Co-creative ecolinguistics for environmental planning

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Résumé

Modality: In person
Translation/Interpreting requirements: None

Duration: 4 hours

Number of participants: Min. 6, max. 12 people

Abstract: Ecolinguistics can be employed to empower individuals and communities, enabling processes that reshape human attitudes towards the rest of nature. This effort has been most notably conducted at the crossroads of environmental activism and engaged academia, with encouraging results in the context of contentious politics (see e.g. the notion and practice of guerilla narratives, in Braucher and Armiero, 2023). In comparison, much less attention has been devoted to transforming techno-political discourses articulated by environmental bureaucracies. This workshop aims at exploring this uncharted territory, by offering a hands-on approach to unearth and transform bureaucratic discourses that normalize extractivist, business-as-usual approaches to social-ecological relations. We will focus in particular on texts produced to support decision-making in the field of environmental and territorial planning. To this end, we will work on a small corpus of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) documents, employed for the approval of large infrastructural projects. Participants will experiment with a co-creative eco-linguistic protocol (Brombal et al., *In press*), designed to assist in (a) the identification of discourses detrimental to social-ecological relations; and (b) the re-storying of such documents, laying the ground for more holistic considerations of projects' impacts, incorporating the dimensions of ethics, aesthetics, and emotions. Concrete cases to be considered may be selected in a collaborative fashion with registered participants, a few weeks prior to the conference. This preparatory process would allow us to carefully choose places, sectors, and stories participants feel connected to, thus enhancing the workshop's efficacy and impact.

Reference List: (1) Braucher, C., & Armiero, M. (2023). The Dark Side of the White Alps: Guerrilla Narratives in the Marble Landscape of Tuscany. Resistance: A Journal of Radical Environmental Humanities 11(1), 105-123. https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/res.2023.a931668; (2) Brombal, D., Foggin, M., Pearson, K.R., Del Bene, D., Cui, MM., Moriggi, A., Razmkhah, A., Lora Wainwright, A., Peterson, C., Kolipaka, S., Tritto, A., Owiti, J., Okyere-Manu, B. (In press). Life Beyond the Checklist: Revitalizing the Potential of Environmental Impact Assessments Through Co-Creation., Environmental Impact Assessment Review.

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