of neoliberal policies on urban conflicts: the request for club goods more than public goods; a market based justification of inter-groups exchanges; a quest for recognition in terms of utility maximization. Finally, I will engage discussing contentious mobilizations challenging neoliberal policies (against privatization of utilities, commodification of education and social ties; for redistribution and policy outcomes equalization). In the conclusion, I will analyze some basic features of the challengers of neo-liberal policies, insisting on emerging metropolitan contention as a form of collective inquiry, and on emerging ideological frames.

**Biography**

Tommaso Vitale, M.A. in Political Sciences (1999) and Ph.D. in Sociology at the Università degli Studi di Milano (2002), Certificate of Achievement awarded in the Program for Advanced Study in Comparative Institutional Analysis and Design at the Indiana University, Bloomington, USA (2004). He is Associate Professor of Sociology at Sciences Po (Paris, France), where he is the scientific director of the biannual master "Governing the Large Metropolis" and member of the Centre d'études européennes (CEE) and of the research program "Cities are back in town". He has been Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology and Social Research of the Università degli Studi di Milano–Bicocca; and Visiting Professor at the EHESS (Paris, 2006), and at the INRP (Lyon, 2007). He has published in several areas including Urban Sociology, Political Sociology, Cultural Sociology, and Public Policy Analysis. He is currently working on metropolitan governance and contention in a comparative perspective (with a focus on minorities and unwanted groups). He has worked on planning of social services at the local level, on urban elites and governance of de-industrialization, and on networks and upward social mobility.