

Fall 2024

15 October 2024 14pm CET

Rome, DICEA-Sapienza Università di Roma

Via Eudossiana 18, Room 27

Urban Planning Course: Prof. Marichela Sepe

# Collaborative Creativity Series

*The fine art of posing questions*

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What do cubism, organic architecture, relativity theory and the invention of the airplane have in common? They are groundbreaking achievements that emerged from radical rethinking of fundamental questions. These innovations were not simply incremental improvements; they involved a profound shift in perspective that led to new ways of understanding and solving complex problems. In order to get better answers to contemporary problems, **we need to learn how to ask better questions**. By reexamining the questions we pose, we can uncover new possibilities and drive progress.

We will explore the fundamentals of **collaborative creativity** through a series of dynamic workshops that draw on experimental methodologies from architecture, urban design, music composition and poetry. Leveraging insights from fifteen years of teaching an urban design laboratory and leading art workshops, design improvs, open circles, feedback loops and architecture charrettes, this series reveals that innovation and creativity often unfold in **nonlinear, unconscious** and **generative** ways.

With a commitment to practice and a results-oriented approach, we will engage with hypothetical scenarios, real-life case studies and transformative moments in the history of art and science to explore strategies for fostering open-mindedness in creative teams, integrating collaborative processes and formulating effective questions to spark innovative leaps. These workshops and lectures are designed for both academics and practitioners, offering valuable insights and techniques applicable to various fields, including architecture, urbanism, design, music, creative writing and business.

**Silvano De la Llata** is an architect, an urbanist and a professor. He received a Masters in Urban Studies and Planning by the Iberoamerican University and a PhD in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University. His research delves into public space design, collaborative creativity, open urban systems and the study of socio-cultural dilemmas in contemporary cities. He codirects the Cluster of Design, Art and Community at the Next Generation Cities Institute in Montreal and directs the project *Cities X Citizens*. Bridging research, pedagogy and design practice, he collaborates in the conception of urban places, intentional communities and sustainable developments.

