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PERSPECTIVAS
Journal of Political Science

Call for Papers

“Nature Under Fascist Regimes: Environmental
Histories of 20th Century Mediterranean
Transformations”



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“Nature Under Fascist Regimes: Environmental Histories of 20th Century Mediterranean Transformations”

A special issue of:

[Perspectivas – Journal of Political Science \(PJPS\)](#)

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Marco Armiero is an environmental historian and political ecologist. His main topics of study are environmental conflicts, uses of natural resources, politicization of nature and landscape and the environmental effects of mass migration.

He has published two monographs, one handbook, five edited volumes, and numerous articles and book chapters; he has worked in several European and US universities.

His research interests span from environmental justice to climate change, from migration to the nationalization of nature. Marco Armiero is a senior editor of *Capitalism Nature Socialism* (T&F) and associate editor of *Environmental Humanities* (Duke UP). He also serves on several boards of journals, centers, and professional associations. He has published widely on the nexus nature-nation and facism-nature. He is the President of the European Society for Environmental History.

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Roberta Biasillo is an environmental historian currently working at the KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. She was fellow at the Rachel Carson Center in 2017 and 2018 and in 2016, she was postdoctoral scholar at KTH Environmental Humanities. Her research areas cover political ecology, environmental history and environmental humanities and her research interests include property regimes, territorial and forest issues, natural disasters, colonialism and climate change. She is carrying out a research on the agricultural colonization of Libya under fascist rule. From September 2020 Roberta will be postdoctoral researcher at the European University Institute in Florence.

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His former works embraces a wide range of topics in social, political and economic history: from anarcho-syndicalism to credit and financial systems, from political violence to cultural institutions.

About the Journal:

Perspectivas - Journal of Political Science is an online double-blind peer reviewed journal published by the [Research Center in Political Science \(CICP\)](#), a R&D unit belonging to University of Minho and University of Evora, both Portuguese Institutions. The journal invites submissions from established academics as well as early career researchers whose work may bring unpublished, innovative and significant theoretical, conceptual, methodological and empirical contributions to the fields of Political Science, International Relations and Public Management and Policy.

About the Special Issue:

«It is imperative that we create; we, people from this epoch and this generation, because we have the duty to make the face of the Fatherland unknowable both spiritually and materially. In ten years, comrades, Italy will be unrecognisable! This because we will have transformed it, we will have made a new one, from the mountains which we will have covered with their green coat, to the fields which will be completely reclaimed...»¹

With his usual rhetorical style, Benito Mussolini made clear that Fascist regimes, not only in Italy, had indeed a vision of nature and a project for its transformation. The regeneration of the country and its people, one of the basic ingredients of any Fascist cultures, concerned not only the soul of the nation but also its material body, both collective and individual.

John R. McNeill has affirmed that the intellectual hodgepodge standing at the basis of Mediterranean Fascism was formed by the discourses linking national

¹ Benito Mussolini, Discorso del 30 ottobre 1926, Reggio Emilia, available online at <http://www.aclorien.it/archivioalternativa/song.php?id=6432> (accessed 3 May 2020).

identity to the integrity of rural populations, the sanctity of the land, and the preservation of nature. Although, as McNeill suggests, this interest had only minimal practical results in terms of nature preservation, we still have a limited knowledge of Mediterranean Fascism or other Fascist and pseudo-Fascist regimes, especially compared with the impressive amount of historical work on the Nazi experience.

This special issue aims to address these under-researched themes bringing environmental history in conversation with political history and other historical subfields. In particular, we identify three main themes as entry points for understanding the environmental history of Fascism:

- Reclamation: Changing the land, regimes aimed at changing or, better still, regenerating people. What was the celebration of the rural world against the urban one if not a political narrative blending nature and people?
- Modernity: Science and technology served political agendas and allowed the remaking of rural and urban spaces and the whole sphere of production but they act also as fascist tools to control people through a new level of institutionalization.
- Colonization: inner and proper colonial project represented forms of material appropriation and forced acculturation. Fascist projects took over marginal regions and transformed them into laboratories of the regime. Here were to plant and develop loyal societies and tamed environments.

Geographically, this special issue will focus on the Mediterranean Fascist and pseudo-Fascist regimes and their colonies and empires. Selected papers will illustrate relevant aspects of the relationship between nature and fascist regimes based on different national and cultural contexts. This special issue aims to draw comparisons between different countries but also offer unique trans-national historical dynamics connecting the different fascist regimes under study.

To submit your research, please visit the [Perspectivas platform](#).

To access author guidelines for this journal, please visit [this page](#).

Guidelines for authors:

When writing and revising the manuscript please consult the Perspectivas - Journal of Political Science (PJPS) [guide for authors](#) for guidance on preparation.

The timeline for the paper submission, review and publication processes is the following:

September 30, 2020: Submission of the first drafts for internal revisions.

October 15, 2020: First round review notifications from the editors

December 15, 2020: full papers ready for external revision due

February 15, 2021: Peer-review reports due

April 15, 2021: Final version of the papers due

May 15, 2021: Special Issue Editors' Guest Editorial due

2021: Publication of special issue

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Suggested common readings:

Armiero, Marco (ed.). 2014. Special Issue "Facism and nature." *Modern Italy* 19(3).

Armiero, Marco. 2011. *A Rugged Nation: Mountains and the Making of Modern Italy*. Cambridge: The White Horse Press.

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Baptista, Fernando Oliveira. 1993. *A Política Agrária do Estado Novo*. Porto: Edições Afrontamento.

Biasillo, Roberta, and Claiton Marcio da Silva. 2019. "Cultivating Arid Soils in Libya and Brazil during World War Two: The Two-fold War between Colonial and Neo-colonial Experiences." *Global Environments* 12(1): 154-181.

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Swyngedouw, Erik. 2015 *Liquid Power. Contested Hydro-Modernities in Twentieth-Century Spain*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.