



Image: To Mold, Luciana Frau

UNDERCURRENTS

METABOLIC INFRASTRUCTURES OF SURVIVAL

May 19-21, 2025
Ca' Foscari University
Campo Santa Margherita
Venezia

enviroant.network@gmail.com



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici



easa

European Association of Social Anthropologists
Association Européenne des Anthropologues Sociaux
Co-organised by ENVIROANT, HOLB
and EAN Networks

FULL PROGRAM:



Undercurrents

19-21 May, 2025, Ca' Foscari University

Day 1 (19 May)

Location:

Auditorium Santa Margherita Emanuele Severino, Ca' Foscari University
Dorsoduro 3689, 30123 Campo Santa Margherita, Venezia
(10 minutes walking from Piazzale Roma, for those coming from Mestre)

9:00 - 9:30 AM

Introductory words by the organizing committee:

- Elena Stecca, Amelia Veitch, Valentina Bonifacio (HOLB - Humans and Other Living Beings Network)
- Cormac Cleary, Pauline Destree, Zeynep Oguz (ENVIROANT - Environment and Anthropology Network)
- Umberto Cao, Ragnild Freng Dale (EAN - Energy Anthropology Network)

9:30 - 11:00 AM: PANEL 1 - Multispecies Infrastructures

- Multispecies Infrastructural Care Amidst a Drowning Delta
Sandro Simon (University of Cologne, Germany)
- Algal Phase Shifts of Oil and Disaster
Eda Tarak (Brown University, USA)
- The Metabolic Infrastructure of Animal Death
Camilla Tumidei (Università di Torino, Italy)
- Letting Cornfields Lie Fallow into Jubche': Emerging Ecologies after Community Forestry in Tourist Quintana Roo
Josemaría Becerril (École des hautes études en sciences sociales, France)

11:00 - 11:15 AM: Coffee break

11:15 AM - 12:45 PM: PANEL 2 - Grids and Grounds

- Energy Time: Multiplicity, Seasonality, and the Everyday-ness of Electricity Load Shedding in Northern Pakistan
Quirin Rieder (Universität Wien, Austria)
- Community' and Local Energy Infrastructures: Creating a Lived Model for the Climate Crisis
Itay Noy and Hannah Knox (University College of London, UK)
- Resisting EU energy policies: grassroots ecologies and collective mobilizations in southwestern Sardinia
Elena Apostoli Cappello (Université Libre de Bruxelles)
- Human, non-human and environmental effects of large-scale geothermal development: The case of an Eastern Africa local community
Susan Onyango (École des hautes études en sciences sociales, France)

12:45 - 1:45 PM

Lunch break

ONGOING EXHIBITION: *To Mold*: photographs and installations by Luciana Frau.

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Day 1 (19 May)

13.45 - 15.15 WORKSHOPS SESSION 1 (ALL 3 WORKSHOPS ARE RUN IN PARALLEL; workshop 1 and 2 in the Auditorium, and workshop 3 in Palazzo Malcanton Marcora)

1. Ready or Not: Playing at Survival with Multispecies Games

Cormac Cleary (The University of Edinburgh, UK) and Holly Mariott Webb (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland)

2. Crafting from Catastrophe: Rethinking Supply Chains Through Disaster Materials

Ann-Christin Zuntz (University of Edinburgh, UK) and Umut Kuruüzüm (Universität Wien, Austria)

3. Pleasure Activism for Climate Politics? An experimental writing workshop

Jerome Whittington (NYU, USA)

Location: Aula Milone, 3rd floor, Palazzo Malcanton-Marcora, Dorsoduro 3484/D, Venezia (3 minutes walking from the auditorium)

15.15 - 16.00 PERFORMANCE

Preserving Perfect Pristine Nature

Josemaria Becerril Aceves (EHESS, France), Elie Danziger (EHESS, France), Marylou Rieucan (CNRS, France)

16.00 - 16.20 Coffee Break

16.15 - 19.00 AUDIO-VISUAL PROGRAM

16:20 | There, where the creek is burnt, they still walk (20 min). Film & Presentation by Andrea Bordoli

This work-in-progress audiovisual piece results from fieldwork material gathered during an ongoing PhD project exploring extractivism, re-mediations and ecologies of survivance in and around the mining town of Schefferville and the Innu community of Matimekush – Lac John.

16:40 | Living with Volatility: Multispecies Encounters in the Étang de Berre & Danube Delta (20 min). Audiovisual Presentation by Jeff Silva

A multispecies, experimental documentary project capturing life amid ecological precarity, industry, and multispecies survival in France and Romania's wetland landscapes.

17:00 | The Invasive Body (20 min). Film by Leone Contini

A fictional documentary exploring interspecies sociability during lockdown, invasive species narratives, and the contradictions of man-made ecologies in a reclaimed Florentine park.

17:20 | All Selves of the Lagoon: A Visual Multispecies Exploration of the Chacahua Lagoon, Mexico (20 min). Film by Clara Kleininger-Wanik

A sensorial, visual ethnography in progress from Mexico's Pacific coast lagoon, examining Afro-Mexican and Indigenous ontologies amidst ecological threats and multispecies relations.

17.40 - 18.30 Q&A SESSION with DIRECTORS

Andrea Bordoli, Jeff Silva, Leone Contini, Clara Kleininger-Wanik

Discussant: Jasmine Pisapia (Ca' Foscari University / ICI Berlin)

18:30 | Northern Lagoon: Ethnographic Storytelling and Soundscapes (30 min). Audiovisual performance by Elena Zapponi, Matteo e Lisa Dei Rossi, Bruna Bozzato, Luana Castelli

An immersive ethnographic soundscape from the Venetian Lagoon, exploring water, mudflats, and climate change through the voices and gestures of Burano, Sant'Erasmo, and Cavallino Treporti's inhabitants.

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Day 2 (20 May)

PART 1

Location: Aula Baratto, Università Ca' Foscari, Dorsoduro 3246, 30123 Venezia
<https://www.unive.it/pag/30119/>

9.00 - 10.00: Undercurrents (Aula Baratto)

- Atmospheres and Immersions: Being in the Place of the More-than-Human
Cymene Howe (Rice University, USA)
- The Water Remembers – Geolocated Media Walks as Decolonial Ecology Anti-tours
Penelope Papailias (University of Thessaly, Greece)

10.00 - 11.00: Metabolic Infrastructures (Aula baratto)

- Metabolism of the Petrostate
Dominic Boyer (Rice University, USA)
- Infrastructures of the Green Rush: The Political, Economic, and Multispecies Entanglements of the Basque Hydrogen Corridor (BH2C)
Olatz González Abrisketa, Naia Mondragon Arrese (University of the Basque Country / Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea)

PART 2

COLLECTIVE EXCURSION TO LIDO

Meeting time and point:

11.00 / Ca' Foscari Centrale (patio), Dorsoduro 3246, 30123 Venezia

We leave at 11.00 from the main patio of Ca' Foscari University, take a vaporetto (water boat) and head towards Lido island. Once in Lido, we will all have lunch together with bee keeper Renato Garibaldi in the "Azienda Agricola Sociale Terre Ritrovate". After that, we'll walk along the beach towards Alberoni, where prof. Rita Vianello, anthropologist and Lido inhabitant, will talk to us about the MOSE. From the MOSE we will take a bus and go back to Malamocco, where a member of the "Poveglia per tutti" association will tell us the story of how local citizens managed to impede the selling of the public island to private owners. There is a possibility that we'll all go by boat to the island of Poveglia and have dinner there all together (dinner is provided by the local cooking collective "Tocia").

Participants will have to pay their own public transportation ticket, and EASA will provide lunch and dinner.

Please note that the program involves a few hours of walking under the sun, so bring a hat, and wear sunscreen & comfortable shoes, and if you experience reduced mobility you can write us an e-mail and we will do our best to find an alternative solution.

Coordination by: Rita Vianello (Università di Bergamo, Italy); Lia Zola (Università di Torino, Italy); Renato Garibaldi (Azienda agricola Sociale Terre Ritrovate); Members of the "Poveglia per Tutti" (Poveglia for All) Association; "TOCIA! cucina e comunità"

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Day 3 (21 May)

Location: Campus San Giobbe, AULA 3A, Ca' Foscari University
(10-minute walk from Piazzale Roma, for those coming from Mestre)
<https://www.unive.it/pag/10579/>

9.30 - 11.00 PANEL 3 - Watery States

- The Soviet project of cheapening Lake Sevan: The state and its dialectical unity with nature
Papazian Arev (Central European University, Austria)
- Politicizing wetness: river blindness and wasteland activism in Montreal
Daniela Giudici (Polytechnic of Turin, Italy and Concordia University, Canada)
- When a mountain loses its water: On infrastructure, interruption and insurgency
Gabriel Popham (University of Sussex)
- Make Kin Don't Kill – Resistance and Conflicts of Invasive Species: A Case Study of the Blue Crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) in the Lagoon of Venice
Elisa Zanoni, Marco Cernino, Alessandra L'Astorina (CNR, Istituto di Scienze Marine di Venezia)

11.15 - 12.45 PANEL 4 - Tracked Ecologies

- (Un)bounded Ecologies: Making Biospheric Knowledge through the Pragmatics of Sustenance
Elie Danziger, (École des hautes études en sciences sociales, France)
- Seeding ecological resilience: networking against biodiversity loss in Valencia, Spain
Anna Stacey (Queen Margaret University, UK)
- When more-than-human meshwork "talk back": Infrapolitics in an Indian tech entrepreneurial sustainability program
Agrawal Nikhit, (University of California, Los Angeles, USA) - online
- Carbon Multiplicities: Financialization and "Smart" Regenerative Agriculture in Turkey
Kaya Ziya (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, USA) - online

12.45 - 14.30 LUNCH

14.30 - 15:45 PANEL 5 - Afterlives

- Grieving for Glaciers: Ecumenical Mourning Rituals in the Anthropocene
Antonia Tungal (Universität Freiburg, Germany)
- Planning's Ghosts: Decolonizing Coastal Infrastructures through Afro-Brazilian Fishing Communities
Shelly Biesel (University of Maine, USA)
- In Death I Sweetly Sing: Sounding out Violin Landscapes
Edda Starck (University of Aberdeen, Scotland)

16.00 - 17.30 WORKSHOPS SESSION (ALL 3 WORKSHOPS ARE RUN IN PARALLEL)

1. Entangled Landscapes: Infrastructures, environments and More-Than-Human connections
Serena Saligari (University of Liverpool, UK)
2. A Flash Future Fiction Lab: writing as an act of resistance.
Angela Antle (Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada)
3. Lab and Performances: Boars and Myth in Contemporary Rome
Livia Filotico (Mc Gill University, Canada)

17.30 - 18.00 CLOSING REMARKS