Napoli (NA), Italy ORCID: 0009-0001-3885-9625 r.polidoro@phd.uniba.it
riccardomaria.polidoro@unina.it

Riccardo Maria Polidoro

PHD STUDENT, "PASAP_MED" NATIONAL PROGRAM

Riccardo Maria Polidoro is an Italian building engineer (Section A) and doctoral student (PhD) in the national research programme PASAPmed. His research investigates the intersection of technical drawing, antiquarian traditions and the formation of the engineer-architect in Southern Italy from the Renaissance to the modern age, with particular emphasis on the influence of Leonardo da Vinci and the transmission of his technical culture in Naples and the Mezzogiorno.
Polidoro's work combines codicological and archival investigation with architectural-historical and technical analysis. He focuses on the study of Vincian manuscripts and apographs, from fifteenth-century originals to seventeenth-century witnesses, with particular attention to the Cassiano dal Pozzo initiative and the Barberini manuscript tradition. His scholarship situates graphic and textual sources, including the Codice Tarsia, within broader processes of institutional formation, professional training and urban practice, illustrating how drawing cultures contributed to the evolution from the "vulgo ingeniero" to the engineer-architect in Southern Italy. Methodologically, he adopts a mixed approach that integrates close codicological and paleographic examination of primary sources, archival research in state and ecclesiastical repositories, iconographic and material-culture analysis, and technical interpretation of architectural and structural documentation. This approach ensures high levels of source verifiability and documentary traceability and supports the production of historically rigorous research relevant to contemporary debates on heritage, conservation and the history of technical expertise.
Polidoro holds a degree in Building Engineering and is qualified for profession as Architect (Section A) in Italy. His competencies include paleography and codicology of Renaissance and early modern manuscripts, archival research and documentary criticism, technical reading of architectural and structural documents, and academic writing in both Italian and English. He is familiar with major bibliographic and research platforms and with scholarly standards for indexed publications.

AFFILIATIONS

Università di Bari Aldo Moro
Dipartimento di Ricerca e Innovazione Umanistica (DIRIUM)

Università di Napoli Federico II
Centro Interdipartimentale di Ricerca sull'Iconografia della Città Europea (CIRICE)

EDUCATION

Università di Bari Aldo Moro

PhD student in the Mediterranean Archaeological, Historical, Architectural and Landscape Heritage: Integrated Systems national program (since October 2024).

Università di Napoli Federico II

Single-cycle master's degree in building engineering-architecture (LM-4), awarded *summa cum laude* and with honors in July 2024, with a thesis in Modern Architectural History and Structural Engineering titled *Radici e continuità dell'architetto «vulgo ingeniero» nel Mezzogiorno all'insegna di Leonardo. L'opera di Antonio Marchesi per Santa Caterina a Formiello*.

Recipient, in 2022, of the "Buon Compleanno Federico" award for excellence in the cursus studiorum.

Students' representative in various collegiate bodies, from the degree course didactic coordination commission (2021-22) to the Athenaeum's Evaluation Committee (2023-24).

COURSES AND CONFERENCES

2026

11-13/06: *Città in transizione | Transition Cities*, CIRICE 2026 international conference, main coordinator Alfredo Buccaro (C.2 and D.1 session co-coordinator, component of the scientific secretariat and speaker).

2025

11-12/11: *La cultura visuale a Pompei. Dai critofilm di Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti ai nuovi media*, Napoli-Pompei, Università di Napoli Federico II-Pompeii Archeological Park (curator).

01-05/09: *Immagine e parola. Arte e Scienza nel Libro di Pittura di Leonardo da Vinci*, vincian summer school

curated by Romain Descendre, Frank Fehrenbach, Fabio Frosini, Vinci, Biblioteca Leonardiana (participant).

03-05/04: *RI-Costruire Leonardo | RE-Build Leonardo,* international study conference curated by Alfredo Buccaro, Margherita Melani, Carlo Vecce (scientific secretariat and speaker).

18-19/02: *NASA TOPS*, open science workshop curated by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (participant).

LICENSES AND CERTIFICATES

2025
04/10: Qualified for profession as an architect (Section A) in Italy.

19/02: NASA Open Science.

13/01: Qualified for profession as an engineer (Section A) in Italy.

DIDACTIC AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Teacher assistant and lecture host in Prof. Alfredo Buccaro's courses in *History of Modern Architecture* in the single-cycle degree courses in Architecture (8 ECTS) and Building Engineering-Architecture (12 ECTS) since September 2024; host of some lectures for Prof. Andrea Maglio's courses in *Architectural History and Research Methodology* (ARC.HER masters' degree course, 6 ECTS), *Contemporary Architectural History* (Building Engineering-Architecture single-cycle degree course, 9 ECTS) since October 2024 and co-host of a lecture within Prof. Fabio Mangone's course in *Urban and Landscape History* (Architecture single-cycle degree course, 8 ECTS) in March 2025. Napoli, Università di Napoli Federico II. Participation with continuity since 2024 in examination commissions for Prof. Alfredo Buccaro's and Prof. Andrea Maglio's courses.

2025
24/03: FAI guide to the gardens of Palazzo d'Avalos in Naples.

INSTITUTIONAL ROLES AND QUALIFICATIONS

2024
07/11: elected representative on the PhD Board for the XL cycle of the PASAP_Med doctoral program.

04/10: appointed Subject Matter Expert (Cultore della Materia) for the 2024-27 term on the examination boards of the scientific-disciplinary sector CEAR 11/A.

CURRENT SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

??-??/12: Component of the organizing committee for *LOGOS,* the PASAP_Med national doctoral conference (date TBA).

16/01: Component of the COST action n° CA24143 - *LEonardo's Codex Atlanticus and other miscellaneous Folios: A Digital Reconstruction (LEAF)*, main proposer Sara Taglialagamba.

RECOGNITION FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITY

2025
11/09: "Generoso Falciano" degree award for best thesis on structural engineering, with a M.Sc. Thesis on *Roots and continuity of the architetto «vulgo ingeniero» in southern Italy in the wake of Leonardo. Antonio Marchesi's work for Santa Caterina a Formiello.*

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIPS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDITORIAL SERIES, ENCYCLOPEDIAS, AND MAJOR SCHOLARLY TREATISES

2025
15/12: «Achademia Leonardi Vinci» (ISSN: 2785-4337). Editorial Board Member.

10/09: *L'archivio digitale della cartografia e della aerofotografia storica della Regione Campania. Patrimonio e potenzialità per la gestione del territorio*, Alfredo Buccaro and Bruno Discepolo (eds.), Scafati, D'Amato, 2025.

Volume editing collaborator and editor of its second part.

10/04: «Eikonocity. History and Iconography of European Cities» (ISSN: 2499-1422). Editorial collaborator.

OTHER SCIENTIFIC ROLES

02/07-15/12: Digital Historical Archive of the Campania Region – cataloguing and processing of digital reproductions of historical cartography and historical cadastral records for the implementation of the regional IT platform in use. https://archiviocartografico.regione.campania.it/

02/02-31/07: *Activities aimed at completing the survey of areas and properties within the Municipality of Naples declared of public interest pursuant to Law 778/1922 and Law 1497/1939, with a parallel analysis of their main transformations and landscape characteristics, also extended to areas protected under Article 142, paragraph 1, letter c) of Legislative Decree 42/2004*. Contracting Authority: Soprintendenza A.B.A.P. for the Municipality of Naples. Contractor: DiARC – Department of Architecture, Università di Napoli Federico II; scientific Coordinator: Prof. Fabio Mangone; research Consultants: Prof. Gemma Belli, Prof. Massimo Visone, Prof. Enrico Formato. (role: Datasheet Compiler).

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

Forthcoming

1. R.M. Polidoro (2026). *Gli apografi di Cassiano dal Pozzo dai Codici Zaccolini (Laur. mss. Ashb. 1212, 3-4): contenuti e possibili criteri di selezione dagli originali vinciani*, «Achademia Leonardi Vinci», n. 6.

2. A. Buccaro, R.M. Polidoro (2026). *Forme, funzioni e diffusione della fortificazione "alla moderna": considerazioni sui disegni del* Codice Tarsia, «Eikonocity. Storia e Iconografia della Città e dei Siti Europei», vol. 11, n.1.

2025

3. A. Buccaro, R.M. Polidoro (2025). *Santa Caterina a Formiello e l'eredità vinciana nella Napoli rinascimentale: un nodo critico tra architettura e ingegneria*, «Eikonocity. Storia e Iconografia della Città e dei Siti Europei», vol. 10, n.2, pp. 21-33. https://doi.org/10.6093/2499-1422/12755

4. R.M. Polidoro, A. Formisano (2025). *Seismic Safety and Conservation-Compatible Interventions for the Monumental Complex of Santa Caterina a Formiello in Naples*, «International Journal of Architectural Heritage», 1-19. https://doi.org/10.1080/15583058.2025.2595139

Curatorships

2025

5. L. Acanfora, L. Del Giudice, M. Delli Priscoli, R.M. Polidoro (eds.). *Contenuti e tipologie cartografiche del Catalogo Digitale,* part 2 of *L'archivio digitale della cartografia e della aerofotografia storica della Regione Campania. Patrimonio e potenzialità per la gestione del territorio*, Alfredo Buccaro and Bruno Discepolo (eds.), Scafati, D'Amato, 2025, 169-562.

Book chapters / contributions in edited volumes

2025

6. R.M. Polidoro (2025). *Le trasformazioni dei territori del beneventano nella cartografia storica della Regione: il caso di Morcone*, in *L'archivio digitale della cartografia e della aerofotografia storica della Regione Campania. Patrimonio e potenzialità per la gestione del territorio*, Alfredo Buccaro and Bruno Discepolo (eds.), Scafati, D'Amato, 157-168.

7. R.M. Polidoro (2025). *Pompei allo specchio. Una lettura diacronica della cultura visuale*, in *Pompei scuola di architettura. Teorie, tipi e interpretazioni, tra Ottocento e Novecento*, F. Mangone (ed.), Napoli, artstudiopaparo, 85-98.

Conference proceedings contributions

Forthcoming

8. R.M. Polidoro, *Prospettive milanesi: Bramante, Leonardo e Francesco di Giorgio nel crocevia del Rinascimento,* in *Luciano Patetta fra storia e progetto. Giornata di studi* in memoriam (Milano, November 26, 2026).

9. R.M. Polidoro, E. Mele, *Learning from Covre: Mid-Century Steel Construction and New Paths for Structural Reuse,* in *XXX Congresso CTA 2026* (Roma, October 1-2, 2026).

10. R.M. Polidoro, *Georiferire Leonardo. GIS, vettorializzazione e verifica di una pianta di Milano nel Codice Atlantico,* in *Città in transizione | Transition cities*, XI CIRICE international conference proceedings (Napoli, June 11-13, 2026).

11. R. Merone, R.M. Polidoro, *Ripercorrere la L. 1497/1939 a Napoli. Dai decreti al GIS per la tutela del paesaggio*, in *Città in transizione | Transition cities*, XI CIRICE international conference proceedings (Napoli, June 11-13, 2026).

12. R. Polidoro, R.M. Polidoro, *Ingegneria storica e GIS nell'antica Pompei: modellazione della mobilità pedonale e strategie di traffic calming nel sistema viario romano*, in *Città in transizione | Transition cities*, XI CIRICE international conference proceedings (Napoli, June 11-13, 2026).

13. R.M. Polidoro, D. Saja, *Fortificazioni europee e mediterranee nel Codice Tarsia: un'analisi GIS*, in *Città in transizione | Transition cities*, XI CIRICE international conference proceedings (Napoli, June 11-13, 2026).

14. R.M. Polidoro, *Infrastrutture e paesaggio in costruzione nel vedutismo ottocentesco: il caso del ponte di Vietri sul Bonea*, proceedings of the IX Jornada Internacional de História da Arquitetura – Arquitetura e Paisagem Cultural (Porto, April 16-18, 2026).

15. R.M. Polidoro, *Tra tutela e sicurezza. Il difficile equilibrio tra difesa del patrimonio e protezione degli utenti*, in *Il futuro del passato. Il patrimonio culturale tra emergenze e resilienza*, Forum PASAP international conference proceedings (Roma, November 20-22, 2025).

16. R.M. Polidoro, *Alle soglie della città moderna: Napoli crocevia di modelli urbani nel Rinascimento aragonese*, in *The crossroad city | La città crocevia*, XII AISU international congress proceedings (Palermo, September 10-13, 2025).

2026

17. R.M. Polidoro, *Dall'architetto "vulgo ingeniero" all'ingegnere-architetto: l'eredità di Leonardo nel Mezzogiorno tra Quattrocento e Novecento*, in *History of Engineering*, AISI 11th international conference proceedings (Napoli, May 12-13, 2026), 2 voll., vol. 1, Napoli, Cuzzolin, 577-588.

Participation as speaker at national and international conferences

2026

12-13/06: Coordinator of the C.2 and D.1 sessions at the CIRICE 2026 *Cities in transition* international conference; speaker in the C.2, C.8 and D.1 sessions, with 4 total contributions as first or second author.

13/05: Speaker at the *History of Engineering AISI 11th international conference,* with a paper entitled: *Shaping the Engineer-Architect: From the Architetto "vulgo ingeniero" to Modern Professionalism in Leonardo's Southern Legacy.*

16/04: Speaker at the *IX Jornada Internacional de História da Arquitetura – Arquitetura e Paisagem Cultural,* with a paper entitled: *Infrastructure and landscape under construction in nineteenth-century view painting: the case of the Bonea bridge in Vietri.*

2025

21/11: Speaker at the Forum PASAP – *Il Futuro del Passato. Il patrimonio culturale tra emergenze e resilienza*, with a paper entitled: *Between Conservation and Safety: The Difficult Balance Between Heritage and User Protection.*

11/11: Round table moderator at the conference on *Visual Culture in Pompeii. From Carlo Ludovico Ragghianti's Critofilms to New Media*, curated by Simone Policarpo and Riccardo Maria Polidoro.

11/09: Speaker at the 12th AISU International Congress *Città Crocevia | Crossroad Cities,* with a paper entitled: *Between the Two Enclosures: Urban Transformations in the Eastern Sector of Naples in the Early Modern Period.*

3/04: Speaker at the international conference *RI-Costruire Leonardo | RE-Build Leonardo*, curated by Alfredo Buccaro, Margherita Melani, and Carlo Vecce, with a paper entitled: *Cassiano dal Pozzo's apographs from the Zaccolini Codices (Laur. Mss. Ashb. 1212, 3–4): contents and possible criteria of selection from Leonardo's originals.*

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