



**CHIARA PASSERINI**

***Consultant, 2015 – Present***

***Bates College, The New School, University College London***

Chiara Passerini is Urbane's resident researcher. As an anthropologist, she collects and synthesizes knowledge about people – their values, relationships, and behaviors – as they apply to the urban environment.

Currently, Chiara serves as project-lead for DC3's Detroit City of Design Economic Development engagement in which Urbane is tasked with codifying and quantifying Detroit's creative economy. Over the course of the next year, Urbane will work closely with stakeholders and community groups to develop economic development strategies that catalyze an inclusive and sustainable design industry in Detroit.

She also led for a multi-year engagement with the Department of Consumer Affairs, Office of Financial Empowerment to understand financial health at the neighborhood level in New York City's most underserved communities. This project is a continuation of a micro-study Urbane conducted in 2015 in the neighborhood of Bedford-Stuyvesant, which aimed to identify "alternative" credit as a means for underserved communities to access more traditional financial services.

Ms. Passerini has also worked on research projects exploring the economic impact of fees, fines, and other monetary judgments on formerly incarcerated NYC residents; facilitated interactive charrettes and focus groups exploring the challenges to upward mobility for low-income residents in Ward 1 of Paterson, NJ; and helped assess the financial and operational feasibility of a bio-medical modular labs in East Baltimore.

Prior to joining Urbane, Ms. Passerini spent two years at Accenture where she designed innovative digital experiences, including websites and mobile apps, for Fortune 500 clients. During her time at Accenture, she conducted focus groups and observational studies to assess consumer interaction with digital interfaces. Her research contributed to the creation and implementation of long-term business strategies to better integrate new digital assets.

Ms. Passerini received her Master of Science in Urban Policy at The New School for Public Engagement in New York City and a Master of Arts in Cultural Anthropology from University College London. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Art and Visual Culture from Bates College. She is a native speaker of Italian and English, and fluent in Spanish and French.