ILLEGAL LOGGING AND TIMBER TRADE

Towards a political ecology of spectacular deforestation in the Carpathians
how can we analyse illegal logging?

historical perspective
legal-administrative criminology
anthropological perspectives
political ecology
Post-socialist transformations of ownership

Forest restitution
Law 18/1991
Law 167/1997
Law 1/2000
Law 247/2005

Changes in forest administration
RNP Romsilva
private forestry districts
over-regulation, bureaucratisation

Consequences
Fragmentation, legal disputes, perpetuation of historical forms of inequality
The boom of the timber frontier

Patron-client relations
(Dorondel, 2009, 2016)

Fiefdom Forests and Timber Barons
(Vasile, 2019, 2020)

Simmilar transformations across Eastern Europe
(Stahl, 2010, Petrova 2014)
Local resistance - Precarious work - Timber shortage
FROM UNRULLY COALITIONS
Big players and access to local resources

TO MARKET MONOPOLY
The frontier starts to close
The Age of Investigations

In Premiere (11 episodes 2011-2018),
The Big Deforestation (13 episodes 2012-2018),
Environmental Investigation Agency 2015,
Rise Project - Clear Cut Crimes 2016
peak of citizen participation

Forest Blockade in Ciucas, Greenpeace Romania, September 2017

Forest Blockade in Fagaras, Agent Green and EuroNatur, March 2017

Bucharest protest against illegal logging, May 2015
Technocratic Rule

New technologies
Forest Inspector app

New Natures
Wilderness and Virgin Forests

New enforcement & control mechanisms
Forestry Guards, tighter sanctions
The Age of the Spectacle

Illegal logging as pop culture: murals, art installations, audio albums, documentaries
The Age of Populism

Illegal logging in the EU parliamentary elections
fascism, xenophobia and anti-europenism

Illegal Logging in the presidential campaign

Populism and nationalism

Illegal Logging after the change of government
'greaua mostenire' and the permanent electoral campaign
Illegal logging and the EU

EUTR AND PRESSURES FROM THE DEMAND SIDE

- Vigin Forest protection and the Habitats Directive
- 2020 - European Commission launches an Infringement procedure
- Geen New Deal, Forest Strategy, Biodiversity Strategy
THE AGE OF IMPOTENCE

Banning timber harvest and transport during the state of emergency

The public spectacle reaches absurd dimensions

Potential effects on the economy and society

Blurred boundaries between legality and illegality
The timber frontier closes

Forest certification

Transparency and legal fetishism

Due diligence
A crisis of expertise?

NORMS VS DRONES

RNP as a caste system

Authoritative knowledge and production of evidence

Drone aesthetic and the production of spectacular deforestation
DEVALUING FORESTERS' STATUS
between corrupted rangers and national heroes

TIMBER SHORTAGE
Slow violence and weapons of the weak
Technology fetishism - SUMAL as the only alternative to halt illegal logging
A violent frontier

Militarisation, social media violence, and fascism
Thank you for your attention!

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