

POE Field trip



The relationship between environment, health and work has long been addressed and is central to academic and activist debates alike. A just transition is now essential, no doubt about that. Yet, what the formula actually means is all but clear.

Against such background, the case of the Apuan Alps is emblematic of extractivism in Italy. It shows how the extraction of value from a territory, in violent and predatory terms, produces a cascade of social and environmental devastation. To a scattered environment is then added a plurality of problems related to the working conditions of those living in the area. In the last 50 years, an exponential increase in extraction and an equally steep fall in employment can easily be witnessed. However, history also tells of union struggles that have taken place in this territory, resulting in the conquest of the six and a half hours of work for equal pay.

Going through these sites aims at touching the complexity of a territory crushed between the enormous profits of the few and the need to rebel against expropriation. The stories of local activists will accompany this moment in the Apuan Alps, focusing on the effects of an extractive system on an Alpine area and on the communities living there.