

4th Political Imagination Laboratory

“Utopias of Sustainability –
The Sustainability of Utopias”

30TH SEPT – 02ND OCT 2022 | UNIVERSITY OF PERUGIA



Hosted and organized by:


- ❖ Peasant Activism Project, www.peasantproject.org
- ❖ Dipartimento di Filosofia, Scienze Sociali, Umane e della Formazione (FISSUF), Università degli studi di Perugia
- ❖ Institut für Geschichtswissenschaften und Europäische Ethnologie, Universität Innsbruck
- ❖ Network “Anthropology and Social Movements”, European Association of Social Anthropology (EASA)

Co-financed by

- ❖ PRIN 2017 “Rethinking Urban-Rural Relations for a Sustainable Future”
- ❖ Vereinigung Deutscher Wissenschaftler - VDW

Supported by:

- ❖ Società italiana di antropologia culturale – SIAC

 **easa**
European Association of Social Anthropologists
Association Européenne des Anthropologues Sociaux



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innsbruck**

VDW VEREINIGUNG
DEUTSCHER
WISSENSCHAFTLER

 **SIAC**
Società Italiana
di Antropologia

PROGRAMME

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FRIDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER

Dipartimento di Filosofia, Scienze Sociali, Umane e della Formazione
Palazzo Stocchi, Piazza Morlacchi 30

14.00

WELCOME COFFEE

14.30

INTRODUCTION AND INSTITUTIONAL GREETINGS

Institutional Greetings [tbd]

Introduction: Alexander Koensler, University of Perugia & Marion Naeser-Lather, University of Innsbruck

15.00

OPENING PRESENTATIONS

Cristhian Cajé Rodríguez, Free University of Amsterdam, “The utopia of recycling”
[documentary presentation]

Tim Weldon, Rutgers University & Sarah Ruth Sippel, University of Leipzig, “Where the ‘neo-rural’ meets the traditional ‘rural’: Utopian dream, conflicting values, or tangible solution?”

Umberto Cao, University of Marseilles, “Mayan cosmovisiones ‘showing the way’ to contemporary activism. The case of a civil resistance organization from Chiapas, Mexico”

Discussant: Marion Naeser-Lather, University of Innsbruck

17.00-17.30

COFFEE BREAK

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17.30-19.30

SESSION A

Christine Hämmerling, University of Zurich, “A sustainable place of work? Voluntary activism in NGOs”

Konstantina Bousmpoura, University of Athens & Paula Serafini, Queen Mary University of London, “‘The Future is female’: affect, aesthetics, and the sustainability of feminism as utopia”

Discussant: Marion Naeser-Lather, University of Innsbruck

21.00

Cinema Méliès, Casa dell’Associazionismo, Via della Viola, 1 [TBC]

FILM SCREENING AND DEBATE

Cahal McLaughlin, Queen's University Belfast & Siobhán Wills, Ulster University, "Right Now I Want to Scream: Police and Army Killings in Rio - the Brazil Haiti Connection"

[Documentary, 60min]

Discussant: Massimiliano Minelli, University of Perugia



SATURDAY, 01ST OCTOBER

Dipartimento di Filosofia, Scienze Sociali, Umane e della Formazione
Palazzo Stocchi, Piazza Morlacchi 30

09.00-11.00

SESSION B

Clate Korsant, City University of New York, Matteo Saltalippi, Lancaster University, Claudia Giannetto, freelance, "Lifting the Green Screen" [documentary presentation]

Carlos Fonseca Da Silva, University of Côte d'Azur, "La Ferme du Collet: filmic observations of a French écolieu" [documentary presentation]

Discussant: Cahal McLaughlin

11.15 – 11.45

COFFEE BREAK



11.45 – 14.00

SESSION C

Claudia Marina Lanzidei, University of Bologna, "Aquí no se bota (casi) nada"
Annika Benz, University of Koeln, "We just don't have a sufficient way of relating to the Earth here": On spirituality and activism among German activists of the grassroots movement
Extinction Rebellion"

Claudia Terragni, University of Venice, "Queer multispecies entanglements in Paduan social movements"

Discussant: Paula Serafini

14.00 – 15.00

LUNCH BREAK



15.00 – 17.00

SESSION D

Nikolaus Heinzer, University of Zurich, “What does a ‘good’ river look like? Sustainability as an ecological and social value. The case of river restoration activism”

Madeleine Sallustio, CNRS (Sciences Po Paris), “The paradoxical temporalities of neo-peasant community projects. For an anthropology of incoherence”

Cristina de Benito Morán, Autónoma University of Madrid, “Eating, farming and fighting. Political, ecological and rural imaginaries in agroecology cooperatives in Spain”

Discussant: Filippo Zerilli

17.00 – 17.30

COFFEE BREAK

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17.30 – 19.30

SESSION E

Piotr Goldstein, Centre for East European and International Studies, Berlin, “Spółdzielnia / Cooperative” [documentary presentation]

Céline Eschenbrenner, Tulane University, “Crisis and the ethics of inaction”

Valentina Gamberi, University of Tübingen, “Molecular activism: subjects’ transformations in Xinzhuang”

Discussant: Konstantina Bousmpoura

20.00

WORKSHOP BUFFET

Cinema Méliès, Casa dell’Associazione, Via della Viola 1

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21.00

Cinema Méliès, Casa dell’Associazione, Via della Viola, 1 [TBC]

FILM SCREENING AND DEBATE

Michele Lancione, University of Turin, “A început ploaia. Fighting for the right to housing in Bucharest”

Discussant: Filippo Zerilli, University of Cagliari

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SUNDAY, 02ND OCTOBER

Dipartimento di Filosofia, Scienze Sociali, Umane e della Formazione

Palazzo Stocchi, Piazza Morlacchi, 30

09.00-11.00

SESSION F

Sophia Hoffinger, University of Edinburgh, “No White German Feelings Were Hurt in the Making of this Sign’: Imagining a Free Palestine from Germany”

Selma Banich & Hameršak, Marijana, University of Zagreb, “Commemorating the deceased along the Balkan migratory trail: The Passage between textile, needle and activism”

Judy Thorne, University of Manchester, “ecological commons” in Greece

Discussant: Piotr Goldstein

11.00 – 11.30

COFFEE BREAK

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11.30 – 13.00

THEMATICAL WORKING GROUPS

The working groups are reserved to the participants of the laboratory and invite to reflect in-depth on key issues emerged during the laboratory.

Facilitator: Christine Hämmerling, University of Zurich

13.00-14.00

FINAL WORKSHOP ASSEMBLY AND CLOSING ROUNDTABLE

Facilitator: Alexander Koensler, Marion Naeser-Lather

Closing comment: Massimiliano Marianelli, designated Head of Department, University of Perugia

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RATIONAL

Fourth Political Imagination Laboratory

“Utopias of Sustainability - The Sustainability of Utopias”

What visions animate contemporary activism? How to uncover those utopian aspirations, strategic and/or ideological horizons that too often pass implicitly, silently or invisibly? Our “Political Imagination Laboratory” aims to interrogate the shifting political imagination of contemporary social movements and experimental forms of activism.

The fourth Political Imagination Laboratory core theme will be “Utopias of Sustainability - The Sustainability of Utopias”. As utopias of a better world appear increasingly as ephemeral, precarious and fragile, concepts related to sustainability, the environment and rurality seem at the forefront of contemporary impulses for social change. Examples include experiments with self-production, new forms of horizontal cooperation, new understandings of rural-urban and nature-culture relations, as well as activism against mega-projects around the world.

While social scientists around the world have appreciated these forms of activism as prefigurative for broader social change, others underline how similar utopian impulses can easily be appropriated by neoliberal logics, e.g., propagated by consulting as management goal and cited by companies as advertising slogan. In particular, some voices interrogate the degree to which sustainability fits into an ethos of post-material renunciation. We ask: Which more or less visible utopian impulses haunt contemporary forms of activism? How are, for example, concepts like sustainability, rurality and nature employed by different actors? To which ideologies and/or utopias are these connected? In which context is and is not sustainability, rurality or ecology invoked? How can discourses and practices of sustainability, rurality, ecology and similar concepts be made visible by ethnographers?

Political Imagination Laboratories

Inspired by both visual and ethnographic fieldwork about activism, our “Political Imagination Laboratories” aim to explore and interrogate the shifting political imagination of contemporary social movements. All Political Imagination Laboratories have been taken place at University of Perugia, Italy. Each “Lab” brought together anthropologists, filmmakers and activists paper in a small, collegial gathering to a mix of film screenings, roundtable discussions and work-in-progress expositions. These have been organised by the team of the “Peasant Activism Project” , in cooperation with the network “Anthropology and Social Movements” of the European Association of Social Movements (EASA).

Conveners:

Alexander Koensler, Marion Naeser-Lather

Scientific Committee & Organizing Team:

Maddalena Burzacchi, Christine Haemmerling (Working Groups), Alexander Koensler, Marion Naeser-Lather, David Degli Innocenti (Hospitality), Giulia Cabiola, Melania Bolletta

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www.peasantproject.org