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PAR is based on stakeholder involvement throughout the research process, seamlessly integrating the moments of knowledge generation, action and intervention (Reason and Bradbury, 2006; McTaggart, 1997). The result is twofold: the regeneration of community participatory processes and the creation of shared knowledge capable of driving tangible social change in local sociocultural-ecological systems.

Following a critical contextualization of PAR in rural areas, we reflect on the insights emerging from the PRIMA-funded OURMed project, which promoted the activation of Living Labs in the Mediterranean. Living Labs were centered on social and cultural capital, and they were designed as participatory spaces for building shared knowledge, integrating community tacit knowledge and scientific knowledge. Living Labs facilitate the co-design (Busse et al., 2023) of sustainable development and the activation of context-specific and innovative participatory community regeneration processes.

The main results of the PAR activities include raising awareness of diverse community interests and interdependencies, fostering empowerment of marginalized stakeholders, and building new synergies between public institutions and local communities.

We also discuss critical methodological and epistemological challenges encountered in implementing Living Labs in Mediterranean rural areas, including semantic and conceptual stretching, the role of time, researcher positioning, stakeholder mapping, and the interplay of cultural, social, and ecological innovation. Addressing these challenges is crucial for ensuring the effectiveness of participatory processes in transforming rural Mediterranean sociocultural-ecological systems.

RC47-738.3

DERMAN, ÖZGE* (Researcher, Paris, Turkey)

Landscapes of Culture

This paper offers to rethink about the relationship between culture and nature, particularly in the context of performative direct actions within the climate movement. Museums, as the guardians of art and culture, the spaces of visibility for and exposition of culture and history, are confined public spaces where the climate activists penetrate in an attempt to make the public deliberate on issues affecting the future of the planet. How and why do they consider their gestures targeting the artworks, such as throwing soup or paint onto paintings, as nonviolent direct actions, as opposed to most of the media and justice system labeling them as violent, criminal acts of vandalism? As one of the activists expresses, “far from destroying but fostering a form of sensitivity” from within the heart of culture, “works [are] chosen to bring visibility to the spaces and landscapes we’re about to lose.” These direct actions revisit the relationship between culture and nature, rather than using culture as a framework to give meaning to nature. Their meaning shifts into interdependent, relational, and transactional concepts on different levels.

RC02-JS-198.2

DESAI, MANALI* (University of Cambridge, United Kingdom)

Gendered Violence and the Dialectic of Context and Comparison: Insights from India and South Africa

This paper starts with an apparent paradox. Although gendered violence has existed in all societies and across time (as quantified through the fact that globally 1 in 3 women have faced physical or sexual violence), it is contextually produced in particular times and places. Violence, in other words, is general and particular at the same time. In contrast to broad theories of violence, and policy frameworks such as ‘What Works,’ I argue that violence is not only an act or event, but has a ‘social life’ that includes the meanings and rationales attributed to violence, the language through which it is talked about or deflected, in the context of historically developed institutions and political-economies. When we treat violence as a set of discrete acts rather than as a repertoire (Tilly) or sign (Das), the methodological corollary is to identify the underlying factors or variables that cause violence. This paper will argue that such approaches cannot account for the proliferation of violence, historical continuities in violence, as well as shifts in forms of violence in particular societies. However, this is not an argument for descriptive particularity; there is much we can learn by combining comparison *and* contextual arguments. This paper will draw upon research conducted as part of the ESRC project ‘Urban Transformation and Gendered Violence in India and South Africa’ (2020-24) to show that rather than eliding the contextual specificities of violence, juxtaposing two cases can generate important and unique insights through their similarities and differences.

RC05-69.3

DESAI, MANISHA* (Stony Brook University, USA)

Hindu Nationalism and Its Circulation and Challenges in the United States

In this keynote presentation I examine the complex circulation of Hindu nationalism in the United States and the challenges to it from within the fold. I begin with the complicity and entanglements of contemporary Hindu nationalism with racism and its erasure of the struggles of BIPOC people in the United States as it does in India. I then situate it within the history of progressive Indian nationalism and contemporary challenges to it by groups such as Hindus for Human Rights who explicitly work within a framework of solidarity with anti-racist and social justice movements across race, religion, and ethnicity concluding with the possibilities of such political work.

RC24-JS-197.5

DESJARDINS, LAURENT* (Université Laval, Canada)

Sur Le Dépassement De L’impuissance Politique Pour Une Culture Écologiste.

Nous nous pencherons dans le cadre de cette communication sur les potentiels contemporains de dépassement du « malaise démocratique » présent dans plusieurs pays occidentaux. Dans le sillage de la philosophe pragmatiste Joëlle Zask, nous proposons que le dépassement de ce malaise est nécessaire à l’établissement d’une culture écologiste. Cette présentation sera en outre l’occasion de présenter certaines données qualitatives issues d’une enquête ethnographique effectuée à la « Cité écologique », dans le cadre d’une thèse de doctorat (Université Laval).

Nous expliquerons dans un premier temps ce qu’on entend par « malaise démocratique ». Cette expression du sociologue Jan Spurk se manifeste concrètement dans plusieurs sondages qui montrent que les citoyen.ne.s québécois.e.s et canadien.nes sont attaché.e.s à la démocratie, mais sont majoritairement insatisfait.e.s de la manière dont elle est pratiquée aujourd’hui, tout en ne sachant pas comment dépasser cet état. Il s’agit d’un « sentiment d’impuissance politique » qui doit être résolu afin d’envisager une culture écologiste.

Nous proposerons dans un deuxième temps quelques pistes pour ce dépassement, basées sur des données qualitatives empiriques. Il se développe à la Cité écologique une culture d’« encapacitation » correspondant dans une large mesure à ce que les pragmatistes ont appelé la « démocratie comme mode de vie ». Les habitant.e.s semblent avoir assimilé un « ethos démocratique » grâce à certaines conditions sociales, notamment : une pédagogie alternative et continuelle basée sur la « méthode de l’expérience » ; un travail du territoire par ses habitant.e.s afin de le rendre productif ; une « spiritualisation » des objets matériels ; un système de pensée existentialiste et humaniste basé sur des préceptes concrets, tel que la « communication non violente » ; et enfin, un « bricolage » administratif et légal afin de collectiviser les biens, la terre, et les revenus monétaires.

WG10-JS-42.5

DESPIC, JELENA* (Institute of Social Sciences, Serbia)
CUKUT KRILIĆ, SANJA (ZRC SAZU, Slovenia)

Transnational Care, Digital Literacy and Ageing in Emigration Areas: Eastern Serbia Case Study

The population of Serbia has a six-decade-long emigration tradition, and eastern Serbia (including Petrovac municipality) belongs to the oldest emigration zone with intensive labor emigration. In the vast majority of municipalities in this area, more than a third of its total population resides abroad, and the majority is low educated. Also, in the last two decades, census data record return migration of the population aged 60+. In addition, available census data on the population of Serbia abroad show that of the total number of dependents aged 60+ in the country whose dependent is abroad, 40% live in Serbia’s oldest emigration zone. On the other hand, census data from 2022 show that digital literacy in this part of Serbia is significantly below the average for the entire country. This particularly applies to the population 60+ in rural areas.

Emphasizing the agency of family members in the ways of maintaining close relations between origin and destination, and the social infrastructure of migration, the aim of the paper is to gain deeper insights into the practices of maintaining transnational family relations and care through digital technologies and social apps in the area of high emigration and with a high proportion of the aged population (Petrovac municipality). In addition to the data of official statistics, the paper presents the findings of qualitative research through semi-structured interviews with returnees aged 60+ and

their family members, as well as officials in the social protection service in the municipality of Petrovac. The paper discusses the main challenges and benefits that digital technologies provide to respondents in this regard, as well as the attitude of the municipal services towards the possibilities of providing assistance to elderly (returnee) fellow citizens in overcoming digital challenges in transnational communication.

RC39-635.3

DESPORTES, ISABELLE* (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Germany)
FUENTEALBA, RICARDO* (Universidad de O'Higgins, Chile)

Disaster Resistance: Conceptualisation and Illustrations from Chile and France

Key disaster concepts are currently being re-examined and re-politicized as part of Critical Disaster Studies. The social critique of resilience for instance, by no means new and trending since the 2010s, increasingly seeks to draw out the transformative potential inherent to the concept. Conversely, resistance is a relative newcomer to disaster studies, and deserves particular scrutiny. In this paper, we approach the field of tension between efforts to enlarge the spatio-temporal and thematic scale through which disasters are interpreted and acted upon, and efforts to actively restrict that scale. We conceptualize the former as 'resistance', contrast it with uses of the term in existing disaster literature, and illustrate it with empirical vignettes from Chile and France.

Both countries have seen successive waves of public service privatization and social mobilisations, although with varying pace and intensity. While Chilean disaster policy has evolved since 2022 and disasters have been reinterpreted as social phenomena, disaster risks are still managed technically and linked to specific agendas, some of which are heavily contested in the context of emerging social mobilizations since 2019. In France, the socio-political aftermath of the first megafires to ever hit the country in 2022 highlights the numerous ways through which state and non-state actors draw back on the fires to advance their agenda, be it to make room for new fossil fuel extraction (as is the case for the French government) or to advocate on the topic of climate displacement (as is the case for Oxfam France). In both Chile and France, various actors change the focus through which disasters are interpreted. As such, our paper describes how myriad interpretations restrict or expand the political dimensions of disaster processes, leading potentially to transforming social relations and the material living conditions of present and future generations.

RC39-JS-191.3

DESPORTES, ISABELLE* (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Germany)

Disasters to Lobby for Change? Non-Governmental Organisations' Mobilisation after the 2022 Wildfires Close to Bordeaux, France

'Megafires' are amongst the most visible and dramatic manifestations of climate change. Termed as such because of their extreme size, complexity, uncontrollability and/or impacts, their occurrence is only expected to increase with a warming climate and other human-induced changes such as landscape modification. If we approach disasters as symptoms of our presently unsustainable societies, what role, then, could megafires and disasters more broadly play in lobbying for change, i.e. a just socio-ecological transformation? This paper explores the question based on qualitative fieldwork carried out in spring 2025 in Gironde, the first region to ever be hit by a megafire in France. The fires destroyed ca. 30,000 ha of land and led to the evacuation of more than 50,000 people in the summer of 2022. Secondary data analysis and semi-structured interviews with government and non-governmental actors help uncover how diverse actors draw back on the fires to advance their interests, with which results. For instance, Oxfam France relies on the evacuations to make its advocacy on climate refugees more tangible, while the civil society collective *« Stop Pétrole Bassin d'Arcachon »* mobilises against oil drills that the French government welcomes on land barred by the 2022 fires. Many others join the debate, bringing in factors as varied as faulty emergency response, austerity policies or ill adapted forest management and land use planning. The paper details how non-governmental organisations broaden their thematic focus to issues of justice and equity across the so-called Global North and Global South, and how they draw on elements as diverse as the materiality of disaster impacts, (re-)politicised framings, but also the deeper imaginaries associated to forests, fire and a 'burning world'.

RC48-766.1

DESRUES, THIERRY* (CSIC (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas), Spain)
GOBE, ÉRIC (Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS, IREMAM, France)

Protest Campaigns in Tunisia during the First Democratic Legislature (2014-19): A Cultural Turn and the Limitations of a New Generation of Activists

This communication analyses the cultural turn in youth activism in Tunisia, expressed in a series of protest campaigns during the first legislature of the post revolution democratic parliamentary experiment (2014-2021). Based in interviews, we first present the specificity of campaigns as a repertoire for protest actions. Secondly, we describe how a new generation of young activists challenged government decisions. Thirdly, we show that these mobilizations are mostly ad hoc and driven by micro-networks of left-wing activists who champion a new protest culture based internally on the horizontality of participation and decision-making; and externally on the use of innovative performances within a classical repertoire of action

WG10-920.3

DETLAF, TOMASZ* (University of Warsaw, Poland)

Large Language Models As a Tool for Argumentation Analysis: A Field Report from the Study of Parliamentary Debates on Abortion

Research on automated analysis of argumentation analysis is expanding rapidly. Current methods, however, depend on identifying argument indicators, such as conjunctions like "so," "then," and "because," which are often missing in real-world communication. As a result, researchers studying argumentation in large corpora face a choice between labour-intensive manual qualitative analysis or (semi)automated methods that can categorise general discourse topics but fail to detect implicit arguments. In this context, large language models (LLMs) offer a promising solution, as they can identify and categorise arguments by analysing natural language on an unprecedented scale.

I will evaluate this approach by comparing the results of argument identification and classification obtained from LLMs with findings from my research on the same corpora, which used both manual methods (qualitative rhetorical analysis) and automated techniques (topic modelling, semantic network analysis, and corpus linguistics methods such as collocate and keyword analysis). These analyses will focus on recent parliamentary debates about abortion law in Poland and Ireland. Parliamentary debates provide an ideal foundation for this study, as they are easily accessible through official transcripts and rich in pragmatically evident yet lexically implicit argumentation. For instance, when a speaker cites a court ruling aligned with their view, it is clear to listeners that the ruling is used as a premise in the speaker's argumentation, even without explicit argumentation markers, and that this line of argumentation might be classified as legal. Poland and Ireland are compelling cases for comparison, as both operate within the same global and regional human rights systems but have recently taken opposing paths in abortion legislation.

The proposed analysis will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of using LLMs to analyse real-world argumentation and provide initial guidelines for their application. Additionally, it will explore the use of LLMs in automated text analysis as a means of methodological triangulation.

RC34-571.3

DEVLIN, MAURICE* (National University of Ireland Maynooth, Ireland)

The "Earning and Learning" of Young People's Trust in Institutions: Interrogating Youth Policy

The years since the World Values Survey began in 1981 are also those during which 'youth policy' has been institutionalised. In Ireland, for example, the inaugural European Values Study (launched the same year) fed into the first major national research and policy report on youth (National Youth Policy Committee 1984). The White Paper *In Partnership with Youth* (1985) was branded as the Irish government's flagship contribution to the first ever United Nations International Youth Year (the UN's 'IYY' logo featured on the White Paper's cover alongside the official national symbol of the harp). And like EVS and WVS, the institutionalisation of youth policy has continued and in some ways deepened - at national, European and international levels - in the decades since.