

Un-building: Urbanization and the Geographies of Extraction

by Salma Abouelhossein

(Tentative) Structure of the Lab:

Week 1: Introduction to the lab

Hutton, Jane Elizabeth. *Reciprocal Landscapes: Stories in Material Movement*. London ; New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2020.

Check the following websites:

<https://egy-map.com/>

https://publicworksstudio.com/sites/default/files/beyond_cement_0.pdf

<https://design-earth.org/exhibitions/>

<https://www.feralatlas.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/@wizy82/videos>

Part 1: Theoretical foundations

Week 2: Urbanization and the transformation of the earth:

Mumford, Lewis. "The natural history of urbanization" in William T. Thomas ed., *Man's Role in the Changing Face of the Earth*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1956, 382-400.

Brenner, Neil, and Nikos Katsikis. "Operational Landscapes: Hinterlands of the Capitalocene." *Architectural Design* 90, no. 1 (2020): 22–31. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ad.2521>.

Week 3: Ecology II: Anthropocene / Capitalocene / Plantationocene

Moore, Jason W. "Introduction: Anthropocene or Capitalocene? Nature, History, and the Crisis of Capitalism." In *Anthropocene or Capitalocene? Nature, History, and the Crisis of Capitalism*, 1–13. Oakland, CA: PM Press, 2016.

Wolford, Wendy. "The Plantationocene: A Lusotropical Contribution to the Theory." *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, February 11, 2021, 1–18. (optional)

Podcast: Reflections on the Plantationocene: a conversation with Donna Haraway and Anna Tsing: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/3kq7IIJpoGEtI2M9VlexR4?si=64b0bc851c49456c>

Week 4: Ecology I: Metabolism and unequal ecological exchange

Foster, John Bellamy. "Marx's Theory of Metabolic Rift: Classical Foundations for Environmental Sociology." *American Journal of Sociology* 105, no. 2 (September 1999): 366–405.

Moore, Jason W. "Environmental Crises and the Metabolic Rift in World-Historical Perspective." *Organization & Environment* 13, no. 2 (June 2000): 123–57.

Bunker, Stephen G. *Underdeveloping the Amazon: Extraction, Unequal Exchange, and the Failure of the Modern State*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988. (Chapters 1 and 2)

Week 5: Alternative perspectives

Brenner, Neil. *Critique of Urbanization: Selected Essays*. Bauwelt Fundamente 156. Gütersloh : Basel: Bauverlag ; Birkhäuser, 2017. (Selected sections: p. 186 – 223)

Swyngedouw, E. "Metabolic Urbanization: The Making of Cyborg Cities." In *In the Nature of Cities: Urban Political Ecology and the Politics of Urban Metabolism*, edited by Nik Heynen, Maria Kaika, and E. Swyngedouw, 21–40. Questioning Cities Series. London ; New York: Routledge, 2006.

Harvey, David. "Cities or Urbanization?" *City* 1, no. 1–2 (January 1996): 38–61.

Podcast: Anti-capitalist chronicles by David Harvey. Listen to: 'Dumping Surplus Capital' and 'The Urbanization of China'. (Alternatively, read: David Harvey, "The urbanization of capital", in *The Urban Experience*. Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press, 1989, 17-58.)

Week 6: Reflections and Projects discussion 1

Part II: Developing our Tools of Investigation

Week 7: Nature's metropolis

Cronon, William. *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*. 3. print. New York: Norton, 1992.

Guest speaker: About Concrete (TBC)

Week 8: Staying with the trouble

Tsing, Anna Lowenhaupt. *The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2015.

Check out: <https://www.feralatlas.org/>

Week 9: Planetary Mine

Arboleda, Martín. *Planetary Mine: Territories of Extraction under Late Capitalism*. Brooklyn: Verso Books, 2020.

Week 10: Food

McMichael, Philip. *Food Regimes and Agrarian Questions*. Agrarian Change & Peasant Studies 2. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing, 2013.

Podcast: يد خفية #14: السيادة على الغذاء

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/7dB2Tlj1Ki0ExjHVwjvRDF?si=IwmRK6GVSl2l6bjRqgrSw>

(Guest speaker: TBC)

Week 11: Geographies of Waste

Ghosn, Rania, and El Hadi Jazairy. *Geographies of Trash*. New York ; Barcelona: Actar Publishers, 2015.