

# Open Call for Scholarships

## Summer School at Bosco Colto Campus 2026

### 30.7-09.08.26, Caltagirone, Sicily

The [Institute for Spatial Thinking](#), Zurich, and [MaKramè APS](#), Caltagirone, Sicily, are pleased to announce scholarships for twelve Swiss students to attend “Thinking with Animals” – [Summer School at Bosco Colto Campus 2026](#) Caltagirone, Sicily from 30.7 - 09.08.2026.

**Description:** In an era marked by the New Climatic Regime (Latour, 2022), in which intensifying disturbances are reshaping our perception of dwelling, thinking with animals becomes an exercise in decentering ourselves. It invites us to observe nature from within, allowing ourselves to be traversed by it, until we recognize ourselves as part of a shared terrestrial body.

Thinking with animals means experimenting, through direct engagement, with a different way of thinking and acting, one in which knowledge emerges through contact, reciprocity, and transformation. It means confronting the impossibility of thinking as the Other, while discovering the limits of human understanding in relation to other living beings.

The Campus becomes a living research instrument in which design is transformed from a merely formal exercise into a situated practice capable of welcoming contingency, other presences, and the logics of the more-than-human world as integral components of the process.

At the root of the word *to think* lies an act of care. To think is to take part in the common life of living beings, entering the open realm where human and animal encounter one another without fully recognizing each other (Agamben, 2002). It is within this space of indeterminacy that thought relinquishes its claim to mastery, becoming an exposed body capable of being seen, affected, and transformed by the other. In doing so, it becomes a design act of cohabitation, where thought and matter coincide in the lived experience of being together.

Thinking with animals is a political gesture. It means withdrawing from the hierarchies that separate humans from the world and deactivating the economies of domination and extraction that have reduced the Earth to a resource, living beings to objects, and knowledge to an instrument of power.

In the time of the New Climatic Regime, thought can no longer be exercised from above. It emerges from below, from the shared ground where life unfolds through its multiple forms. It is an invitation to redefine the citizenship of design and to recognize every act of care, every gesture of maintenance, and every alliance established with living beings as fundamentally political (Haraway, 2023).

How would architectural design change if we learned to think from below, within the shared ground of living beings? Is it possible to build without dominating, to inhabit without possessing, to know without extracting?

What politics of design might emerge if care became its founding act?

How would education change if we learned from other species?

And what if thinking with animals were not a theme, but a possible way of life, a way of sharing the world?

#### **Objectives:**

The objective is to activate a collaborative process involving residents from Borgo Boschi di San Pietro, Caltagirone, and nearby areas. Guided by tutors, participants will explore human and non-human histories, create photographic narratives, and construct site-specific installations to transform perceptions of space, landscape, and body.

#### **Skills and Knowledge opportunity:**

This opportunity aims to support students in gaining valuable skills and knowledge in:

- participatory and social design.
- traditional and innovative building techniques.
- design and built architectural prototypes.
- Experimental and open design processes.



**Eligibility:**

The Open Call for the Scholarship is open to any design, architecture, or art student, with or without Swiss nationality, currently enrolled in a Swiss institution either in a BA or MA program, born after 1992, with a strong interest in social design, collaborations, hands-on work and interdisciplinary approaches.

**Application Process:**

Announcement Date: 10.06.26

Application Deadline: 05.07.26

Scholarships announcement: 07.07.26

Submission Method: email to [info@spatialthinking.institute](mailto:info@spatialthinking.institute)

Required Documents, to be provided in one unique file in PDF, 10MB max:

- CV (one page max), with specific indication of the educational program enrolled and contact details (telephone, address, email, website, social media if any).
- Motivation letter (1500 characters space included).
- Profile picture.
- Portfolio: six images of a previous project (or projects) academic or not academic, with short caption (title, year, short description).

**Scholarship coverage:**

- Food\*
- Workshop fee
- Accommodation
- Workshop materials

A/R travel to Catania Airport must be otherwise provided by applicant.

\*Specific requests or questions regarding food and accommodation, must be directed to the Makramè APS.

**Obligations:**

Fulltime presence during the extension of the workshop.

**Selection Criteria:**

- Motivation letter
- Portfolio

**Terms and Conditions:**

The scholarship is provided thanks to the financial support of [Ikea Stiftung Switzerland](#).

**Liability:** Bosco Colto Campus 2025 is organized by Makramè APS Association. [The scholarship recipient agrees to accept all terms and conditions for participation, as well as the liabilities and privacy policy required by Makramè APS.](#)

The Institute for Spatial Thinking (in the person of Beatrice Fontana and Antonio Scarponi) declines all responsibility for the organization, program, transportation, and course of the campus. The Institute for Spatial Thinking cannot be held liable for damages to properties or to third parties caused by the participants, nor for damages to life, limb, or health or general security of the participants, nor for losses of personal or third parties' properties.

Each participant is responsible for their own actions during the Event and is liable for all damages caused by themselves to themselves, the property of Makramè-Bosco Colto and/or other third parties, including other participants.

Any liability Institute for Spatial Thinking for non-fulfilment of the participant's expectations regarding a specific content within the general topic of the Event shall be excluded.

By submitting the scholarship application, the recipient declares to be covered by medical insurance. Personal insurance towards accidents or damages is recommended.

**Use of Scholarship:** The scholarship is provided for your participation to the Bosco Colto Campus 2026.

**Privacy policy:** By attending this workshop, you consent to being photographed and video recorded. The organizing entity may use the images and recordings for promotional and educational purposes. These may include, but are not limited to, use on websites, social media platforms, and printed materials. Your participation and consent to being photographed imply acceptance of these terms.



**Personal Data:** By submitting the application to the scholarship to the Institute of Spatial Thinking, the applicant consents to the processing of their personal data for the purpose of the selection, in particular, to the disclosure of the same through paper, telephone and computer media, binding it, however, to compliance with the conditions imposed by law. Cancellation or modification of personal data can be required by the applicant at any time.

**Cancelation:** In case of cancellation of the Campus for unforeseeable reasons, the participant will be informed immediately. Claims for damages of any kind against institute for Spatial Thinking due to the cancellation of the Campus, or modification of the program are excluded.

By submitting the application, the participants acknowledge that they cannot delete, cancel, or revoke this release and waiver document for any reason; to have carefully read and considered the contents of this document and specifically approve all the points listed, and to clearly understand the meaning of each point before applying.

**Evaluation and Notification:**

Successful applicants will be notified by email 08.07.26.

**Contact Information:**

For any inquiries, please contact Antonio Scarponi, co-founder and co-director of Institute for Spatial Thinking: [info@spatialthinking.institute](mailto:info@spatialthinking.institute)

**Promotion:**

We encourage you to share this opportunity with your network.

We look forward to receiving your applications!

**The Institute of Spatial Thinking** is an independent platform for research, education, and experimentation dedicated to understanding how spatial relations shape contemporary life. We regard space not as a physical container but as a dynamic field of relationships through which ecological, social, cultural, political, and material processes become visible and interact. Through workshops, field studies, publications, and public programmes, we develop methods for observing, interpreting, and transforming complex realities. Spatial Thinking is a practice of inquiry that helps reveal hidden relationships, understand interdependencies, and imagine alternative futures. By cultivating the capacities to envision, sense, and assess spatial conditions, it enables individuals and communities to engage critically and creatively with the challenges of a changing world.

<https://www.spatialthinking.institute>

**MaKramè** is a natural-cultural laboratory that explores new spatial concepts in the Anthropocene era. It integrates diverse disciplines to foster research, training, and material culture development. Advocating for targeted research projects, MaKramè aims to regenerate territories and cities, creating "living prototypes" through cross-disciplinary synthesis. <https://www.makrame.org/>

**Tutors Bosco Colto Campus 2026 Edition:**

Yoshiharu Tsukamoto (Atelier Bow-Wow)  
Beatrice Fontana / Antonio Scarponi (Institute for Spatial Thinking)  
Fabio Ciaravella  
Food Hack Lab  
Maya Avnat  
Nicolas Depoutot  
Martina Distefano  
Nicola Di Croce  
Domenico Mangano / Marieke von Rooy  
Michele Russo

**Consultants:**

Pietro Minissale (Botanist, University of Catania),  
Giorgio Sabella (Zoologist, University of Catania),  
Gabriella Vindigni (Economist, University of Catania),  
Michele Cannavò (Psychotherapist),  
Piero Pitrolo Gentile (Naturalist),  
Rosario Mascara (Naturalist),  
Alessandro Musci (Mixed Engineers)



**Visiting Experts:**

Carlos Pita (Architect, La Coruna),  
Matilde Cassani (Architect, London),  
Marco Brizzi (Cultivar, Florence),  
André Thomas Balla + Simona Calvagna (BallaCalvagna, Catania),  
Rosario Sapienza (Impact Hub, Catania),  
Telmo Pievani (Philosopher, Padua),  
Davide Tommaso Ferrando (Historian | Architectural Critic, Berlin),  
Giuseppe Scirè Banchitta (Graphic Designer, London)

**Scientific Direction:** Marco Navarra (UNICT, MaKramè), Dario Felice (Analogique, MaKramè), Salvatore Lacagnina, curator, Antonio Scarponi (ZHdK, Institute for Spatial Thinking), Beatrice Fontana (Institute for Spatial Thinking).

