

The Landscapes of Waste: Ecosocial Perspectives

This conference will convene a select group of invited scholars to engage in critical reflection on waste landscapes within (post)authoritarian contexts. Bringing together philosophers, historians, organization scholars, and sociologists, the event aims to examine the spatialities, landscapes, and heritage practices that intersect with questions of authoritarianism, particularly through the lens of technocratic approaches to industrial and nuclear waste. Waste will be explored as an ecosocial marker, situated at the crossroads of disciplinary perspectives and functioning as a crucial diagnostic of contemporary conditions. Discussions will focus on how technologies and industrial infrastructures shape landscapes; how the technological and industrial dimensions of construction, maintenance, abandonment, memory, and disaster inform our relationship with the environment and milieu; how they contribute to the atmosphere and texture of lived experience; and how emerging challenges and encounters with waste and disasters reshape our modes of being-in-the-world.

Conference organisers:

Marija Drėmaitė,
Vilnius University / PAScapes

Eglė Rindzevičiūtė,
Kingston University / PAScapes

Mintautas Gutauskas,
Vilnius University / PAScapes

Contact person:

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The programme

Wednesday, 17 December 2026

09.30 – 10.00

Welcome

10:00 – 11:00

Mintautas Gutauskas,
The Insignificance and the Sublime of Waste

11:00 – 12:00

Eglė Rindzevičiūtė,
From Castle Mounds to Landfill Mountains: The Politics of Inheritance and Destruction in Late Soviet and Post-Soviet Waste Landscapes in Lithuania

12:00 – 13:30

Lunch break

13:30 – 14:30

Axel Andersson,
The Pharmacological Cairn: Nuclear Waste and the Centralized State

14:30 – 15:30

Victoria Donovan,
TOXIC COMMONING in Ukraine's Industrial Borderlands: Making Waste Culture in Lysychansk, Mariupol, and Siverskodonetsk

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00

Marko Marila,
The Principle of Hope in Environmental Art

17:00 – 18:00

Francisco Martinez Sanchez,
Digging Shadows: The Ecological Memory of Soviet Modernity

18:00 – 20:00

Reception

Thursday, 18 December 2026

09.00 – 10.00

Patrick Zapata,
Authoritarian Waste Regimes and the Politics of Commoning. Learning from the case of Nicaragua's La Chureca

10:00 – 11:00

Kristupas Sabolius,
On Compost-ability

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30

Vaiva Daraškevičiūtė,
Beyond the Visuality of Anthropocene Landscapes: Waste, Abjection, Uncanny

12:30 – 13:30

Saulius Geniušas,
Phenomenology of Solastalgia: From Transcendental Homelessness to Transcendental Placelessness

13:30 – 14:30

Lunch break

14:30 – 15:30

Svitlana Matviyenko,
DONETSK CHORNOBYL:
The Deep Time of Warfare

15:30 – 16:30

Nicolas De Warren,
Living Alone in a World of Wounds: Life in the Aftermath in Kimura Yūsuke's Sacred Cesium Ground, Indra Sinha's Animal's People, and Strugatsky Brothers' Roadside Picnic

16:30 – 17:00

Reflection / Wrap up