

Oliver Pye: For a labour turn in the environmental justice movement. Struggles over the social relations of nature and strategies for social-ecological transformation. This article discusses struggles in the social relations of nature and how these relate to strategies of social-ecological transformation and calls for a labour turn in the environmental and climate justice movement. Taking the rapid changes to the social-ecological landscape of the Kapuas River in Indonesia as a starting point, it shows how this “accumulation by dispossession” is connected to a “corporate food regime” that is embedded within global “postfordist relations of nature”. I then argue that the global production networks linking appropriation to exploitation should themselves be viewed as alienated steps in the social metabolism with nature. Struggles against accumulation by dispossession need to connect to the labour movement, which holds the key to overcome the alienated work that lies at the heart of society’s alienation with nature.

Kristina Dietz: Struggles over mining and the potentials for transformation. The case of La Colosa in Colombia. The article explores the political effects of popular consultations as a means of direct democracy in struggles over mining. Building on concepts from participatory and materialist democracy theory, it shows the transformative potentials of processes of direct democracy towards democratization and emancipation under, and beyond, capitalist and liberal democratic conditions. Empirically the analysis is based on a case study on the protests against the La Colosa gold mining project in Colombia. The analysis reveals that although processes of direct democracy in conflicts over mining cannot transform existing class inequalities and social power relations fundamentally, they can nevertheless alter elements thereof. These are for example the relationship between local and national governments, changes of the political agenda of mining and the opening of new spaces for political participation, where previously there were none. It is here where it’s emancipatory potential can be found.

Jan Brunner: Power resources of trade unions in agricultural transformation processes. An analysis of the sugarcane sector in the state of São Paulo. This paper focuses on labor, trade unions and their bargaining power in agricultural transformation processes. I analyze the effects of the transformation of the sugarcane sector in the state of São Paulo, Brazil, which led to increased unemployment, new forms of control over workers, a fragmentation of workers and to internal conflicts within unions. The power resources of manual and mechanized workers and of rural and transport worker unions were affected differently by those processes. Overall, the bargaining power and struggles of all workers and unions were weakened.

Anna Landherr and Jakob Graf: Neoliberal continuity in changing political winds. The power of Chile’s owner class over the country’s extractivist orientation. The article focuses on the question why Chile’s extractivist accumulation model is so stable despite ongoing protest, many years of a political left turn in Latin America and wide-ranging ecological damages caused by the extractive industries. It does not only take into account the appropriation of nature but analyses the appropriation of power by a small Chilean class of big company owners. The huge inequality which characterizes Chile’s society also shapes political power. The article distinguishes different power resources of Chile’s big business class and explains how these explain the surprising continuity of Chile’s extractivist economy in a socio-ecological deadlock.

Tanja Scheiterbauer: Revolutions and Revolts in North Africa revisited. The Importance of the Battles against the Valorisation of Land and Water for the recent Upheavals in Egypt and Tunisia. The article analyses the revolts in North Africa, namely Tunisia and Egypt. It contradicts the thesis, which is spread above all by the western media, that this is a “Facebook

revolution”, which is supported by urban youths of the middle class, who knew how to use the possibilities of new social media. Rather, it deals with the economic background and shows that the connection between the protests in urban centers and those in structurally marginalized rural areas needs to be investigated. The thesis: Without the processes of valorization of land and water, the social struggles before and after the revolts in North Africa in 2011 cannot be understood.

Patrick Schukalla: Becoming the Nuclear-Front-End&ÜI&. On the postponement of the „nuclear-extractive boundary“ to Tanzania. Uranium mining often escapes the attention of debates around the nuclear industries. The chemical elements’ representations are focused on the nuclear reactor. The article explores what I refer to as becoming the nuclear front – the uranium mining frontier’s expansion to Tanzania, its historical entanglements and current state. The geographies of the nuclear industries parallel dominant patterns and the unevenness of the global divisions of labour, resource production and consumption. Clearly related to the developments and expectations in the field of atomic power production, uranium exploration and the gathering of geological knowledge on resource potentiality remains a peripheral realm of the technopolitical perceptions of the nuclear fuel chain. Seen as less spectacular and less associated with high-technology than the better-known elements of the nuclear industry the article thus aims to shine light on the processes that pre-figure uranium mining by looking at the example of Tanzania.

Merle Groneweg, Hannah Pilgrim, Michael Reckordt: Beyond Dematerialization – Resource consumption by Industry 4.0/alternativ: Resource demands of Industry 4.0. In contrast to promises of dematerialization and resource efficiency, digitalized production – also known as Industry 4.0 – and the technologies required for this digitalization will create specific raw material demands. The article introduces the dominant discourses of Industry 4.0 and points out the interlinkages between new technologies, increasing raw materials demands and the social and ecological consequences of mining, particularly in the Gloal South. Furthermore, it demands a democratic and globally just resource politics.

Max Koch: The Naturalisation of Growth in Production and consumption: From Marx to the Regulation Approach toBourdieu. This paper analyses the hegemony of the growth paradigm through the example of its naturalisation in capitalist production and consumption relations. Applying a combination of theoretical elements from the Marxian tradition, the Regulation approach and Bourdieusian sociology, emphasis is placed on how the growth imperative is reflected in people’s minds and bodies. It becomes hegemonic because it appears to be the natural way of steering economy and society so that all people – including working people – benefit from the continuation of growth. To overcome the growth paradigm, activists would need to build on a crisis of the ‘objective’ structures of economy and society.

Felix Syrovatka, Etienne Schneider: The future of European economic integration. Blocked Deepening and Growing Asymmetry between France and Germany. After more than seven years of fiscal austerity and neoliberal structural reforms, the fundamental imbalances that led to the Eurozone crisis have remained unresolved and the project of European integration as such appears to be in the deepest crisis it has experienced so far. This has prompted the dominant forces in the EU to at least partially reconsider their present crisis management strategies, envisioning deeper integration towards a “Genuine Economic and Monetary Union” and outlining different future scenarios for the EU. While especially the Five President’s Report does acknowledge fundamental construction problems and crisis tendencies of the Economic and Monetary Union, the strategies to address them either fall tremendously short

of this diagnosis or lack assertiveness. We argue that this inability to confront these crisis tendencies results from the growing economic and political asymmetry in the axis between France and Germany as the principal mechanism of compromise which undergirded previous cycles of European economic integration. At the bottom of this paralysis lies a gradual shift in the dominant internationalization patterns of the German political economy within the European division of labor: away from Southern Europe and France and towards Eastern Europe and the Emerging Markets.

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