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Call for Papers

(Post)Extractivism and (Post)Industrialism in the (Post)Soviet Space

Workshop organised by the ERC project [“Anthropogenic Environments in the Future Tense: Loss, Change and Hope in Post-Soviet Industrial Landscapes”](#) (ANTHEFT), University of Vienna, 28-29 May 2026.

The forms that resource extraction and industrial production have taken across the post-Soviet space offer a distinctive vantage point on the afterlives of industrial modernity, while also complicating analytical frameworks developed in and for other global contexts. The rapid and often opaque privatisation of former state assets that accompanied the collapse of the Soviet Union gave rise, in some cases, to powerful oligarchic formations that consolidated control over key extractive and industrial sectors by means of variable entanglements with state institutions and governance regimes. Elsewhere, privatisation resulted in fragmented and unstable ownership arrangements that proved extractive, speculative, or poorly aligned with existing infrastructures and labour regimes, leaving successor states struggling to sustain production. Together with ageing infrastructures and depleted resource bases, these dynamics have unevenly reshaped labour relations and working conditions. They have also unsettled and reconfigured the practices of social reproduction through which communities dependent on extractive and industrial activity continue to make life possible. This becomes all the more pronounced in areas where severe environmental degradation continues to shape everyday material realities as well as the horizons through which futures and hopes are imagined, negotiated, and constrained. Therefore, *post-industrialism* in post-Soviet contexts does not denote a linear transition to a service-based economy, but refers instead to processes of decline, abandonment, and ruination within shifting political and economic arrangements.

This raises questions about how analytical concepts developed in other historical and geographical settings translate into post-Soviet contexts. It also foregrounds the need to reconsider the conceptual vocabularies through which (post)Soviet industrialisation, extraction, and infrastructural development are understood. While *extractivism* is most often theorised as a feature of neoliberal capitalism and (neo)colonial political economies, extraction in the Soviet Union was embedded in a different ideological and politico-economic project. What happens when we extend the concept of extractivism to resource extraction in the Soviet Union? Can extraction under state socialism be productively analysed through the same conceptual lens, or does doing so obscure more than it reveals? And does post-extractivism meaningfully capture post-Soviet trajectories of extraction and industry, or does it risk presuming a rupture that remains partial, uneven, or unrealised in many settings?

This workshop seeks to critically examine the specific trajectories of (post)extractivism and (post)industrialism across the (post)Soviet space and to explore whether these analytical categories can be operationalised for (post)Soviet contexts. We are particularly interested in contributions that might help us rethink continuities and ruptures between socialist, post-socialist, and global extractive regimes, asking how (post)extractivism and (post)industrialism in this region differ from analogous phenomena elsewhere, and what these differences might tell us about socio-economic life in the ruins of industrial modernity.

Possible themes include (but are not limited to):

- Extraction, industry, and infrastructure in socialist and late socialist contexts
- Post-Soviet transformations of mining, oil, gas, and other extractive sectors
- Late industrialism, ruination, repair, and maintenance
- Labour, expertise, and industrial subjectivities after socialism
- Environmental legacies of Soviet and post-Soviet extraction
- Nuclear legacies and military-industrial afterlives
- Temporalities of exhaustion, abandonment, and endurance
- State, capital, and sovereignty in post-Soviet extractive projects
- Comparative perspectives on extractivism beyond neoliberal capitalism
- Conceptual histories and critiques of “extractivism” and “post-industrialism”

Abstracts should be no longer than 300 words and contain the title of the paper, as well as the name and affiliation of the author(s). In addition to individual papers, we are also open to alternative forms of knowledge dissemination, such as mini-workshops, roundtables, or artistic interventions. Please submit your abstracts together with a short bio (max. 100 words) by **8 March 2026** to Zhameli Khairli: zhameli.khairli@univie.ac.at

The workshop will be held in person in Vienna. Limited support for travel and accommodation may be available; please indicate in your submission if you wish to be considered.

The ANTHEFT team

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