

ENTANGLED MILIEUS

Co-constituting a Shared Futurity

International Conference. October 22-29, 2022, Cyprus
Co-organized by The University of Cyprus (LUCY),
Delft University of Technology (Borders&Territories),
and The University of Sheffield



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Cyprus October 22-29, 2022

International Conference Co-organized by The University of Cyprus (LUCY) Laboratory of Urbanism, Department of Architecture, Delft University of Technology (Borders & Territories Research Group), and The University of Sheffield

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ENTANGLED MILIEUS



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ENTANGLED MILIEUS

Co-constituting a Shared Futurity

THE THEME OF THE CONFERENCE

The milieu emerges from an onto-epistemological entanglement where meaning and matter, or discursive and material practices, co-constitute the shared, living environments of human subjects and more-than-human entities. In these entanglements differentiation is the norm. Accordingly, conflicts and tensions are unavoidable, particularly, in those zones in which anthropocentric actions account for radically asymmetrical environmental transformations.

The striation of landscapes through the imposition of large-scale infrastructures; the devastation of ecosystems through resource extraction; rampant sprawl at the hand of real estate industries; the exhaustion of soil quality through agro-industrial monocultures; and the pollution and contamination of entire habitats are but a few examples of the detrimental actions over the environment typical of global neoliberal capitalist interests and their blind advance toward the dead-end of “progress, growth, profit”.

The growing awareness of the (often) irreversible impact of these actions upon the landscape triggers a host of responses and reactions. These may range from environmental and social struggles and resistance to incommensurable attempts to ameliorate the damage with a techno-deterministic approach or “solutionism”. What this attitude occludes and ignores, however, is the significance of politicized material territories, everyday resistances and minor practices through which another milieu is generated: one that emerges from the entanglement of discourse (meaning) and materiality (space-matter).

The Entangled Milieus Conference aims to broaden the scope of territorial considerations by examining the material-discursive engagements, entanglements and practices through which the milieu is constituted. It incorporates the instrumentalization of critical elementary ‘substance-spaces’ of soil, water, and air and extends them into the investigation of the thick surfaces and critical zones of our living environment.

Entangled Milieus initiates the debate by asking: where does the spatial-material understanding of the milieu situate itself within specific interactions, entanglements, networks or ‘relationscapes’? Does the produced ‘non-native land’

still allow for further appropriations? How does the manifestation of ongoing geo-political conflicts obscure or alter such ‘relationscapes’? Are the “soiled” (material) and mediated (discursive) substances co-constitutive of milieus that transform and change according to day-to-day encounters? Are these still conducive to living conditions? How can we take into consideration non-human or more-than-human agents (animals, plants, machines, artificial intelligence, i.e.) with whom we share the milieu?

Through field investigations, lectures, culinary explorations and group discussions, the conference proposes itself as open research ground to understand how architecture and landscape architecture, as material-discursive practices, profoundly act upon these thick surfaces and critical zones.

The un-disciplined perspective of the conference -an approach and a stance opposing binarism and/or (mono)disciplinary specificity- is paramount to produce and generate futurity-oriented imaginaries that address rising and raising frictions, as well as conflicting and conflictual conditions.



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PROGRAM

PART 1: CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION (October 22)

Location 1: Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus, Kallipoleos 75, Nicosia 1678

Saturday October 22, 2022

We gather in Nicosia at location 1, where we attend the lecture by Raviv Ganchrow and get to know each other.

16:00 - 17:00

Registration of fieldwork participants, Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus, Nicosia

16:45 - 17:00

Welcome notes

17:00 - 18:30

Keynote lecture by Raviv Ganchrow. Milieu, Unconstrained

Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/ye29epcp>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/archucy>

PART 2: FIELDWORK (from October 23 to October 27)

Location 2: Atsas Educational Centre and Katydata Cultural Centre, Katydata

The field investigation lasts five days from (October 23-27). The participants can visit the area of study and reside in hotels in nearby villages. Transportation will be provided by the organizers to take the participants along the Karkotis River to Xeros bay and Lefka. Part of the itinerary on site will be done on foot!

At the end of each day, we are summoned to a beautiful place close to Katydata. We attend seminars and engage in the collective preparation of dinners with colleagues who share with us their knowledge and experiences of issues at stake. We return to Nicosia on Thursday, October 27 to wrap up the produced work and present it at the conference and at the exhibition on Saturday, October 29.

Sunday October 23, 2022

11:00 - 13:00

Transfer to the field work location, Atsas Educational Centre, Skouriotissa (transport by the organizers)

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch Break (sandwiches and beverages)

14:00 - 18:00

First exploration of the area

18:00

Transfer to Katydata Cultural Center

18:00 - 19:00

Reporting insights of the day

19:00 - 21:00

‘Food from the Past’: collective preparation of dinner at the Cultural Centre

Katydata. The cooking activity starts with the presentation of the products that participants have brought. The products are then prepared collectively and shared at dinner.

21:00

Travel to Kakopetria (accommodation) or walk to Katydata (dormitory)

Monday October 24, 2022

9:00

Departure from Kakopetria (transport by the organizers)

09:30 - 11:00

Visit of Bio Solea Farm

11:30-12:30

Visit to an olive biological farm

12:30 - 13:00

Field work investigations + presentations by local actors, Atsas Educational Centre

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch Break (sandwiches and beverages)

14:00 - 17:00

Individual work and roundtable discussions among the participants

18:00

Transfer to Katydata Cultural Center

18:00 - 19:00

Reporting insights of the day

19:00 - 21:00

'Zero Kilometre Food': collective preparation of dinner at Cultural Centre Katydata. The cooking activity involves the collective preparation of products coming from various distances from the workshop site. Some of these products are available locally, others come from further areas of Cyprus.

21:00

Travel to Kakopetria (accommodation) or walk to Katydata (dormitory)

Tuesday October 25 2022

09:00

Departure from Kakopetria (transport by the organizers)

10:00 - 13:00

Travel to Lefka Area and presentations by local actors followed by field investigation

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch Break (sandwiches and beverages), Lefka area

14:00 - 17:00

Field work at the greater Lefka area

18:00

Transfer to Katydata Cultural Center

18:00 - 19:00

Reporting insights of the day

19:00 - 21:00

‘Food that is from Today’: collective preparation of dinner at Katydata Cultural Center. The cooking activity includes the attempt of foraging at the workshop site. The products collected during the foraging experiment will be prepared collectively and shared at dinner.

21:00

Travel to Kakopetria (accommodation) or walk to Katydata (dormitory)

Wednesday October 26, 2022

09:00

Departure from Kakopetria (transport by the organizers)

10:00 - 13:00

Individual work and roundtable discussions among the participants, Atsas Educational Centre

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch Break (sandwiches and beverages)

14:00 - 18:00

Individual work and roundtable discussions among the participants

18:00

Meeting at Katydata Cultural Center

18:00 - 19:00

Reporting insights of the day

19:00 - 21:00

‘Locking in Freshness (Death and Life of the Food)’: collective preparation of dinner at Katydata Cultural Center. The cooking activity involves the preparation of products that were recently alive (such as fish and salads) and living things that can be consumed (ceviche). We also explore and discuss different modes of preservation made of chemical components, found in capsules, pills, powders, protein drinks, drops and sprays.

21:00

Travel to Kakopetria (accommodation) or walk to Katydata (dormitory)

Thursday October 27 2022

09:00

Hotel check-out, departure from Kakopetria (transport by the organizers)

10:00 - 13:00

Trip to the United Nations Buffer Zone (to be confirmed)

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch Break (sandwiches and beverages), Atsas Educational Centre

14:00 - 17:00

Roundtable discussions among the participants

17:00 - 19:00

Return to Nicosia from Atsas Educational Centre

Dinner in Nicosia (arranged individually)

PART 3: CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION (October 28 and 29)

Location 3: Phaneromeni School, 28th of October square, Nicosia 1011

Friday October 28, 2022

Pre-conference preparation day. Preparation of the field reports in form of presentations, videos, performances, exhibitions, etc.

Saturday October 29, 2022

09:00 - 09:30

Registration of conference participants, Gymnasium Phaneromeni, Nicosia.

09:30 - 09:45

Welcome Notes

09:45 - 11:15

Keynote lecture by Meike Schalk. Report from the North: Re-building a River and a Region

Zoom Link:

<https://ucy.zoom.us/j/97491271198?pwd=UjB3ZjFRb1JHanM5R0RWZVVT-S3Y2UT09>

Meeting ID: 974 9127 1198

Passcode: 974744

11:15 - 11:30

Coffee Break

Conference Morning Session (paper presentations)

11:30 - 12:00

Jamie Allen, "The Ledger of the Sun."

12:00 - 12:30

Simoni Stergioula, "Lannate's Forensic Ecologies and Evidentiary Remains."

12:30 - 13:00

Stavroula Michael, "Water and Conflict: Alternative Tools for Tracing Spatial

History.”

13:00 - 13:30

Breg Horemans, Efrosyni Tsiritaki, Charis Nika, “Sites of Repression: HALL08, a reparative reading.”

13:30 - 15:30

Lunch in the City (individual)

During lunch break and the afternoon, the courtyard space and the building will open to the former students of the school for a visit and play. It is the first of a series of events hosted by the University of Cyprus that will open the building’s courtyard to the neighbourhood.

Conference Afternoon Session (on-line paper presentations and field-work reports)

Zoom Link:

<https://ucy.zoom.us/j/97491271198?pwd=UjB3ZjFRb1JHanM5R0RWZVIT-S3Y2UT09>

Meeting ID: 974 9127 1198

Passcode: 974744

15:30 - 16:00

Eliza Culea-Hong, “The Disobedient Gardener is the New Architectural Critic: Reporting on the Opposition and Occupation of French Eco-neighbourhoods.”

16:00 - 16:30

Stefano Milani, “The Agricola Cornelia S.p.a (1972-1981).”

16:30 - 17:00

Lucía Jalón Oyarzun, “Minor Architectures and Ecologies of Sign(al)s: Raw Semiotics in Entangled Continuums.

17:00 - 18:30

Fieldwork reports open discussion

18:30 - 19:30

Exhibition opening



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FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONFERENCE, THE PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR WORK

PART 1: CONFERENCE INTRODUCTION

KEYNOTE LECTURE

RAVIV GANCHROW
MILIEU, UNCONSTRAINED

Raviv Ganchrow researches the interdependencies of sound, locale and hearing through installations, writing, and the development of transduction technologies. His sound works attend to spatial-material manifestations of oscillations in conditions such as environmental infrasound, telluric currents, long-range radio, ocean acoustics, and anechoic chambers. Recent installations employ in-situ circuits patched directly into locales, relaying contextual dynamics. He publishes, workshops, and lectures broadly on auditory contexts and the spatial-material agency of sound and is currently a faculty member at the Institute of Sonology, University of the Arts, The Hague.

ZOOM LINK: <https://tinyurl.com/ye29epcp>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/archucy>

PART 2: FIELDWORK

SITE EXPLORATIONS

The “Entangled Milieus: Co-constituting a Shared Futurity” Conference starts with a series of explorations in the area of the Karkotis River, in Cyprus. The work on the field sets the basis of the conference’s discussions by bringing to the fore tangible entanglements. These are observed through the activities of (1) extraction in the Skouriotissa mine, (2) food production in the river valley and (3) land consumption operated by the real estate and non-agricultural activities. The investigations on the field aim to address the complexity of such forms of entanglement in relation to Cyprus’ frozen conflict and its existing division, observing closely the consequences of the UN cease-fire zone on the valley. The fieldwork seeks to make visible the intertwining and dependencies between humans and other-than humans and discuss shared futurities in a reunified island.

The area of investigation

Karkotis river, or Klarios River, runs along the North slope of Troodos Mountain to Morphou bay. Part of the river is located on Northern Cyprus and it is controlled by Turkey since 1974, when the coup d’etat instigated by Greece ended with the Turkish occupation. The river is 24.75 km long and crosses the United Nations Cease-Fire Zone. Being the only river on the island that contains water throughout the entire year, Karkotis river is a precious resource and an object of contention. A complex system of water canalization spreads across the Solea Valley, supporting agricultural activities and the villages at the edge of the valley. The mine of Skouriotissa is located further South by the river. The copper extraction dates back to ancient times and it is still functioning. The first half of the 20th century saw a growth in the mining business. This phase was also accompanied by intense labour struggles, during which Greek and Turkish Cypriot workers have joined forces. The city of Lefke lies in the northern side of the divide. During the British colonial era, the city used to be a centre of regional administration. In current times, the University education is Lefke’s main source of income.

FOOD FOR THE FUTURE: THE HARVEST OF THE PAST, THAT AWAITS MY HUNGER

The field investigations along the Karkotis River are accompanied by a series of culinary explorations curated by Armina Pilav and Jamie Allen, titled “Food for the Future.” The integration of food provision within the program of the un-disciplined conference is not only a real, material cooking exercise but especially a provocation to engage with the temporality of world food and the metabolic processes of thinking and doing that take place at the conference. Through daily evening meal and workshop activities on-site, participants will work together to entangle their individual metabolic needs with their situated environment. The working process of “Food for the Future” evolves during the workshop days from October 23 to October 26. It involves both cooking and political thinking about world food production and consumption on local and planetary scales.

Food for the Future: The Concept

The food that we eat is always bygone, although it sustains into the future. We work for this sustenance to survive, to think, to create and thrive. It is our culinary cosmopolitics that creates and limits the very possibility of our life on Earth. Whenever and wherever necessary, we capture the energies and matter of air, forests, soil, rivers, lakes and oceans. Some foods grow “wild” and “free”, others are cultivated in tilled fields, greenhouses, basements, along windows and terraces, on the facade and roofs of buildings. The relations we have with these productive spaces vary in terms of geography, infrastructure and distance, ownership issues, but also importantly with time - metabolic times of transport, time of labour, time of harvest, time of life.

Food - worlds - Earth

it matters what food forage the worlds
it matters how food form the worlds
it matters where is food is for future worlds
it matters how worlds feed the Earth
it ends when Earth eats worlds

Current geopolitical constellations, past and current wars and other breakdowns of infrastructure have produced lags, shortages and wastes. These culminate in current and future food shortages that affect everyone on Earth in very different ways. No matter status or degree of privilege, the landscapes of sustainable provisions are changing together with changes undergone by climates, economies and environments. Meanwhile, local movements and scientific developments provide directions, both hopeful (i.e. precision fermentation) and disconcerting (i.e. petro-synthetic, chemical). Individual and collective initiatives are exploring new foodways that promise to upgrade the food chain while allowing for metabolic situatedness, in the wake of the industrial catastrophe that is the 20th century “food system”. There is great need to alter nutrition habits across the Earth, as much as we must revise the food nationalisms, fascism and traditional diets that keep us locked into these systems.

What is “Food for the Future”?

Nobody really knows! Food is a matter of survival. Foods cause interactions between our brains, stomachs, body fluids, blood sugar levels, minerals and proteins. Hunger and satiation are different for everyone, obviously, as the metabolic processes and physiological capacities of the singular body are different. Hunger and satiation are political contexts relating to the unequal access to food on Earth, the land to grow it, the technology to produce it. One of the great powers that has been granted to and grants the elaboration of the ambiguous developments we call “civilisation” is the ability to make food now and eat it later. Storage, buffering and keeping allow for a “futuraity” of food that has given way to speculative anthropologies - why certain empires have thrived and others not. Current, essential and commodity food item cultivation worldwide is conditioned by given climatic zones, earth quality, landscape formation, anthropogenic toxic materialities, chosen or available agro-technologies and available, economical labour forms. War interrupts food cultivation and transport, as the current case of Ukraine, one of the most important producers of wheat for the whole world, has made readily apparent.

Kitchen Working Plan

Kitchen workshop location: Cultural Centre Katydata

The plan for “Food for the Future” includes the following culinary explorations

and exercises: “Food from the Past”, “Zero Kilometre Food”, “Food that is from Now”, “Locking in Freshness”. Each of these exercises uses different types of products: foods that are invasive and brought through human infrastructures (future foraging); foods that are produced locally and in sustainable ways; foods that can be “made” by the participants while on-site; foods that participants can bring along from home or on the way. The program unfolds during the evening sessions of the workshop days through the collective preparation of dinners.

PART 3: CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

KEYNOTE LECTURE

MEIKE SCHALK

REPORT FROM THE NORTH: RE-BUILDING A RIVER AND A REGION

Meike Schalk is an architect, associate professor in urban design and urban theory and docent in architecture at KTH School of Architecture. She is head of the doctoral program in Architecture and the interdisciplinary doctoral program in Art, Technology and Design, a temporary collaboration with Konstfack - the University of Arts, Crafts and Design in Stockholm. Currently, she is also an Anna Boyksen Fellow at the Technical University in Munich (2020-2022) for exploring gender- and diversity-relevant themes in technosciences together with colleagues at TUM.

Zoom Link: <https://ucy.zoom.us/j/97491271198?pwd=UjB3ZjFRb-1JHanM5R0RWZVlTS3Y2UT09>

Meeting ID: 974 9127 1198

Passcode: 974744

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Jamie Allen

THE LEDGER OF THE SUN

Dissimilarities are often drawn between the “economy” and “ecology”, supposedly in conflict. Economics, “the dismal science”, it is said, abstracts human instinct and desires creating systems of value, accumulation and exchange. Ecologies are taken as domains of organic flows and fluxes, “natural” relationships and attachments that being, sustain, abate and end life. The adversarial relationship between capitalism and climate underlines the needful ways in which values outside of the monetary need to be protected and promoted. At the same time, the historical development of things like energy currencies and ecosystems services, as well as contemporary experiments in distributed governance and environmental and supply (block)chain technologies allows for new constellations and approaches to management and repair, some of which reinvigorate an age-old desire to re-integrate human and natural systems through technology. We have many precursors and references for such constellations to draw from. Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen (1906–1994) espoused the “marginal utility of money” against energy and needful material exchange. The ecofeminisms of Val Plumwood, and feminist economics of the later 20th Century, underline how the hierarchical and individuating abstractions of capitalism cleave value from its provisioning and (re)productive significance. Customs of gift, which also acknowledge and enact solar abundance, were illegalized by institutions of European colonialism in the name of promoting more “civilized values” of accumulation and scarcity. Henry Ford proposed the creation of an “energy currency” and Charles Hall suggested the idea of an “energy return on investment” as a principle metric for returning the survival and the well-being of individuals, communities, neighbourhoods and ecosystems to economic exchange. It remains challenging to tie the metrics of energy and carbon markets, and the motivations of things like the Regenerative Finance (#ReFi) movement, to the kinds of cultural experiences through which vital social values can be wrought; to reencounter one another in a metabolic field character that understands solar energy as the origin, datum and decider of all exchanges, limits, abundance, gifts. Part of what it is to be human, what is to be a living thing, is to be connected to the cosmological infrastructures of ecology and energy.

Jamie Allen (he/him) is an artist-researcher and organizer occupied with the resonances between ecologies, infrastructures, institutions, metabolism, and technologies. He creates experiments and research, writing and media, material artworks and events, encounters and workshops, talks and platforms for publishing and public-making. His work has been exhibited internationally, from the Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin to the American Museum of Natural History in New York to the Nam June Paik Art Center in Korea. He teaches, lectures and leads workshops widely, engaging with and working to create collaborative contexts that acknowledge how care, attachment and love are central to knowledge practices like art and research. He likes to make things with his head and hands – investigations into infrastructural and material systems of media, energy, and information as public-making projects.

Simoni Stergioula

LANNATE'S FORENSIC ECOLOGIES AND EVIDENTIARY REMAINS

Lannate® SP is a highly toxic insecticide produced by DuPont and composed of 90% Methomyl (Corteva). Since 2009 Lannate is banned throughout Europe; it is however easily available in both sides of Cyprus. Being the only known entity that so persistently and inconspicuously crosses the buffer zone of this divided country and stealthily enters unexpected settings. Poisoning Animals, Plants, and Insects. One being the the slow extinction of the Griffon vulture, *Gyps fulvus*, native to Cyprus. Although Lannate is intended for agricultural use within Cyprus it has taken up a different role. In (legal or illegal) hunting areas, pathways, and gardens of Cyprus Lannate is present as an invisible landscape feature. This paper traces the narratives and material-discursive perspectives produced through the use and distribution of Lannate by adopting the concept of forensic ecologies (Joseph Pugliese) and queer animacy (Mel Y. Chen). Through forensic ecologies, I chart the dead and dying bodies produced by Lannate's queer sociality and the evidentiary remains that they attest to. Taking my cue from Pugliese and Chen I attune to the irregular livelihoods implicated in Lannate's presence. My analysis documents the unrecorded stories of Lannate in the context of Cyprus and identifies Lannate as a conceptual figure whose toxic affordances and clandestine use facilitate the formation of a queer sociality. I am interested in the deaths by Lannate, the relationalities they sketch, and the ecosystems and material conditions they form and disturb. In the paper, I question how Lannate acts as a figure that traces the faultlines in the construction of human and more-than-human entities to both reveal and confuse the distinctions between killable/un-killable, dead/dying, legal/illegal, domestic/wild, parasite/symbiote, within the ecological, cultural and political landscape of Cyprus. Further, the paper follows a reparative methodology, not with the endeavor to fix the damage and violent aftereffects of Lannate, but rather with the desire to manifest a mode of analysis that is sensitive and attentive to more-than-human entities, bodies that exist at the margins and articulations that are otherwise unattended.

Simoni Stergioula (they/them) is currently finalizing a Research Masters in Cultural Analysis at the University of Amsterdam (UvA), and a Masters in Critical Studies at Sandberg Instituut. From 2020-2022 Simoni has been working as a Teaching Assistant at the Bachelors of Literary and Cultural Analysis at the UvA. For the past year Simoni has been researching Lannate's presence in Cyprus as the topic of their rMA thesis. Their research interests lie in 'things that don't quite fit', illegibility, refusal, 'ephemera as evidence', forensic ecologies, and the underground. Largely dependent on an associative mode of analysis, Media Studies, Transgender Studies, Performance Studies, Nonbinary Methods, Affect Theory, and Queer Death Studies.

Stavroula Michael

WATER AND CONFLICT: ALTERNATIVE TOOLS FOR TRACING SPATIAL HISTORY

This paper proposes the examination of Cyprus as a case study for unpacking the complex dynamics of water infrastructure across spatial and social scales. For this purpose, conflict and infrastructure become the key methodological approaches and tools, whereby tracing their histories becomes an alternative way of reading spatial histories involving the geopolitical dynamics of development, from the post WWII Colonial Development and Act which funded the Greater Nicosia Water Supply Scheme, to Cold War financial aid programs for water development financed by the World Bank and USAID that promoted large dams, all in service of the technopolitical exploitation of water and modernization visions. (Not)incidentally, the two periods of heightened research and construction of water infrastructure, the 1950s and post-independence 1960s, coincide with the most turbulent recent histories of Cyprus, of an anti-colonial guerrilla struggle, an intercommunal conflict and the much less discussed, class struggle of the Cypriots. Through primary archival material from the State Archives of the Republic of Cyprus, I trace the planning, development and ideopolitical visions of local and foreign experts and bureaucrats while also tracing the contestations caused in popular press at the Press and Information Office's newspaper and photographic archives. I expose the "unseen" iconography and the spatial dynamics of water infrastructures embodying technopolitical aspirations while also forming alternative unexpected networks of power, which go beyond prevalent antagonistic rhetoric on intercommunal conflict or the dichotomies in spatial theory such as centre-periphery or urban-natural landscapes.

Stavroula Michael has a BA in Architecture from the University of Brighton (UK) followed by an International Relations MA at the Yerevan State Linguistic University (Armenia). Currently, she is in the process of obtaining a PhD in History and Theory of Architecture at the University of Cyprus on the subject of water infrastructures and conflict. While at the University of Cyprus, she has worked as a Teaching and Research Assistant and Special Teaching Personnel, teaching Architectural History and Theory to third-year students. She has also worked as a researcher at the Promitheas Research Institute, a network of academics dedicated to conduct research on neglected areas of Cypriot history and society, and the Mesarch Lab, a research laboratory focusing on the history and theory of Modern Architecture in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Breg Horemans

SITES OF REPRESSION: HALL08, A REPARATIVE READING

The paper is a starting point for a shared performative process of reading and writing with or alongside an(y) artefact. It offers an introduction in the HALL08 project and extends this introduction into the broader development of the so-called encounter portals. Next to that it makes a shared methodology of site-writing tangible for both our in promptu research group and the participants of the conference. HALL08 (Pelt, BE, 2021) marks a turning point in the practice of TAAT: the encounter as a dramaturgical strategy (Groot Nibbelink) with a human-to-human focus, shifts in an other-than-human direction. The question “How do we co-constitute each Other” seeks for a holistic attitude that bridges the TAAT practice’s artistic research methods and its artistic outcomes. The paper establishes a framework to relate to HALL08’s entangled milieu by instigating the two following actions: (1) exploring modes of artefact-writing (following Jane Rendell’s work on site-writing) to better understand the artefact as a site of repression and regeneration and (2) it questions the format of the “paper” by exploring reparative ways (Sedgwick) of reading and writing as performative acts. Together with the reader/writer we re-imagine HALL08 through the consideration of its naturecultural (Haraway) presence, and the artefact as a material thing that bridges minds and bodies (Rancière). From the acknowledgement that we are all “nomadic subjects” (Braidotti) the paper invites the reader to move between a close and a distant reading of the cultural products that surround us, that form both a mirror for and a counterweight against the neo-liberal milieu most of us grew up in.

Since 2012 **TAAT** operates collectively as a spatial critical practice on the verge of architecture and the performing arts. The backbone of the transdisciplinary artistic practice is the project HALL33 (2013-2033): an iteratively developed architecture that nomadically appears and grows. The main focus of HALL33 is to facilitate encounters between entities that never genuinely ‘met’ before, both humans and other-than-humans. TAAT develops ‘spatial dramaturgies’ to experience and (re-)generate the future co-existence on our planet. Since 2019 the practice is leaping off the stage (Meierhans) to explore architecture’s and performance’s dark ecology (Morton). This exploration of ‘natural sites’ is solid-

ifying in the development of the so called ‘encounter portals’ HALL08-15 that explore growing processes through cultural, neurological and biological diversity. **Efrosyni Tsiritaki** joined the team on the development of HALL07 (for Homo Novus Festival, 2018, Riga, LV). She is currently leading the Athenian encounter portal HALL11 (first workshops were held in October ’21 at on the burned xxxx hilltop) in close collaboration with students from Athens University (project funded by Creative Industries Fund, NL). TAAT is structurally supported by SoAP Foundation in Maastricht, NL. Co-founder of TAAT, **Breg Horemans**, is affiliated with the Department of Architecture, Campus Ghent of KU Leuven, where he is currently working on a reparative reading trajectory within his PhD-trajectory Regenerative Spatial Dramaturgies. He is the author of the paper ‘HALL08, a reparative reading’.

Eliza Culea-Hong

**THE DISOBEDIENT GARDER IS THE NEW ARCHITECTURAL CRITIC:
REPORTING ON THE OPPOSITION AND OCCUPATION OF FRENCH
ECO-NEIGHBOURHOODS**

« It's ugly, isn't it? Well, it YOUR fault. We would rather take a walk in what is left of the grass, rather than squat your towers in glass. »

Extinction Rebellion slogan.

In her book *Critique et Architecture. Un État des Lieux Contemporain*, Hélène Jannières states that at the turn of the 21st century the public was largely uninterested in contemporary architecture. Besides some enthusiasm for the opening of a handful of large projects designed to be at the center of international tourism and largely covered by both general and specialized press, the rest of the tissue of the city remained largely ignored. Housing especially seemed incapable of arousing any interest, despite being the one that according to Jannières “shapes the everyday life of citizens”. In recent years, however, the tide seems to have turned. The public seems to be increasingly interested and enraged by large infrastructure projects, often contesting them on ecological grounds. In June 2021, the Global Atlas of Environmental Justice had mapped 3456 conflicts worldwide. In France, particularly sensitive to this subject, the SuperLocal collective had mapped over 330 struggles against methane and waste treatment plants; dams; quarry projects; mine extensions; farms for 1,000 cows, 20,000 pigs or 200,000 chickens; high-speed train lines or new highways. Besides these industrial endeavors, it is worth noting that almost a third of French constations are labeled as “Bétonnage” (concreting) and concern one way or another architectural or urban projects, housing becoming in recent years one of the most heated subjects in the country. To the surprise of local administrations, social movements are just as vigorously rising against eco-neighborhoods, especially if they are planned on arable lands, wetlands, historic community garden sites, or are perceived as contributing to an overly dense urban fabric. Through two case studies of contested eco-neighborhoods in Besançon (Les Vaîtes / Jardin des Vaîtes) and Dijon (Grand Est Eco-district / Quartier Libre des Lentillères), this paper questions the impact on the architectural field of what Enrico Gualini calls “the rise of the ‘angry citizen’ as a new and anomalous collective phenomenon and as an emergent political subject”. In line with the “Entangled

Milieus” call for papers, the analysis will focus on the figure of the allotment. If in the past such spaces were generally perceived as an invisible part of cities that offered enjoyment and nourishment to only a handful of gardeners, recently the ordinary vegetable plot is currently reframed in France as a central and collectively significant symbol, “a grain of hope”, the last defender of fertile soil against what activists describe as the sterilising tentacles of capitalist “real estate predation”. In this emergent “gardening vs. concrete” paradigm - marginal enough to be described by the sociologist Kevin Vacher as a “David vs. Goliath” dynamic, but potent enough for local administrations to genuinely fear the symbolic power of tomatoes and basil plantations- architecture increasingly seems to be playing the role of the villain. This paper aims to distill the architectural criticism currently emerging from these disobedient gardens, as well as analyse their alternative spatial imaginary, kindred to theories on deep ecology, bio-regionalism and anti-speciesism.

Eliza Culea-Hong, Ph.D, is a trained architect with an extensive experience in curating, academic researcher and co-founder of design studio NOVUM. Her professional milestones include being the deputy curator for Pompidou Center's Bernard Tschumi and Frank Gehry retrospectives, as well as production manager and graphic designer for the “Structure-Sculpture” architecture exhibition in Geneva. She is currently assistant professor at ENSA-Versailles and editorial coordinator of Swiss architectural magazine FACES. Dedicated since 2011 to academic research, she has held various teaching positions and completed the PhD program of ENSA Versailles, defending the thesis titled “Anarchitectures. War, science-fiction and activism in the work of Bruno Taut and Lebbeus Woods”. Her research interests focus on the political overtones of architecture, that she frequently interprets in relation to the current Anthropocene / Capitalocene / Extractocene / Chthulucene debates. She is currently working on a research project titled “Social Mouvements Against Architecture: Mapping the Rise of Profane Architectural Criticism”.

ZOOM LINK: <https://ucy.zoom.us/j/97491271198?pwd=UjB3ZjFRb-1jHanM5R0RWZVITs3Y2UT09>

Meeting ID: 974 9127 1198

Passcode: 974744



Stefano Milani

THE AGRICOLA CORNELIA S.P.A (1972-1981)

Art, agriculture, zootechnics, economy, politics and creativity are at the centre of the work *Agricola Cornelia* by Italian artist Gianfranco Baruchello, the object of the present contribution. The *Agricola Cornelia* (1972-1981) is a farming project initiated in 1973 when Baruchello decided to leave Rome and move to the outskirt following the need for a radical personal change and closing a decade of political militancy that would be then transformed into a different kind of activism. In via di Santa Cornelia, the artist purchased a house surrounded by land where he began an experience of bringing together, in a single, broad action, aesthetics, farming, raising animals and life. *Agricola Cornelia* was the name given to a “joint-stock company” whose whole corporate purpose was to “farm the land.” The venture ended in 1981 with an exhibition in Milan and was detailed two years later in the book *How to Imagine* (1983). As a direct response to land art, the idea of the *Agricola Cornelia* was to deal directly with the essence of a totalizing experience of a construction of an environment independently from any institutional understanding of it and any conventional artistic language of the artist (i.e., the painting). If typically, the work of Baruchello consisted of “tables” drawn from a popular and, at the same time, erudite code, here the use-value of art is achieved with a new relationship with nature and through the transformation of new daily gestures dictated by farming. In this case, the typical artistic approach of reproducing a world removed from the original is augmented with solid attention to a social connotation embedded in the value equation between produce/product of art. The paper will recount the *Agricola Cornelia* experience. It will explain how it questions what art and reality - the creation of an entangled milieu - are and discusses the critical reformulation of the artistic languages in this experiment.

Stefano Milani is an architect and a Ph.D. candidate at the Faculty of Architecture, Delft University of Technology, where he also teaches architectural design studios and theory seminars in the Borders & Territories group. His Ph.D. research “Franco Purini: The Drawing of Architecture and the Architecture of Drawing” analyses the theoretical role of the architectural drawing in Purini’s early work “Una Ipotesi di Architettura” (A Hypothesis of Architecture) (1966-

1968) and postulates an idea of drawings as the primary concept, and tool, for a comprehensive formulation of architecture and for its subsequent development. His research interest includes the analysis of the artistic languages, the notational systems, and, more generally, the relationship between representation and architectural design theory. He has been visiting scholar at the faculty of Architecture, University of Cagliari, and at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. In 2006, he was invited to take part in the 10th Architecture Biennale of Venice. He is currently working on a book on the “Carceri d’Invenzione” (Imaginary Prisons) presenting an analysis of the composition Piranesi’s plates produced by the students of the course “Experiments in Drawing Theory”.

ZOOM LINK: <https://ucy.zoom.us/j/97491271198?pwd=UjB3ZjFRb-1JHanM5R0RWZVITS3Y2UT09>

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Lucía Jalón Oyarzun

MINOR ARCHITECTURES AND ECOLOGIES OF SIGN(AL)S: RAW SEMIOTICS IN ENTANGLED CONTINUUMS

Minor architectures can be defined as an open set of spatial practices and know-hows based on the immanent differentiating agency of bodies. Working with and within materially limited frameworks they bring forth affective amplitude, extending (individual and plural) bodies' spatial agency and reach. They do this by working with forms of material entanglement defined by the acknowledgment of the circuitry between the actual and (the surrounding fog of) the virtual. Virtuals are minor modes of existence, beginnings or drafts filled with architectural potential and hinting at other-wise temporalities and spatialities (Lapoujade, 2017; Dixon-Román, 2021). Since these minor existences resist representation and codification, working with these entangled continuums demand us to work with their traces and fleeting inscriptions, with and through the ever-changing ecologies of sign(al)s they produce. Spinoza's vestigia reveal the impossibility for a body to avoid the touch/affection of the world. At the point of that touch certain traces (vestigia) are impressed. These traces keep body and world mutually implicated shaping milieus as ecologies of sign(al)s. We will consider this with Deleuze and Parnet's writings *On Spinoza* where they linked sign(al), affect and intensity (reach): "that which triggers off an affect, that which effectuate a power to be affected, is called a signal: the web stirs, the scalp creases, a little skin is bared. Nothing but a few signs like stars in an immense black night." Finally, we will consider Denise Ferreira da Silva's work on the possibilities of a "signifying in the raw", to consider materials for what they do and how they do it, rather than for what they mean within abstract codes defined by imperialist rationalizations. From there, we will formulate a sketch of a raw semiotics and the kind of spatial practice it advances: a minor practice departing from the common touch of material entanglement and oriented towards the understanding, (re)composition and modulation of ecologies of sign(al)s as a form of practicing space from an affective perspective.

Lucía Jalón Oyarzun is an architect and researcher. She graduated from the ETSAM School of Architecture of Madrid where she also defended her PhD “Exception and the rebel body: the political as generator of a minor architecture” in 2017. She is currently Head of Research at ALICE (Atelier de la Conception de l'Espace) at EPFL and Research Fellow at the Center of Digital Visual Studies (UZH), where she continues her interdisciplinary research on minor architectures. She has taught for several years at the ETSAM School of Architecture of Madrid, where she currently teaches at the MArch II in Architectural Communication, and has been invited to several international universities. Her work, ranging from scientific production to cultural critique, has been published in several journals and publications.

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EXHIBITION

As part of the International Conference “Entangled Milieus”, the projects of the two design studios of the Department of Architecture of the University of Cyprus and the Borders & Territories group of Delft University of Technology will be presented. The spatial focus of the design studios extends across the Karkotis River Valley, including the mining site of Skouriotissa. Through extensive field investigations, the projects reflect on the emergence of specific ecological, material, spatial entanglements of the milieu, as well as on its intricate social, political, economic history.

Along with the studio projects, the exhibition will host the findings of the field-work of the conference.

The exhibition opening is scheduled on Saturday October 29 at 18.30 hrs, at the School of Phaneromeni and it will be accessible to the public.

ENTANGLED MILIEUS for the Commons of the Solea / Lefka valley in Federal Cyprus

Urban Design Studio, Winter Semester 2022-23. Department of Architecture, University of Cyprus.

Tutors: Socrates Stratis, PhD, Architect, Urbanist, Associate Professor; Melina Philippou, Architect, Urbanist; Charis Nika, Architect, Urbanist.

The urban design studio explores the constitution of the Commons that will support rural living, in a reunified island of Federal Cyprus. The countryside, based on this investigation, is organized as a network of micro-cities that are part of extended ecosystems where human and non-human factors have equal participation in shaping their common future. The studio's field study is the area along the rivers Karkotis and Xeros that run along the northern slope of Troodos and end up in the Gulf of Morphou passing through the United Nations cease fire zone. In this area, the studio examines the effects of mining waste, the role of irrigation rights and the power relations they shape, the fragmentation of land due to the expansion of human activities, as well as the negative effects of the presence of the dividing line. Through these analytical lenses, the concepts of “entanglement” and “de-growth” acquire a central role in the design process.

ENTANGLED MILIEUS: Investigating the spatial and territorial conflicts of (soiled) substances in Cyprus.

Borders & Territories International Design Studio, Academic Year 2021/2022.
Department of Architecture, Delft University of Technology.

Tutors: Dr. Ir. Marc Schoonderbeek, Architect, Associate Professor;
Stefano Milani, Architect; Michael Hirschbichler.

The studio investigates and ultimately represents the extreme territorial/infrastructural transformations and the emerging post-urban conditions of the selected site in the form of experimental architectural design propositions. It examines the environment to identify the basis for reassessing the operational qualities of architecture. The field survey concentrates on Cyprus, more specifically, on the Karkotis River Valley in the Troodos Mountains, with the adjacent Skouriotissa Mines. Examining the entanglements of the milieu, the work on-site identifies the bases for reassessing the operational qualities of architecture. In the form of “reports from the field”, the B&T studio develops a method of inquiry into the entangled milieus of Cyprus, by mapping the spatial relationships between air, water and ground. In the studio, the practicality of architecture is probed as a profound tool to interfere in thick ecological surfaces.



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CONTACTS AND PRACTICAL INFO

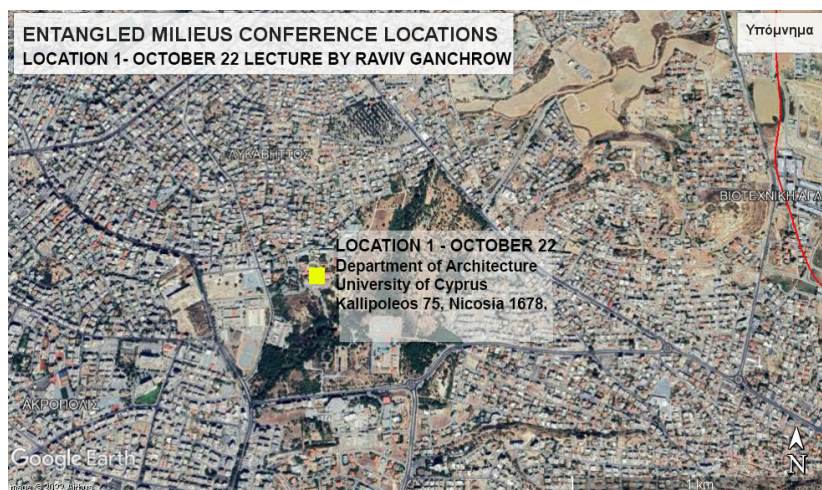
Conference locations

The “Entangled Milieus: Co-constituting a Shared Futurity” conference operates on three locations:



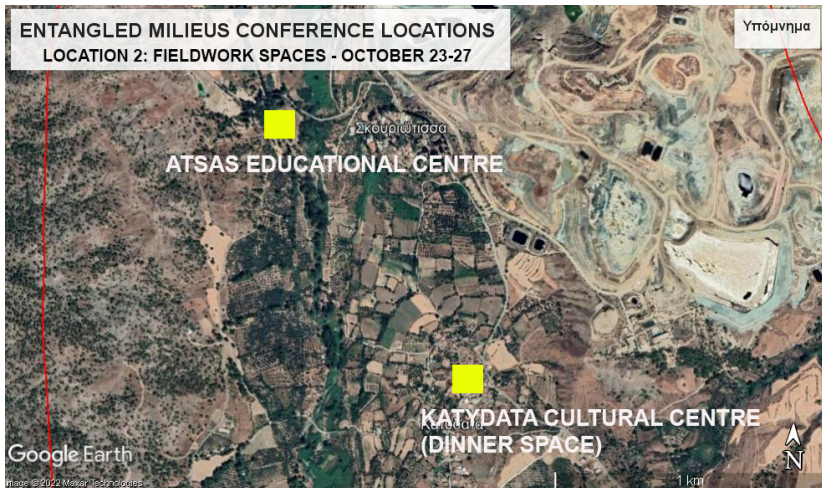
Location 1 (October 22):

Department of Architecture, The University of Cyprus, Kallipoleos 75,
Nicosia 1678



Location 2 (October 23 to 27)

Atsas Educational Centre and Katydata Cultural Centre, Katydata



Location 3 (October 28 and 29):

Phaneromeni School, 28th of October square, Nicosia 1011 (old city)



All photographs courtesy of Socrates Stratis

For any additional information or question, please contact:
entangledmilieus@gmail.com

You can also call the organizers at: **+357 99497807.**

