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(Con)textos: revista d'antropologia i investigació social is a journal associated with the Department of Social Anthropology of the University of Barcelona. Founded in 2008 by a group of researchers associated with the department, it is dedicated to disseminating the results of ethnographic research and other empirical approaches.

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EDITORIAL

Conflict and environmental justice: the political role of life- defending communities

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This issue arises from the broad call carried out between February and April 2024, under the preferred line “Conflict and environmental justice”, which has resulted in the publication of numbers 13 and 14, with participation from researchers from different territories.

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The articulating axis of both numbers is the dominant production and reproduction model in our societies, a product of global capitalism, which exponentially accelerates the society-nature metabolism. This entails profound transformations in our bodies-territories, due to violence, dispossession, forced displacement, social and cultural exclusion, and destruction of the socio-environmental tissue, favoring the continuum of social exclusion-extinction.

With the aim of contributing to the current debate, we proposed the following questions: How do the concepts of environmental justice and social justice dialogue? What is the global impact on life of different forms of extractivism in territories? What experiences of resistance are woven in the different territories? How can we think about collective alternatives to the prevailing social development model? How does activist and/or militant research contribute to these debates?

In that sense, the call has allowed us to bring in this issue experiences from three case studies with special centrality in Latin America that arise from the conflicts inherent to extractive-productive practices in the affected territories, which threaten the way of life, the ecosystems and give rise to a social response. Evidence also emerges of political participation of affected communities and governance structures between state and non-state actors.

We begin this issue with the article by Giada Ferrucci which presents a work that focuses on the case study of the Cerro Blanco gold mine in Asunción Mita, Guatemala and explores the complex dynamics of interaction of network activism that are deployed as mechanisms of resistance in Guatemala and El Salvador, in front of the transnational extractive industry.

Next, Dulce María Sosa Capistrán, Daniel Solís Domínguez, Verónica Vásquez García and Valente Vásquez Solís describe, from an ethnographic methodology and an intersectional approach to analysis, the power relations existing in three localities in Oaxaca, Mexico, that subordinate women



defenders of the territory. The above, in the context of the installation of wind farms and the differential impacts that the mine causes in said community, including the intergenerational dialogues and organizational processes that women lead from a politics historically rooted in the place they live.

The third article written by José María Ramos García and Jimmy Emmanuel Ramos Valencia focuses its analysis on the conditions for effective governance that ensures the protection of the “Selva Maya” biological corridor, shared between Mexico, Belize and Guatemala. To do this, the authors focus on the analysis of the Comprehensive Mayan Forest Strategy (EISM) 2030 as a collaborative action plan between the three countries which, with the support of international organizations and active participation of local actors and non-governmental organizations, aim to conserve and promote the sustainable use of this jungle ecosystem.

The fourth, written by José María Sáez Rodríguez, corresponds to a theoretical reflection that tensions the current discussion on the nature/culture dichotomy and its attempt at deconstruction from the ontological turn and symbolic ecology against materialist theories and the use of recursivity, to reflect on the environmental crisis. The essay seeks to deepen the understanding of the culturally mediated interaction of humans with a socially modified environment, suggesting an articulation between materialism and the ontological view in the field of environmental research, problematizing the political uses of the ontological turn.

The fifth article, written by Brayant Sandoval Escalante, Javier Becerril García and Rodolfo Armando Canto Sáenz, systematizes the theoretical contributions that explain dispossession and land grabbing phenomenon, based on the comparative analysis of the work of various authors and a

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narrative review that emphasizes that the Marxist paradigm has had a predominant influence on the construction of socio-critical theories from the approach of accumulation by dispossession.

In the research projects section we include the Final Degree Project with the highest qualification in the 2024/2025 academic year of the Degree in Social Anthropology of the University of Barcelona, on this occasion by Irene Muñoz Cusidó. This text addresses, based on a qualitative exploration based on interviews, the analysis of the narratives of experiences of mothers who, once separated or divorced, suffer economic violence due to lack of food assistance as a result of non-payment of child support for the support of dependent minors.

This issue also includes two reviews. The first one prepared by Paolo Macri, from the work *Infraespecie. From the end of nature to the wild future* by Aníbal G. Arregui, published in 2024. In this review, Macri reveals the author's ability to invite us to a different understanding of the ecological interactions between human and non-human beings. The concepts of species, evolution, nature and race that govern the epistemology of the biological sciences are dismantled. Alfonso Vázquez Atochero's second review of the work *L'Odyssee des gènes* by Évelyne Heyer combines genetics, anthropology and history to explore how the human genome narrates the evolution of our species, highlighting its complexity and its relevance in the contemporary world.

The informative articles section presents, on the one hand, an interview with Joan Martínez-Alier, one of the main international exponents of the idea of environmental conflict. This interview, conducted by Eloi Sendrós Ferrer, has been carried out in the context of the launch of a new project promoted by the Anthropology of Contemporary Crises and Transformations (CRITS) research group of the University of Barcelona, titled *In crisis: An anthropology podcast*. Next, the article by Jordi Tomàs, Julieta Pérez, Rita Grau, Violeta Martos, Laura Diaz Cabrera, Gemma Aldabert and



Yolanda Casanova is presented. This work is located in the reflections and learnings around the experiences of the first course of the subject *Anthropology of Contemporary Society* with women members of the AFEX project (Aprenem Famílies en Xarxa-Escola de Bambú) linked to Casa Asia. It has been written by a professor and six students, with a heterogeneity of life experiences and points of view that enrich and pluralize the experience described.

The section Translations of original articles presents the Spanish version of an article published in 2025 in the *Journal of Political Ecology*, signed by Brenda Ponzi, Ismael Vaccaro and Oriol Beltrán. This article analyzes as a case study the public rejection of the Maestrazgo-Els Ports territorial conservation initiative, in the context of confinement due to the recent pandemic, which sought to create an ecotourism destination between the provinces of Castellón, Teruel and Tarragona, Spain. From this case we delve into the complexity and multidimensionality of the concept of resistance, crossed by the socioeconomic and cultural tensions of the territory. The second translation is an article by Pedro Henrique Barboza Machado originally published in the *Revista Tempo, Espaço e Linguagem* (TEL) in 2024. The text addresses the dialogue between the theoretical contributions of Veena Das about violence and the study of the narratives of the life trajectories of those who have suffered sexual harassment in the school environment of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. From there, the possibility of configuring reparation processes is analyzed from a biographical approach focused on the daily mechanisms of coping with this violence, as well as from a critical perspective on the complicity of complacent educational institutions within the framework of non-existent or insufficient public policies to address this problem.

We hope that the set of contents presented in this issue, as well as in the previous one, contribute to making more accessible the understanding of the complexity of diverse and critical

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socio-environmental problems, occurring at a global level and causing ecological, economic and political devastation that threatens our planet. At the origin of these conflicts, as can be identified throughout the issue, are class and gender injustices, environmental racism, the inequality of ecological impacts on bodies and territories and the lack of binding plural participation processes. However, ecoterritorial struggles —which are not exempt from conflicts and contradictions— resist the colonial, capitalist and patriarchal advance of the prevailing development model are evident. These struggles are manifested through narratives and examples of other possible ways of inhabiting the territories from which communities, supported by the defense of life and the common, show us other forms of social organization based on solidarity, reciprocity and redistribution, building communities of life that appeal to interdependence and the possibility of a reweaving of the relationship between society and nature.

From the editorial team of *(Con)textos*, we are pleased to present this issue, the result of months of work and dedication, which we hope will be of interest and contribution to the dialogue on conflict and environmental justice, based on case studies in different territories and diverse theoretical approaches. Furthermore, with this issue we begin a new publication calendar, since from now on, each issue will be published during the first quarter of the year. We hope that this adjustment will allow us to keep the call for articles open for a longer period and aligned with the Latin American academic calendar.

We thank those who have trusted the journal to share their research, as well as the reviewers, whose rigor and commitment have been fundamental to making this publication possible. We close this editorial by inviting you, as always, to contribute to future editions with unpublished articles, disclosures, translations and reviews.



Finally, we include a paragraph from the Associació Anthropologies that was in charge of the journal in recent years:

With this issue we announce the closing of a stage of the editorial team that we inaugurated in 2017 with issue 7. Although the work began around 2015, —at a time when the Department lacked human resources for the continuity of the journal— when Associació Anthropologies assumed the commission and transfer of the editorial tasks wanting to introduce the spirit that inspired the association in the journal. The association was reactivated by master's and undergraduate students from the Department of Social Anthropology with the hope and determination to carry out community-based anthropological activities. This translated into an effort to open the journal to work not only by experts with established careers, but also by young researchers and master's and doctoral students. It also materialized with the opening of a space for “informative articles” with which to promote access and anthropological knowledge at different levels and with diverse formats. We are committed to making this change visible with a renewal of the journal's image, providing a new layout that could reflect our proposal on a visual level and as part of the 'corporate' image of the association. In 2021, a group of doctoral students from the Department of Anthropology joined the editorial team, which facilitated the continuity, consolidation and projection of their presence and periodicity in the publications. After these ten years, which the Associació Anthropologies has dedicated in an altruistic way to reactivate the magazine and its publications, grateful for the opportunity in these years, we believe that we have completed a cycle and it is time to be able to focus on other projects, both individual and group, and thus we decided to close this stage in the journal. We trust that the replacement of the current editorial team, with its efforts and extensive knowledge, will ensure that the journal continues to contribute to diverse and open anthropological knowledge, despite the challenges that we well know entails in carrying out a journal. Our best wishes on this complex and inspiring journey.

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