



## **A Eulogy to Critical Urbanist Sandra Annunziata (1979-2019)**

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A year ago this week, on the 4th January 2019, my wonderful friend and colleague Dr. Sandra Annunziata passed away suddenly leaving a baby daughter Elena and partner Francesco. This was, and is, a great loss not just to her close family and friends but also to critical urban studies. Sandra was (and indeed is) an inspiration to me - her infectious enthusiasm, strength, generosity, intellect, knowledge and lovely sociability.

Sandra was awarded an MA in Architecture and Urbanism from IUAV Venice in 2004 and a PhD titled *A Neighbourhood Called Desire: neighbourhood transition in two case studies in Rome and Brooklyn* from Roma Tre University in 2008. In 2009 she won the Best Paper Award on presenting her PhD findings to the International Forum of Urbanism in Delft, Holland. Sandra won the *Giovanni Ferraro National Award* in 2010 for her PhD dissertation. The award is a nationally recognized prize in Italy for urban and planning research that reaches beyond the frontiers of current planning knowledge and transcends established disciplinary boundaries. Then in 2011 she received the Clarence Stein Award by Cornell University College of Art, Architecture and Planning.

After her PhD Sandra worked as an EU Fellow at the Future Urban Research in Europe Training Program, and as a post doctoral researcher at Roma Tre before being awarded an EU Marie Curie Fellowship 2014-2016 titled *AGAPE: Exploring anti-gentrification practices and policies in Southern European Cities* at the University of Leicester. The major outcome of this project was/is *Staying Put! An anti-gentrification toolkit for Southern Europe* (see <https://www.city-analysis.net/2017/02/10/philipp-katsinas-reviews-anti-gentrification-workshop->



[staying-put/](#)), I will be launching the tool kit in Rome in a few months time. Sandra was a scholar and an activist par excellence, a compagna to anti-eviction and anti-gentrification movements. She was incredibly passionate about her research and indeed life, highly intelligent and motivated, demanding of herself and others in the fight for social justice.

In the weeks before she died Sandra had won and taken up one of very few permanent academic positions in Italy at Roma Tre University, she was so excited when hearing she got this job that she cried with joy! Even if she worried about juggling its demands with being mother to a young and much loved daughter. Sandra suddenly had all she had worked so hard towards, a child, a secure job, and working on the research she thought was important. But it was not to be and she was taken from us and her family prematurely. A massive loss to Italian, but also international urban studies, and the fight for what is right. My thoughts are with her family and close friends, may she rest in peace.

### **A selection of Sandra's writings in English in date order**

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