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The Toxicity of Empire: Ruination, sacrifice, myth and nostalgia

Monday, 21 June 2021 20:00 (1h 30m)

The papers of this panel explore the toxicity of imperial formations. In examining nuclear testing, fossil fuel expansion, chemical weapons incineration, and Agent Orange leaks, the papers span French Polynesia, the Marshall Islands, Kalama atoll and the U.S. mainland. They discuss how human and non-human beings and spaces are enlisted and/or sacrificed in the name of imperial domination and examine what myths and tactics function to uphold and/or mask toxic imperial formations that continue to this day. Through conceptualizations of layered extraterritoriality, imperialist memory politics, the fossil fuel myth, conservation by ruination, and empire as laboratory, the papers offer alternative stories of empire that question dominating narratives and make visible different, more sustainable futures.

Abstract time zone

Track Classification: Colonial, Postcolonial and Decolonial Working Group