

## **Descrizione breve del workshop:**

Over the last decade, the interdisciplinary matrix of the Environmental Humanities has rapidly established itself worldwide as a major line of research inside and outside the academia, focusing on the historical and cultural aspects of the current environmental crisis, in cooperation with the natural and environmental sciences. The idea, in short, is that addressing the issue of environmental conservation and protection requires the cooperation of both “cultures”, scientific and humanistic. But what happens when the “environment” at stake is one in which history and art, on the one hand, and the dimension of biodiversity conservation and naturalistic concerns, on the other hand, are intimately intertwined? Moreover, *how* to conserve and protect, and *what* to conserve and protect, when the environment at stake is also a densely inhabited urban context in which resident citizens’ and tourists’ liveability and well-being have to be guaranteed?

The specific case of the city of Florence in Italy and, more generally, of the Florentine landscape is in this sense emblematic: it is a landscape with a very high anthropic imprint, where human action, which has produced extraordinary examples of art and culture, has however ended up having a decisive impact on the ecological conditions of the biotic and abiotic components of the environment understood in a strictly naturalistic sense. For example: are Italian-style gardens – such as the Boboli Gardens in Florence, emblematic of the Medicean heritage in the city – urban green spaces truly capable of *protecting urban biodiversity*, or not? What are the health conditions of the populations of insects and plants living throughout the Florentine Italian gardens? How can we measure them? Is there a conflict between the issues of artistic heritage conservation and those of nature conservation, and between these two and citizens’ well-being? How to design a sustainable urban environment, within the limits of what is allowed by the preservation of the extraordinary Florentine historic-artistic heritage, so that the urban well-being of human and non-human populations is also preserved? Finally: what is the impact of the tourism industry on the socio-cultural, historic-artistic and naturalistic environment of Florence? Working interdisciplinarily and from the perspective of the Environmental Humanities on the specific case study of Florence will provide a relevant, generalisable model to tackle issues related to the interconnections of environmental, social and economic sustainability in several other urban contexts with similar features (size, historic-artistic heritage, tourism, naturalistic relevance).

The online workshop aims to lay the foundations for an interdisciplinary EUniWell Summer School on these issues to be hosted in Florence in 2023, as a continuation of the work already inaugurated

by the EUniWell Environmental Humanities Research Group during the summer of 2022 in Växjö  
(Sweden)