

The Ecological Bootstrap: Apprehending the Military-Environmental Nexus

17–19 March 2026

Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich
Kleine Aula (A120), LMU Main Building
Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1, 80539 Munich

Conveners: Kerrin Langer and Bernd Sommer (TU Dortmund), Christof Mauch (Rachel Carson Center), Zsuzsanna Ihar (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science), Frank Reichherzer (Bundeswehr Centre of Military History and Social Sciences)

Tuesday, 17 March

13:15–14:00 **Welcome and Introduction by Christof Mauch, Frank Reichherzer, Bernd Sommer**

14:00–15:15 **Panel I: Theorizing and Historicizing Military Metabolism**
Moderator: Christof Mauch (RCC)

Lukas Wagner and Patrick Flamm (Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies)

“Kamikaze Drone Metabolisms: Exploring the Material Sources, Flows and Sinks of Drone Warfare in the Russo-Ukrainian War”

Mark Griffiths (University of Newcastle)

“Earthy Geographies of the F-35 Fighter Jet”

Lisa Kolb (University of Augsburg)

“Crystalline Flows in the Thirty Years War: Global Scopes of Handling Saltpeter in a Transitional Phase”

15:15–15:45 **Break**

15:45–17:00 **Panel II: Hegemonic Institutions and Exploitative Technologies**
Moderator: NN

Nico Edwards (University of Sussex)

“Sustainability in Action: The Arms Trade, Sustainable Finance, and the Sustaining of Military-Industrial Violence”

Italo Brandimarte (King’s College London)

“The Ecological Way of War: The Coloniality of Sustainable Violence”

Mela Žuljević (Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography)
“Legacies of Militarized Vision of Landscapes in Bosnia and Herzegovina”

17:00–17:15 **Walk to the Rachel Carson Center**

17:15–18:00 **Multimodal Presentation**

Tetiana Gardashuk (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine)
and Francesc Rodríguez (European University Viadrina Frankfurt,
Oder)

“Hydrological Warfare in Ukraine: The Irpin and the Dnipro”

18:00 **Optional Group Dinner (self-pay)**

Wednesday, 18 March

09:30–10:30 **Panel III: Investigative Imaginaries**

Moderator: Zsuzsanna Ihar (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)

Dario Fazzi (Leiden University)

“Extracting Uranium, Destroying Hózhó: A Virtual-Reality Tour into the Legacy of America’s Military-Industrial Complex”

Hayal Akarsu (Utrecht University)

“When Warfare Ecologies Meet Orbital Politics”

10:30–11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00–12:15 **Panel IV: Unseen Ecologies of War**

Moderator: Bernd Sommer (TU Dortmund)

Emilie Glazer (King’s College London)

“Hydrological Surveillance: Specters of Securitization Along Jerusalem Waters”

Thijs Jeursen (Utrecht University)

“Green Frontlines: Military Bases and Ecological Intelligence in the Netherlands”

Sylvia Faichney (Dumbarton Oaks)

“Concealing Contamination”

12:30–14:00 **Joint Lunch at the Rachel Carson Center**

with short presentations by Marius Jügel and Florian Fockelmann
(University of Passau)

14:00–14:45

Workshop I: Reimagining Military Emissions Reporting

Grace Alexander and Ellie Kinney (Conflict and Environment Observatory)

14:45–15:30

Workshop II: Cataloguing in Place: Noticing the Ecological Consequences of War Making

Laura Palmer (King's College London) and Pauline Zerla (American University)

15:30–16:00

Coffee Break

16:00–17:15

Roundtable

Moderator: NN

Viktor M. Stoll (University of Cambridge), Elizabeth DeLoughrey (UCLA), and Zsuzsanna Ihar (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science)

17:30–18:30

Evening Event

Moderator: Kerrin Langer (TU Dortmund)

Commentator: John R. McNeill (Georgetown University)

Lennard de Klerk

“War Climate: Emissions, Environmental Violence, and Ukraine”

19:00

Conference Dinner at Georgenhof

Thursday, 19 March

09:30–10:45

Panel V: Ecocide—Norms and Responsibilities

Moderator: Kerrin Langer (TU Dortmund)

Aron Buzogány (BOKU University)

“Ecological Violence Control: The War in Ukraine and the Constitutionalization of the Ecocide Norm”

Laura Puumala (University of Turku)

“Noncombatant Immunity in Environmental War”

Rimona Afana (Independent Scholar)

“Confronting the Merchants of Death Driving Ecocide and Genocide: Grassroots Initiatives Against the Military-Industrial Complex”

10:45–11:15

Break

11:15–12:15

Focus Panel: The Arctic

Moderator: Frank Reichherzer (Bundeswehr Centre of Military History and Social Sciences)

Brett Simpson (Institute of Current World Affairs, Norway) “Cryo-Conflicts: Mapping Icescapes, Arctic Wargames, and Narrative Gaps of an Unfreezing North”

Hanna Oosterveen (University of Manchester)
“Arctic Science Under Pressure: How War Impacts Climate Target Formation”

12:15–13:00

Concluding Thoughts

13:00

Brown-Bag Lunch