

UrbanMetaMapping Semester Talks: Summer Term 2023 via zoom, 12.00 - 13.00 (CEST)

Registration via: talks.urbanmetamapping@uni-bamberg.de

 UrbanMetaMapping

RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

May 17

Isabel Rodríguez de la Rosa (Department of Architectural Composition of the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid)

Territories of a Spanish Autarky: Cultural Complexities on the Construction of Anthropogenic Landscapes

From 1939 onwards, during the Francoist autarkic period, a major industrialization process was developed in Spain. The main objective was to exploit the territory through the location, extraction, reorganization, optimization, and exploitation of the country's natural resources, trying to ensure their maximum performance to produce goods and energy. As a result, landscape was subject to a series of radical transformations where the industrial complexes defined vast territorial structures and configured functional and social environments. Energy, water, mining, quarrying, oil extraction, agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing, are some of the sectors in which important exploitations were carried out, along with a full constructions and associated services chain that gave rise to the configuration of large multi-scale productive territorial systems.

This project, whose ultimate goal was to achieve political, cultural and economic independence, became the largest coordinated process of landscape transformation carried out in Spanish history. Its theoretical approach was based on a predominant anthropocentric vision of nature and territory in search for progress and development, from a position of geographical voluntarism considering humans as a geographical factor capable of influencing its own future through the alteration of the physical environment. Seeking for a 'useful nature', scientists, engineers and architects built an entire new anthropogenic landscape.

The approach to this period of Spain's recent history is considered as the result of a spatial design practice with heritage implications in the present day. Combining the geospatial analysis of the actions, with the study of the intense visual production of the period associated with them, this research delves into the cultural dimension of this process of transformation of the Spanish landscape, involving ecological, social, cultural, aesthetic, and emotional issues.

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