

Call for papers – «Zapruder», n. 58

Environmental conflicts. Land, health, movements

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Deadline: **June 30, 2021**

Words/mots/palabras : **500 max**

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In the last years, our lives have been dramatically marked by the awareness of climate change and the effects of environmental devastation. For what concerns social conflicts, this tension has translated into a proliferation of claims, focused on the urgent radical change of pace in the struggle on climate issues.

2018 was the year of Friday strikes, with the emerging of the millions of young Friday for Future activists, the Extinction Rebellion movement, the Ecologia Politica collectives, and the rejection by the Gilet Jaunes to be responsible and the costs for this unsustainable model. In 2019 in Rome (Italy) the first March for Climate and against the Large and Useless Infrastructures took place. This aimed to uncover the link between the rhetoric on strategic infrastructures and environmental disasters. The sudden affirmation of these new conflictual coordinates enabled the echoing in squares of conflicts a hundred miles away. From the French Zad (Zone à défendre) to the Standing Rock barricades against the Dakota Access Pipeline in the North American native territories, to the power dynamics that caused the massive killing of environmental activists in Latin America.

From the starting point of these recent experiences, we would like to investigate the continuity and the cleavages with environmentalist and land safeguard struggles from the past¹. The economic growth following World war II, at least in the European context, was identified as an important milestone because of both the environmental consequences of urban and industrial growth and the socio-cultural changes of that period and the emerging environmentalist associations that tried

1 About which, the Italian "Centro Documentazione Conflitti Ambientali" provides an accurate national and global atlas: <https://it.ejatl.org>.

to criticize those transformations. By touching upon a specific periodization we do not mean, however, to put chronological limit on the proposals: on the contrary, we seek contributions that problematize and open a debate and confrontation between different approaches.

The relevance that ecological crisis took on in our time may help to analyze from a different point of view both the past of Italian social movements and the conflictual events in the contemporaneity. The consequences on the social and political context of the last years' agitations are so much relevant that, without their influence, the unanimous understanding of the link between the Covid-19 pandemic and the environmental crisis would not have been possible or so evident. Surely, pandemics are acknowledged as an unfortunate consequence of anthropization by now: epizootic diseases are known as the effect of the agricultural and farming techniques, adapted to the global capitalist supply chains. We do not know if, by the time this issue will be ready, the pandemic will be over, but we are sure that its social, political, and economic consequences will not. And we will not forget systemic contradictions that emerged during this health crisis.

Moreover, the dramatic relevance of the contrast between health and work in the pandemic remind us of the most relevant turns after the working class struggles in the Italian "long '68": the turn from the monetization of the risk to the rejection of harmful tasks. From the 1980s, thanks to struggles against nuclear energy, the analysis on health protection extended beyond the factories and took a new meaning for the lands and communities. In addition to investigating the continuity in these experiences, we want to use this lens as an interpretative key for the changes that involved the social movements in the last decades, after the slow decline of the centrality of capital-labor contradiction and the opening of new perspectives and working fields.

Far from being limited to the Italian context, these last takes propose only some of possible directions in the studies of environmental issues. For this task, investigating the global network that characterized the environmental struggles in the last years is a fundamental condition. Therefore, beginning from the peculiarities of local and/or national context, we encourage the global exchanges that helps develop a transnational approach to the study of struggles on climate change.

Driven by the ambition to create a link between our contemporary times and long-term history, we are looking for a confrontation with other disciplines to offer different perspectives on the study of the relationship between human development and climate change. From this point of view, we propose an interdisciplinary, analytical approach, focalized on every possible critical reflection regarding the relationship between nature and culture, human and non-human, living and non-living.

This perspective should take care of every chance to analyze the birth and development of environmental struggles, paying attention to every connection between social movements with different claims but complementary at the same time.

We call for contributions focused on, but not exclusive to, the following issues:

- a retrospective on the environmental movements of the past (1950-2000);
- from harmfulness in the factory to the harmfulness in the land: the exploitation of natural resources and workforce;
- environmental struggles and local resistance in a transnational perspective;
- climate crisis and radical action: a critical survey on the birth of the new environmental movements;
- ecofeminism and intersectional environmentalism;
- globalization and Anthropocene in a critical perspective;
- agriculture and farming: production line, consumptions, exploitation of resources.

The proposals, maximum 500 words, should be sent to [archivio14dicembre\[@\]gmail.com](mailto:archivio14dicembre@gmail.com) and [zapruder\[@\]storieinmovimento.org](mailto:zapruder@storieinmovimento.org) by June 30, 2021.