

120420 [10:00 - 18:00]

stream: https://princeton.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Nx__yG9MTF-7-nQMcoBh8w

ARC 504 FINAL REVIEW

Welfare Earth: Posthuman Keynesianism

Alejandro Zaera-Polo with Jane Ilyasova



A discussion with:

Lucia Allais, Jeffrey Anderson, Sylvester Black, Elie Bou-Zeid, Igor Bragado, Luis Callejas, Nerea Calvillo, Eva Franch i Gilabert, Miles Gertler, Francesca Hughes, Axel Kilian, Andreas Klok Pedersen, Maider Llaguno-Munitxa, Daniel López-Pérez, Forrest Meggers, Débora Mesa Molina, Ciro Najle, Dietmar Offenhuber, Lluís Ortega, Mahadev Raman, Carlo Ratti, and Meredith TenHoor

1.5 million new yorkers without internet

A Prototype for Universal Broadband Access.

[10:00] Christina Moushoul

1 tree/second

Flat-Packed Future. A Collaborative Approach to Furniture in Pittsburgh, PA.

[10:40] Chase Galis

198 lbs/capita

The Meat Effect. A Dietary Transition Center in Fort Worth, TX.

[11:20] Mitzy Gonzalez

218 tons of biomass/year

Food Futures. Aquaculture Hub in Tolo Harbor, Hong Kong.

[12:00] Joseph Lee

80,000 tons of construction waste/year

Reuse and Disassembly. A New Construction Ecology for Wuhan's Industry Transition.

[12:40] Beidi Zhang

10 dB of noise mitigation

Ambient Tuning. Outdoor Acoustic Attenuation at Denver International.

[13:20] Peter Pak

300 tons of produce/year

GreenMarts. Recycling Abandoned Big-Box Stores into Food Hubs in NJ.

[14:40] Ruta Misiunas

17,050,000 btu/hour

Power Park. Energy Parasitism in Shanghai.

[15:20] Chloe Qiu

50,000 liters of potable water/day

Cloud Dams. Catching Fog in Lima's Coastal Hills.

[16:00] Fiorella Barreto

4.4 million cubic meters of stored snow

Harvesting Snow. A 190 000 MWh Cooling Plant in Francon Quarry, Montreal.

[16:40] Reese Lewis

137 tons of nitrogen compounds

Ruralizing Citizens. Organic Waste Recycling Infrastructure in Huaiyin District. Jinan.

[17:20] Ai Teng

“We are genetically 99.5% alike. But we spend 99.5% of our time focused on that 0.5% that is different.” —Bill Clinton

This Fall 2020, ARC504 has been deepening its customary focus on contemporary ecological concerns and their environmental, political and economic implications. We are inspired by the emerging conflicts and alignments between ecological imperatives and social justice as illustrated by the Gilets Jaunes’ fight against environmental taxes on behalf of social justice, or the proven correlation between affluence and urban environmental quality.

We are intrigued by the growing conflicts between ecology and populism, on multiple fronts: climate change, pandemics, environmental degradation... At this time of radical fragmentation of reality into parallel disconnected universes, an ecological performance seems to become not only a worthwhile common ground and endeavor, but also a model where multiple entities are necessarily bound with each other into a system that transcends them as identities, classes or types. Could it be that political ecology can become the alternative to the politics of identity and populism? Should we suspend human concerns for a while, to be able to retrieve a common thread between these diverging universes? Can the natural sciences become a lingua franca?

We are increasingly confident that in the face of the increasing fragmentation, we need to claim that there is only one truth and all we can do is to approximate it through expertise, through experimentation, through intelligence and evidence. We will never own it entirely, but we can reduce substantially the “tolerances” of our approximation, instead of investing our efforts in the creation of “alternative truths” by representing and intensifying identities.

This term, the dynamics of the studio projects have taken us to develop technologies and possibilities for public investment on environmental and ecological interventions in cities around the globe, as part of a new socio-ecological contract - the New Green Deal, the European Green Deal, China’s Green Revolution or Bezos Earth Fund. Our hypothesis is that governments and public administrations worldwide will have to act urgently on the climate/environmental/ecological crisis which are now turning into a global economic disaster. Massive public investments will be imminently deployed to address these issues in the near future. Unlike the first wave of the Welfare State, the immediate beneficiary of these investments will be non-human - the atmosphere, the oceans, flora and fauna... Interventions and infrastructures for natural and artificial ecologies will radically transform the cities of the near future. This is the biggest opportunity for a generation.

The projects are aimed to identify opportunities to construct proposals for this Posthuman Keynesianism, which replaces the customary accounting of real estate in \$/m2 by alternative economies of matter, energy, carbon, nitrogen, water or biomass. The quantification of these future economies is a central consideration of the proposals, as a thread that transcends human and cultural qualifications.