

SPECIAL SESSION:

Ecological Distribution Conflicts Film Session

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The study of Ecological Distribution Conflicts looks at the social, spatial and temporal asymmetries and inequalities in the use of environmental resources and services. To help visualize and promote the dialogue about these conflicts, different videos are being produced as part of the EU funded project EJOLT (Environmental Justice organizations, Liabilities and Trade). Our aim is to show different type of conflicts (waste, biomass, nuclear-mining), the different languages of valuation produced by the different actors, different type of environmentalisms and the connections with the global energy and material metabolism. After showing the documentaries we would like to have a discussion with you about these or other concepts within ecological economics that can help explain these conflicts.

There will be a discussion with film directors and actors involved in some of the cases (30 mins). These films were made with the support of EJOLT and LAMCA, an audiovisual project financed by Fundació Autònoma Solidària for their financial support to carry out the research and the documentaries.

Yasuni, el Buen Vivir

Directed by Arturo Hortas. 30 mins

This film shows through different lenses the origins and development of the idea of “leaving oil in the soil” (850 million barrels) in one part of the Yasuni National Park in Ecuador. It argues that in this way biodiversity would be preserved, indigenous peoples would be protected, and carbon dioxide emissions would be avoided. Esperanza Martinez of Accion Ecologica and Alberto Acosta, the former minister of Energy who launched the proposal in 2007, are interviewed. President Rafael Correa presents the plan with vigour at a United Nations speech. Local inhabitants in the heart of the Yasuni National Park are interviewed, next to oil spills. Humberto Cholango, the head of CONAIE, show his support for the proposal and his scepticism about Correa’s motives. The film also how Sumak Kawsay, “Buen Vivir”, or the concept of The Good Life as well as the rights of Mother Nature, have been formalized in Ecuador’s constitution.

From the jungle where the Waorani reside to the offices of activists and ministers, from Ecuador to New York and Europe, the film elicits many voices that explain and appraise this sensational proposal, undreamed of a few years ago: LEAVE THE OIL IN THE SOIL!

Delhi Waste Wars

Directed by Leah Temper (16mins)

A battle is brewing in Delhi, India over access and control to garbage. For decades, informal wastepickers and recyclers have turned garbage into cash. They work for free, in the process significantly reducing the waste sent to overflowing landfills. But recent government plans to privatize trash collection have put the livelihoods of the wastepickers under threat. Meanwhile, new plans to build incinerators funded by carbon credits mean the resources the recyclers depend on may soon go up in smoke.

This documentary takes a street-eye view, charting the wastepickers' struggle for their rights and recognition, and gaining local perspective on how to create a truly sustainable waste management system in one of the world's biggest and most densely populated cities.

Grabbing Gambela

Anywaraa Survival Organization, EJOLT, GRAIN, Leah Temper (8 mins)

Grabbing Gambela is a short video documentary about a massive takeover of agricultural lands in the Gambela Region of Ethiopia. Since 2008, the Ethiopian government has signed deals with investors from India, Saudi Arabia, China and other countries for large-scale agricultural projects in the region. The deals give foreign investors control of half of Gambela's arable land. In this documentary, local people affected by the land deals speak about their experiences.

Is Uranium mining Good for Namibia?

A film directed by Marta Conde (15 mins)

A uranium mine has been operating for 35 years in the arid plains of central Namibia. Ex mine workers have been complaining of health problems without much success in channeling their complaints. Presently the country is experiencing a 'uranium rush' with 3 to 5 more mines coming up in the same area. The mines are seen by many as an opportunity for Namibia to start a process of industrialization and combat the galloping unemployment (50%). However, the mines are taking place in a protected National Park, major attraction of the tourist sector in Namibia. Is uranium mining good for Namibia? This is the question that we want you to answer after watching the video.