



co-fabulating the waste terrain - a nebulous guide

transdisciplinary storytelling of waste through the mediterranean
a circular@action workshop
26-28 April 2023, Madrid, Spain.

This workshop is open to the students of EELISA Alliance
circle@action series is funded by the 1st EELISA Call for Joint Inter-Institutional Activities in Communities.
To apply and more details visit // <https://bit.ly/3FR5BDH>
Application deadline
31 March 2023 (ITU Students)
07 April 2023 (EELISA Students)

ITU



Sant'Anna
Scienze Superiori e Superiori Post



EELISA
European University

Circular
EELISA



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

co-fabulating the waste terrain - a nebulous guide

a transdisciplinary storytelling of waste through the mediterranean

Circular@[action] is a series of integrated activities structured to introduce an innovative and creative platform to rethink education in European universities and explore alternatives for responsive, inclusive and interactive learning environments and strong communities. Promoting the incorporation of a mindset that favours the transition to the circular economy, as stated in the Circular EELISA Community vision, the series spanning from January'23 to December'23 attempts to tackle the circular challenges and socio-civic competencies in the form of research by critical practice. While the activities incorporate staff and student mobilities in experiential learning and knowledge exchange built upon diverse perceptions and knowledge claims, each integrated associated activity uses an alternative methodology. Circularity is transformed into a manifest by which every locality adds upon different meanings while producing its responses to tackle the challenges. This series is funded by the 1st EELISA Call for Joint Inter-Institutional Activities in Communities.

R-mechanisms was the first workshop of the series, hosted by SSSA, Italy in Pisa, organised by ITU, Turkey and was aimed at the EELISA Alliance member universities. The workshop mimicked a Fordian assembly line, seeking to meet the students and staff of the partner universities in terms of how they design and think from an abstract word, while re-naming and defining materials, texture, and behaviour during the process, and rethinking the meaning of 'R' (recycle, reuse, refuse, reproduce, repair, recover, rethink, reduce...). It was a highly theatrical, instructive, and hands-on exercise.



[Performing the circular cumulus of R-mechanisms, 2023]

Following R-mechanisms, the series continues with **Co-fabulating the waste terrain - a nebulous guide**, the workshop is a transdisciplinary storytelling of the waste in the Mediterranean.

Waste must go somewhere:
When flimsy dams break,
When plastic sweeps out to sea,
In the unexpected forevers of plastic-lined landfills,
And the quick disintegration of "10,000 year" storage sites.

Vermin germ in ruin brewing
Noxious gas in ash and trash
Toxic flow and scummy clot
You are that which we are not:

Dump.

[from *Feral Atlas of Anna Tsing, 2020*]

The workshop is an attempt to map the advocative means to circularity within everyday life through co-fabulating the waste terrain of the Mediterranean, from Istanbul to Madrid. By accumulating the transdisciplinary knowledge of its participants, the workshop aims to build up a nebulous – an unpredictable guide to roam within the wasteful terrains of the Mediterranean where waste has multitudes of meanings and demands both anthropocenic and archeological inspections. Thus, inspired by the plural meanings of waste [a(r)tik-il rifiuto-los desperdicios-deşuri-der abfall], the workshop speculatively fabulates the poetic within the many connotations of waste. Spanning from micro-narratives to the anthropocenic, terrestrial negotiations, our nebulous guide roams within the various faces of waste; such as the illicit toxic waste trade shipments from Europe to the new terrains of consumption of the anthropocene age; the wastelands to the human waste; from the Unswept floor mosaics of the Ancient Roman to the mukbang Youtube videos; the refugee; the garbage collector; the dumpster-diver; the *gleaner*; the illicit worker; the truck; the *carrier-bag* – dubiously so-called, the “unwanted”, “unusable” and “overlooked.” The Mediterranean, in this sense, has a particular significance as being one of the leading routes for this never ending mobilities of meanings of waste. “The history of humankind could be told through the history of producing waste” once said, thus *Co-fabulating the waste terrain* is a call to collectively reimagine the various connotations and meanings of waste by tracing the production and consumption narratives – mapping the uncircular.

This workshop aims to discuss novel methodologies and mappings of circularity by following the waste trails with a particular spatial focus of associated localities/ terrains and looking at different anthropocentric formations as a medium of negotiation. What do we know about waste? How and when do we define waste? What are the politics and ethics of waste? What creative practices waste evokes? *Can we design waste?* Circularity in that sense is transformed into a manifest by which every locality adds upon different meanings while producing its responses to tackle the challenges.

Co-fabulating the waste terrain is a three day workshop for transdisciplinary storytelling, hosted by UPM Spain in Madrid and organised by ITU, Turkey. This is a workshop for students from all disciplines – in fact we are pursuing all scales of transdisciplinary encounters between students of undergraduate and graduate level. Circular@[action] is a series of integrated activities and students who participate in any of the events could participate in the final event, the summer school in Istanbul. *Co-fabulating the waste terrain* will be finalised with an exhibition of the workshop, and all participants will receive circular EELISA badges and certificates. Partial Funding and support are available for students’ visa processes, travel, accommodation via their Institutions.

Co-fabulating the wasteful terrain begins below:

Bauman, Z. (2004). *Wasted Lives: Modernity and Its Outcasts*, Polity, Oxford.

Haraway, D. (2016). *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene*. Duke University Press.

Le Guin, U. (1986). *The Carrier Bag Theory of Fiction*.

Riebeling, Z., (2022). Waste and historicity in the Anthropocene, *Rethinking History*, 26:3, 319-339, DOI: 10.1080/13642529.2022.2103620.

Swyngedouw, E. (2017). More-Than-Human Constellations as Immuno-Biopolitical Fantasy in the Urbicene. *New Geographies* (9): Posthuman, 18-23. Actar Publishers.

Thill, B., (2015). *Waste (Object Lessons)*, Bloomsbury Publishing.

Tsing, A.L. (2017). *The Mushroom at the End of the World: on the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins*. Princeton University Press.

Tsing, A.L., Deger, J., Keleman Saxena, A., Zhou, F. (2020). *Feral Atlas: The More-Than-Human Anthropocene*, Redwood City: Stanford University.

<https://www.linealight.com/en-gb/case-histories/venice-biennale-2016-let-s-talk-about-garbage/70>

<https://kailoeffelbein.com/ctrl-x-a-topography-of-e-waste>

<https://www.onassis.org/whats-on/circular-cultures>

<https://feralatlus.supdigital.org/poster/the-garbage-can-is-a-vessel-carrying-your-spent-consumables-on-the-first>

<https://feralatlus.supdigital.org/modes/dump>

*The readings and links above are highly recommended for reading, watching prior to the workshop.

Itinerary

25 April 2023 Tuesday

morning Arrival and checking of the workshop venue

16:00- 17:30 Meeting the participants, and welcoming them to the workshop _ short presentation about the workshop series. Seminar on the project + Madrid

19:00 - Dinner

26 April 2023 Wednesday

09:30 - 12:30 Field trip _ preselected Madrid neighbourhood... to observe, document, map, record ...

13.30 - 18.00 studio work

18:00 Wrap-up of the day — whats hows transdisciplinary storytelling

27 April 2023 Thursday

09:30 - 18.00 Meeting — studio work

18:00 wrap-up of the day.

28 April 2023 Friday

10:00- 16.00 Meeting — studio work

16:00 Exhibition installation, Exhibition & Distribution of the Certificates

*Students will be arriving in Madrid on the 25th of April Tuesday and will be expected to be present at the UPM campus on the 26th morning.

Calendar

<ITU>

24 - 29 March Open Call for ITU

31 March Announcement of the results for ITU

31 March Apply to Visa

25 April Arrival

<International>

24 - 7 April International Open Call

10 April Announcement of the international results (invitation letters to be sent from ITU)

25 April Arrival