Very often cities must deal with out-of-the-ordinary policy problems. In fact, the history of cities is marked by ‘shocks’ and ‘adjustments’. Shocks may come in the form of ‘disasters’ – natural, ecological, economic – or of ‘big projects’ intended to re-invent one or more dimensions of the city. Whatever form they take, they may produce effects and raise questions that challenge the efficacy of the current practices, the applicability of the standard policy frameworks – and even the prevailing social theories. On the basis of the knowledge generated by reflecting on a number of case-studies – and having this knowledge interact with fundamental categories of policy analysis – the workshop will focus on the cognitive and political tactics and strategies that public actors elaborate in order ‘to frame’ the policy-making process in ‘out-of-the ordinary circumstances’.

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