

13 OCTOBER 2023
10.00-12.00
ROOM B6.1 - Building 14
Course Sociology of the city – Professor Emma Garavaglia



AUTONOMOUS ART INSTITUTIONS
Artists Disrupting the Creative City

Open seminar and book presentation by the
author Alberto Cossu



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA
E STUDI URBANI

Alberto Cossu's ethnographic research on the MACAO centre in Italy radiates out to questions about what it means to be a modern artist, and how much autonomy is left to the artist in a globalized and politicised world. *Autonomous Art Institutions* provides a unique perspective on the political engagement of artists to investigate the reconfiguration of contemporary art practices as they dissolve in social and economic processes. The book provides insight into the political work carried out by art-activists to address the issues posed by the creative city and ultimately propose to reclaim it. The book explores the making of a radical art institution across seven years of activity, showing how social, cultural, and economic elements are appropriated and repurposed by artists in the process. Based on years of sociological research as well as direct involvement of the author in the artistic practices, the book illuminates the spark of society-to-come by examining the doings of artists as they attempt to disrupt the 'creative city.'

<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781786616036/Autonomous-Art-Institutions-Artists-Disrupting-the-Creative-City>



Alberto Cossu is a sociologist and media scholar whose research is concerned with art & creative work; collaborative and digital economies; with a focus on the organisational processes and new forms of value creation that he studies combining qualitative and digital methods. He currently works as Assistant Professor in Media & Communication within the School of Media, Communication and Sociology at the University of Leicester.