

Archeology of the future(s)

The ICTA Cineclub by Marco Armiero

Two remarkable social historians Eric Hobsbawm and E.P. Thompson have once said that the environmental question will be the great challenge for the 21st century. Both of them were looking at the next millennium from the 20th century, reinforcing the idea that the environment is the kingdom of the future; talking of it, even historians must use the future tense.

Prophecies and previsions, dreams and nightmare are the ways in which people generally think about the environment. Present fears project their shadows on the future, shaping our common narratives about the coming planet.

ICTA proposes a trip through our future(s); no, we do not have any time machine, rather we want to do a sort of archeology of possible futures. Through a series of movies, we want to explore the stratification of narratives about the future and their relationships to the fears humanity have faced in the last decades.

Each movie will be introduced by a (very) short presentation and will be followed by an open, informal discussion. Additional readings and resources will be available.

The future has already been among us. We can look at it, face our fears, and change our present (or was it the future?)

1. Hybridity

Blade runner (or The thirteen floor)

Where will the borders between humans and non humans be in the future? How will humans cope with their own hybrid products?

2. Annihilation

The day after

After Hiroshima, the world has lived under the threat of the atomic annihilation. Even the end of the Cold War has not implied the end of the fear, as the recent problems with Iran and North Korea prove.

3. Climate Change

The day after tomorrow

Climate Change is probably the most powerful fear of our times. How are we narrating the future of the planet?



4. Health

Code 6 (or Blindness)

The body remembers the fragility of humans; we do not need atomic weapons or planetary revolutions of the ecosystem to be in danger. A microscopic organism can change the story of our species. It happened in the past and could happen again...

Marco Armiero

I am an environmental historian (with a PhD in Economic History), currently working as a Marie Curie Fellow at ICTA. My tenure position is as a Senior Researcher at the National Research Council, Italy. My main topics of research have been: environmental conflicts over property rights and access to common resources (forests and sea), the politics of nature and landscape in the Italian nation- building, and the environmental history of mass migrations. In English, I have published several essays and edited the books *Views from the South*, *Environmental Stories from the Mediterranean World (19th -20th cent.)* and *Nature and History in Modern Italy*. In 2011 the White Horse Press of Cambridge, UK, will publish my book *A Rugged Nation. Mountains and the Making of Modern Italy*.
armiero@issm.cnr.it

