

FARMER WILLI GOES ALMERÍA



POLITICS FOR ALIENATION
LANDSCAPES OF CAPITALOCENE

Global (Eco)Systems

The ongoing industrialization and urbanization of our environment is the main driver of depletion on our planet. These changes are human-made, which is why we speak today of the Anthropocene: an unofficial unit of geologic time, used to describe the most recent period in Earth's history when human activity started to have a significant impact on the planet's climate and ecosystems. ^[1]

The concept of the Anthropocene sees humanity equally responsible for this change. But it was mainly Western societies that emitted and benefited from the massive industrialization and are triggering the ongoing urbanization of our environment. From a relative point of view, it was the capital that drove Western societies. This is why other scholars such as environmental historian and political economist Jason W. Moore have been prompted to recast the notion of the Anthropocene, with the more nuanced and connective concept of the Capitalocene.

Seminar Week
HS 2021 @Almeria, Spain
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Local (Eco)Systems

The Spanish city of Almería, in the region of Andalusia, is one such place where different global systems collide and take built form. Known as Europe's plastic sea, it is the largest greenhouse in the world. The industrialized production of food requires certain production conditions: extraction of resources such as land and water, combined with cheap labour and corresponding habitats. The region is also a gateway to Europe for many African migrants. According to local authorities, last year more than 400 boats with a total of around 12.000 migrants arrived in Almería, supplying further labour for the region's 100.000-plus workforce. ^[2]

Yet, Almería was not always dominated by industrialized agriculture. It is merely an episode in its recent history. Nearby, there are other places of cultivation and growth. For instance, in the northern town of Tabernas: located in Europe's only desert, the place became the global film set for Western movies.

with Severin Bärenbold, Arno Brandlhuber, Marta Fernandez Guardado, Olaf Grawert, Angelika Hinterbrandner, Roberta Jurcic and Meghan Rolvien

For years, production teams from all over the world came to Spain, to re-enact the story of man's conquest of nature. While in Cabo de Gata National Park, not far to the east, illegal hotel developments emerged, trying to get their share of growing mass tourism.

We will visit these places as part of an integrated seminar week. From Almeria, to El Ejido, Nijar, Tabernas, Cabo de Gata and Carboneras. On site, we will take the time to discover and explore the context. In free tours, in different formats and with various media.

Travel Dates: 25.10. - 29.10.2021
Cost Category: B (CHF 251–500,-)

Please note that the costs for transport are not included. The choice of transportation means is up to the individual student. Earlier arrival and departure is possible.

^[1] www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/anthropocene/
^[2] www.dw.com/en/spains-sea-of-plastic-where-europe-gets-its-produce-migrants-get-exploited