

After Extractivism

Workshops · Haus der Demokratie und Menschenrechte · October 13, 14, and 15, 2022

Economic and ecological crises are increasingly devastatingly intertwined and fuel each other – an ecological-economic complex (or rather: vicious circle) that produces pandemics, extreme weather events, the slow violence of climate catastrophe, and outright wars. Against this backdrop, the Berliner Gazette’s annual conference 2022 edition “After Extractivism” asks:

How can we wager our future on the legacies and claims of those who – in the past as in the present – have been plunged into existential hardship by the ecological-economic complex? And how can we make such struggles a source of inspiration for a common cause?

Undoubtedly the heart of the Berliner Gazette (BG) conference, five workshops will be looking for answers to these questions. Bringing together activists, researchers, and cultural workers from more than 20 countries, the workshops will take place in parallel on October 13, 14, and 15.

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Workshop group at the BG conference “Tacit Futures,” 2016

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Workshop Setting

The workshops will take different thematic approaches to tackling the ecological-economic complex. The titles are: “Rebooting Eco-Justice,” “Algorithmic Mindset,” “Disarming Resource Wars,” “Climate and Tech Politics,” “Post-1989 Lessons.” Read the descriptions on the next page.

The workshops will take place on site at the Haus der Demokratie und Menschenrechte, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. CET.

In case of an emergency, the workshops will be organized in online format, using Big Blue Button, an open source alternative to corporate data extractivism tools like Zoom.

Guests

The workshops will feature a number of selected guests who have been invited by the conference organizers. Additional participants are able to apply via a call for registration. See at the bottom of this page. The maximum number of all participants per workshop is 7.

Process and Goals

Workshop guests will be invited to join a hackathon-style collaborative process.

It is crucial for the cooperative process that participants stick to one track throughout the entire conference. Cross-track exchanges will be taking place on an informal level during breaks, and formally on day 3 at the presentation of results. Moreover, participation on all three days is crucial for the process, and it is key that guests join the workshop from beginning to end.

The goal is to come up with collective projects, ranging from multimedia stories to utopian scenarios. The resulting resources will be made available online. For reference and inspiration, please take a look at projects from online workshops at BG’s 2020 “Silent Works” and BG’s 2021 “Black Box East” conference: [CAPTCHA Factory](#), [Dull, Dangerous + Dirty](#), [The Wretched of the East](#), and [Shouldering the West](#).

Hygiene concept

The prerequisite for participation in the on-site workshops is a current COVID-19 vaccination certificate. COVID-19 tests will be carried out every morning before the beginning of the workshops. FFP2 masks will be required in indoor spaces bringing together more than 10 people.

Schedule for on-site participation (CET)

Thu, October 13 | Day 1 | 10:00 a.m. Welcome address | 10:15 a.m. Workshops begin | 12:15 p.m. Lunch | 2:00 p.m. Workshops continue | 5:30 p.m. Workshops sum up and close for the day | 7:30 p.m. Public Talks

Fri, October 14 | Day 2 | 10:00 a.m. Workshops continue | 12:15 p.m. Lunch | 2:00 p.m. Workshops continue + finalize results | 5:30 p.m. Workshops end | 7:30 p.m. Public Talks

Sat, October 15 | Day 3 | 3:00 p.m. Presentation of workshop results | 7:30 p.m. Public Talks

Call for Registration

The open call for registration targets researchers, activists, artists, journalists, and producers of subjugated knowledge at large. It is possible to register for one of the five tracks by Sept. 1 at [info\(at\)berlinergazette.de](mailto:info(at)berlinergazette.de)!

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Workshops (WS) 1-5

WS 1: Rebooting Eco-Justice

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is not the first aggression by a major power since the end of World War II, but it is probably the first time that an alliance of major powers has opposed it with an unprecedented, all-encompassing economic war. All of this has serious consequences – not only for Ukraine and Russia, but for practically all globally interconnected economies. The unsettled security of supply (supply chains for energy sources and food are interrupted) also affects international climate protection, because money and coordination efforts in this area are now being poured into *supply security*. In the course of this, coal and oil are experiencing a comeback, and are being reframed as “future raw materials,” even in countries that had shown commitment to climate goals. What challenges do environmental justice movements face in light of this? What does it mean to act, campaign, or journalistically raise awareness? What does it mean, if necessary, to strategically readjust the environmental justice agenda? *Facilitation*: Nina Pohler + Sotiris Sideris

WS 2: Algorithmic Mindset

“One big war, and all the climate goals we have can be scrapped.” “One big war, and the algorithmic control of social networks could strengthen totalitarian tendencies.” In recent decades, we've heard both warnings from experts again and again. Today, it is important to think them together. The showdown between carbon and post-carbon capitalists is coming to a head in the course of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This battle for supremacy in capitalism is also fought as a battle over the socio-political perception of the ongoing climate catastrophe: last but not least as an algorithmic class struggle from above for the collective consciousness of users of AI-driven technologies, social media, and the Internet at large. How is this algorithmic struggle over collective consciousness centering our attention on wrong misleading questions, arresting us in the false present of opportunism, and preventing us from questioning capitalism as such rather than just one form versus another? How is this stealing “the future” from us? *Facilitation*: Jose M. Calatayud + Cassie Thornton

WS 3: Disarming Resource Wars

“Resource wars,” “energy wars,” and “climate wars” on the peripheries of empires are all expressions of the fact that economic and ecological crises are becoming increasingly devastatingly intertwined, fueling each other. Needless to say, diplomacy must be preferred to a “hot” war at any time in the face of this. But this is not enough for a true bottom-up peace movement. As Rosa Luxemburg already knew in 1911, we must be able to do more than urge capitalist states to negotiate the terms of their business deals, because if we focus only on that, we undertake basically nothing more than the defense of capitalism and imperialism – that is, yesterday's forms against today's or tomorrow's. Hence, struggles for an internationalist politics of peace in the face of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and all other forms of imperial military aggression across the globe should also, if not primarily, be conducted by challenging capitalism and imperialism. How can we advance eco-socialist alternatives to the capitalist economy? How can we create commons-based caring economies as a peace strategy that disarms “resource wars” and the like? *Facilitation*: Sabrina Apitz + Max Haiven

WS 4: Climate and Tech Politics

Whether helping refugees, those threatened by racial violence, the hungry, or those injured in war – mutual support and grassroots coordination on the web are crucial in solidarity initiatives responding to a humanitarian crisis. However, technology is not a panacea, but a tool that must be chosen and used strategically. This also becomes clear when facing the climate catastrophe. Hence, the claim in this context must be two-fold: climate *and* tech activism. The first has slowly entered public consciousness, but the latter is usually dismissed, as digital technologies are considered “clean.” The high energy consumption of running data centers, manufacturing smartphones, streaming videos, etc. is underestimated and ignored. So, what does it mean to politicize digital technologies in the face of mutually fueling crises without letting their use become part of the problem or even detrimental to its solution? What can we learn from the algorithmic policing of racialized communities who are hit hardest by the climate crisis? *Facilitation*: Ela Kagel + Claudia Núñez

WS 5: Post-1989 Lessons

The conversation on eco-socialist alternatives to the capitalist economy could learn from the post-socialist countries of Eastern Europe. After all, by rebelling against authoritarianism and impoverishment, various social movements in many of these countries radically challenged the prevailing system when they hit the streets at the end of the 1980s and early 1990s. Although the resulting transition was catalyzed by neoliberal shock therapies and nurtured new forms of authoritarianism and pauperization, it is nonetheless remarkable that both the sense and the impetus for resistance and solidarity within the populations could not be suppressed. Moreover, rediscovering the legacies of the “communist” and socialist past, there are ambitious attempts (including among younger generations) at repurposing for the present potentially useful elements such as cooperativism and collectivism. What do confrontations with the economic-ecological complex look like in Eastern Europe today? What can we learn from the social movements in the region? *Facilitation*: Adriana Homolova + Holger Kral

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Links WS 1: Rebooting Eco-Justice

Florin Poenaru: [How Russia's Ukraine War and the West's Response to it Accelerate Environmental Havoc](#)

Rositsa Kratunkova: [Green Apocalypse? How Green Parties are Embracing More War to Stop the War](#)

Isabella Kaminski: [Could Russia be prosecuted for environmental harm in Ukraine?](#)

Michael T. Klare: [United States: Energy as a Strategic Tool](#)

Oliver Milman: [How the gas industry capitalized on the Ukraine war to change Biden policy](#)

UNCTAD: [The Impact on Trade and Development of the War in Ukraine](#)

Links WS 2: Algorithmic Mindset

Josephine Lulamae: [How the "Shadow Banning" Mystery is Messing with Climate Activists' Heads](#)

Magdalena Taube and Krystian Woznicki: [The Tectonics of Asking Questions](#)

Jeff Turrentine: [Climate Misinformation on Social Media Is Undermining Climate Action](#)

Paul Schütze: [Mining the Future? The Artificial Intelligence of Climate Breakdown](#)

Links WS 3: Disarming Resource Wars

Rosa Luxemburg: [Concerning Morocco](#)

Nick Buxton et al: [The climate security agenda is more about strengthening military power than tackling climate instability](#)

Andrea Vetter: [Energy Periphery Revolts: From a Capitalist to a Caring Economy in the Here and Now](#)

Salvatore Engel-Di Mauro: [Anti-Extractivism, Socialist States, and the Question of Centralized Organization](#)

Mike Pearl: [This Is Where the First Climate Wars Will Break Out](#)

Foreign Affairs: [Climate Wars: Policy, Politics, and the Environment](#)

Links WS 4: Climate and Tech Politics

Maja Romano et al. (eds.): [Technology, the environment and a sustainable world: Responses from the Global South](#)

Nadia Asri: ["Racialised communities are hit hardest by the climate crisis in Europe"](#)

Michael Kwet: [Digital Ecosocialism. Breaking the power of Big Tech](#)

Andrea Genovese et al: [Technocratic Eco-Modernism or Convivial Technology for Social Revolution?](#)

Guillaume Pitron: [The shifting conflicts and costs of 'green' energy](#)

Thea Riofrancos: [The rush to 'go electric' comes with a hidden cost: destructive lithium mining](#)

Priya Shukla: [Border Patrol's Answer To Climate Change Is Robot Dogs. And, It's The Wrong One](#)

Sarah-Indra Jungblut: [Citizens Drive Environmental and Climate Protection with Public Data, Apps and Platforms](#)

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Links WS 5: Post-1989 Lessons

Katarina Kušić: [Lessons for the “Green” Transition: Learning from Cooperatives in Former Yugoslavia](#)

Masha Burina: [Building People Power: Against the Sell-out of Serbia to Mining Corporations](#)

Aleksandar Matković: [Why a New Form of Ecological Imperialism is Developing in the Balkans](#)

Friederike Pank: [Reverberations of Extractivism: The Long Epilogue of the Coal Story in East Germany](#)

Tatjana Söding: [How Can We Overcome Ideological Resistance to System Change?](#)

Maria Gunko: [Post-Soviet Coal Mining Cities as Battlegrounds for the Reordering of Power Relations](#)