16 - 17 December 2022
EPFL, Lausanne
Switzerland

Post-extraction territories in transition
Designing the socio-ecological transition in post-carbon marginal spaces

habitat@epfl.ch
Call for Participation

Send a motivation letter + CV by 20th November 2022 to habitat@epfl.ch

16 – 17 December 2022
Friday, 16th December 14h00 – 19h00
Saturday, 17th December 9h00-18h00

International PhD Seminar
Post-extraction territories in transition: Designing the socio-ecological transition in post-carbon marginal spaces

Premise

The International PhD Seminar Post-extraction territories in transition: Designing the socio-ecological transition in post-carbon marginal spaces proposes a European and transatlantic dialogue around the questions of the social and ecological transition (post-carbon) of marginal spaces, namely the territories of exploitation as the ancient coal territories on the two sides of the Atlantic. The Seminar aims to provide initial cartography of the current research on critical scenarios of post-extraction and marginal spaces.

The post-extraction marginal spaces are characterized by a condition of permanent land exploitation due both to the past extractive phase and to present processes of strong ecological impact, shortage of resources, and negligible investments. As a result, these areas experience stagnation and lower pressure from an economic growth standpoint. Nevertheless, these territories inherit a high environmental and cultural quality - also given by technical and industrial processes that have marked their development - and a rooted identity that underlies a dormant social and human capital.

Given these premises, these territories could be seen as a laboratory to investigate a socio-ecological transition. In a panorama of energetic instability, resource contraction, landscape erosion, and climate urgency, we advocate for new proposals for the socio-environmental reconciliation of these territories and a new gaze that considers them as subjects of their transformation.

Indeed, these post-extraction marginal spaces can be seen as a suitable laboratory to test the hypotheses of the socio-ecological transition. The first hypothesis strikes on the need to recover their urban qualities. Complementary, the second hypothesis examines the historical potentialities of these territories that can emerge as drivers and pioneers of the socio-ecological transition.

Scientific Committee

Prof Paola Viganò (LAB-U ENAC EPFL)
Prof Elena Cogato Lanza (LAB-U ENAC EPFL)
Prof Tom Avermaete (gta ETH Zürich)
Organization

The Seminar is an initiative of the Habitat Research Center, ENAC EPFL, and is part of the doctoral study plan of the EDAR program of the EPFL Doctoral School (EDOC). The event seeks to reinforce ongoing collaborations and foster future international collaborations on the topic.

Admission

The 15 doctoral students attending the Seminar will be selected based on a motivation letter in English or French (max. 500 words) and a CV. The abovementioned documents should be submitted by November 20th, 2022, via email to habitat@epfl.ch.

The Seminar is addressed to doctoral students in the fields of Architecture, Urbanism, Urban History, Landscape, Geography, and Environmental Sciences, as well as Humanities and Political and Social Sciences interested in the topic.

PhD students’ presentations

During the seminar, doctoral students will be required to give a short presentation (max. 10 minutes) related to the proposed topic. The Seminar's official languages are English and French.

Output

Following the seminar discussion, a short report should be returned to habitat@epfl.ch until February the 21st, 2023. The PhD students are encouraged to position their contribution by correlating their current research with the readings, keynote conferences, and discussions.

As an EDAR Course, the seminar will give access to 2 ECTS credits. For more information, contact habitat@epfl.ch.