

The Right to Nature: Imaginaries of Ecological Transition and Conflict of Subjectivities in two River Contracts in Turin.

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## **The Right to Nature: Imaginaries of Ecological Transition and Conflict of Subjectivities in two River Contracts in Turin**

This paper investigates the conflicts of subjectivities – specially how nature was conceived – and the imagination of ecological transitions – specially through the interplay of designers and community – during the elaboration of the Stura and Sangone River Contracts in the city of Turin. It did so by developing a Thematic Analysis of documents and structured interviews with participants. River Contracts are a strategic object for observing the conflicts between different subjectivities towards nature because they function as a mediation and negotiation tool for reaching common agreements. The research challenge was to denaturalize both specialists' and stakeholders' ideas of nature, so to reveal the economical, social and political aspects in their conceptions. That allowed to see nature as designed social objects, working as structured machines in the production of different subjectivities. That raised the question of when we see nature as a second society, what could it mean to think about the social performance of nature? The case studies revealed the creation of both new concepts and tools, the production of trans-scalar interventions, and a conception of nature as systems of landscape and as a network of nodes, building a new dialogues between planning and design. Furthermore, the study helped to reveal the process of production of social facts. If many authors (including David Harvey and Boaventura Souza Santos) have argued that we are facing a key moment in history, with great structural changes and eminent environmental collapse, arguably, this framework might help to increase the design-thinking contribution in the realm of complex problem-solving, visualizing hidden forces, developing tools to represent reality, and envisioning new possible futures.