

Workshop



Irregular Ecologies: The Environmental Impact of Unconventional Warfare

Time 19-20 July 2019

Venue Sala de Reuniões - Bloco E - Anexo Centro de Filosofia e Ciencias Humanas - CFH, Florianopolis, Brazil

Conveners Christof Mauch (Rachel Carson Center, LMU Munich) and Javier Puente (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)

Abstract Warfare seldom affects humans alone. While inflicting devastating effects on societies, armed conflicts also shape economic, cultural, sociopolitical, and ecological transformations. As violence territorializes, armed conflicts begin to affect the ecologies and livelihoods that once sustained them. Environmental transformation thus emerges as an inextricable correlate of human conflict. With the dawn of the Cold War, the environmental impacts of human conflict unfolded alongside the same geopolitical trends that engulfed the Global South. Decolonizing movements, guerrilla warfare, rural insurrections, and other forms of intrastate conflict developed from within ecologically fragile areas and eco-sensitive zones, including savannahs, valleys, watersheds, islands, mangroves, forests, plateaus, and jungles.

**Rachel
Carson
Center**

19 July 2019

9:00 – 9:30 Welcome and Introduction
Christof Mauch and Javier Puente

10:00 – 11:30 **Session 1: Irregular Warfare and Socio-Environmental Transformation**
(Chair Christof Mauch)

John Agbonifo (Osun State University)
Tragedy of the Niger Delta: Extractivism and Environmental Impacts of Contentious Mobilisation

Vimbai Kwashirai (University of Zimbabwe)
Maize is life: Maize production and environmental transformation in wartime Rhodesia: 1965-1980

Claudio de Majo (Rachel Carson Center, LMU Munich)
Fire and Power on the River Basin: Environmental Transformations in the Region of Araguaia Before and After the Guerrilla Years

David Pretel (El Colegio de México)
Contested Frontiers: Tropical Forests and Indigenous Resistance during the Caste War (1847-1901)

11:30 – 12:00 **Break**

12:00 – 13:00 **Session 2: Nature as a Weapon - Nature as a Battleground**
(Chair Eunice Nodari)

Tony Andersson (Yale University)
Counterinsurgent Environmentalism vs. Green Guerrillas in the Tropical Lowland Forests of Guatemala

Teo Ballvé (Colgate University)
Enlisting Nature: A Political Ecology of the Drug War

13:00 – 15:00 **Lunch Break and Artistic Presentation with Rojda Tugrul**

15:00 – 16:30 **Session 3: War in Colonialism's Shadow**
(Javier Puente)

Isa Arriola (University of California)
Securing Nature: Militarism, Indigeneity and the Environment in the Northern Mariana Islands

Emily Brock (George Washington University)
Tree Cover: Asymmetric Warfare and Militarized Forestry in the Twentieth Century Philippines

Uttam Lal (Sikkim University)
Border and Bomb Ecology in the Indo-Myanmar Borderland

18:30 **Dinner**

20 July 2019

**9:00 – 10:00 Session 4: Guerrilla Governance and Environmental Transformation
(Chair Richard Tucker)**

Claudia Leal (Universidad de los Andes)
Environmental governance and the ironies of war and peace in Colombia

Jennifer Lee Johnson (Purdue University)
Guerrilla Governance

10:00 – 10:30 Break

**10:30 – 12:30 Session 5: Legacies of Irregular Warfare
(Chair Rubens Nodari)**

Kristina Lyons (University of Pennsylvania)
Rivers Have Memory: Community Recovery of a Watershed in Times of Perpetual Conflict and Transition

Diana Ruiz (Humboldt Institute)
Land-cover changes and urban sprawl in municipalities affected by the armed conflict in Colombia

Amy Hay (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley)
The Origins of Ecocide

Javier Puente (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)
The Enduring Climate of Conflict: Drought, Impoverishment, and the Long Aftermath of Civil War in Peru

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 – 15:00 Concluding Discussion
Javier Puente and Christof Mauch

15:00 End of Workshop

18:30 Dinner