

New Ecologies. A lexicon for the XXI century, by Giovanni Tusa

Organized by the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts (IDSVA)

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The lecture/seminar will introduce the student to the latest and more urgent themes in continental philosophy, critical theory and contemporary art theory in the XXI century while also giving the student an overview of more classical issues of critical humanities and philosophy of arts.

The Greek term *oikes* refers both to the “house” and to the “environmental” (eco-logy). By taken up the polysemic etymology of the term, the seminar will discuss the violent deconstruction, re-shaping and profanation of urban spaces and what we are used to describe as “nature”.

The seminar departs from the hypothetical difference between two concepts of the catastrophe in relation to ecology: one being Goethe's definition of the Lisbon earthquake from 1755 as an “extraordinary world-event” [*außerordentliches Weltereignis*]; and the other driving towards an argumentation that we witness since the “atomic age” a continuous sequence of economical, environmental, social catastrophes that eventually goes beyond the human possibility of any “reordering”.

The seminar proposes several readings and screenings that however revolve around comparable issues: a thinking beyond the dichotomies of nature and culture, the question of technology, the future of *praxis*. But the seminar will also discuss humanist theories of ecology, which have traditionally concentrated upon the importance of preserving nature for the sake of humanity. Recent posthumanist theories of the environment, by contrast, emphasise the need of placing “nature” in a decentered position, in a new relationship with a “posthuman” world. After the culture of the “end”, after the cult of catastrophe, and after the two events-limit called “Hiroshima” and “Auschwitz”, the seminar proposes readings and screenings that rethink a world that, after many “ends”, still remains.



Areti Georgilis of Free Thinking Zone addressing IDSVA students in Athens, summer 2017, for the first IDSVA Athens symposium with Giovanni Tusa (center), Elina Staikou, and Simonetta Moro. Photo: Jonathan Morgan (IDSVA PhD candidate, cohort '15).