



Garbage struggles in Campania. An action/research methodology



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www.landscapeofresistance.webnode.com

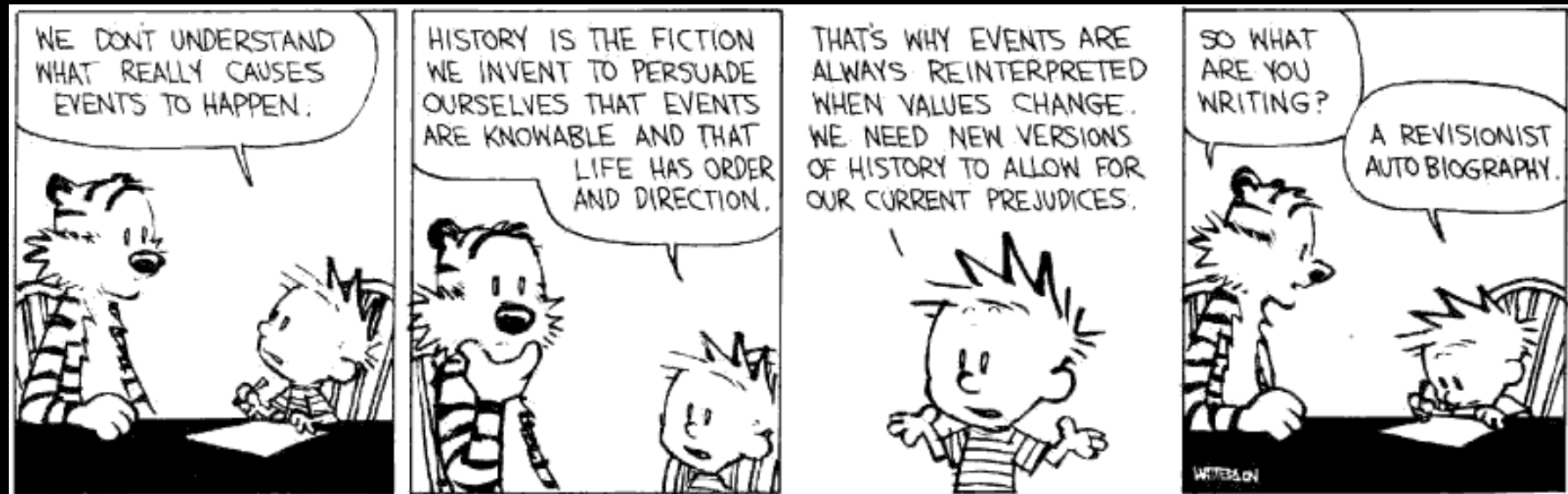
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Every knowledge is situated



- Who am I?
- What is environmental history?
- What is Political Ecology?





What is EH?



Donald Worster: Environmental history is the interaction between human cultures and the environment in the past





What is Political Ecology?



- PE can be defined simply as the study of the ecological distributional conflicts (J. Martinez Alier)
- PE aims to analyze the role of power in mediating the relations among diverse interest groups and/or social/cultural actors. Such power is manifest in the relative abilities of actors to control access to and use of environmental resources, to transfer environmental risk to other actors, and to affect certain policies and projects

Looking for a common ground

- Seeing like a protester/or seeing nature through the lens of conflict
- Social appropriation and power relations





Environmental Justice

LaRes – Landscapes of Resistance

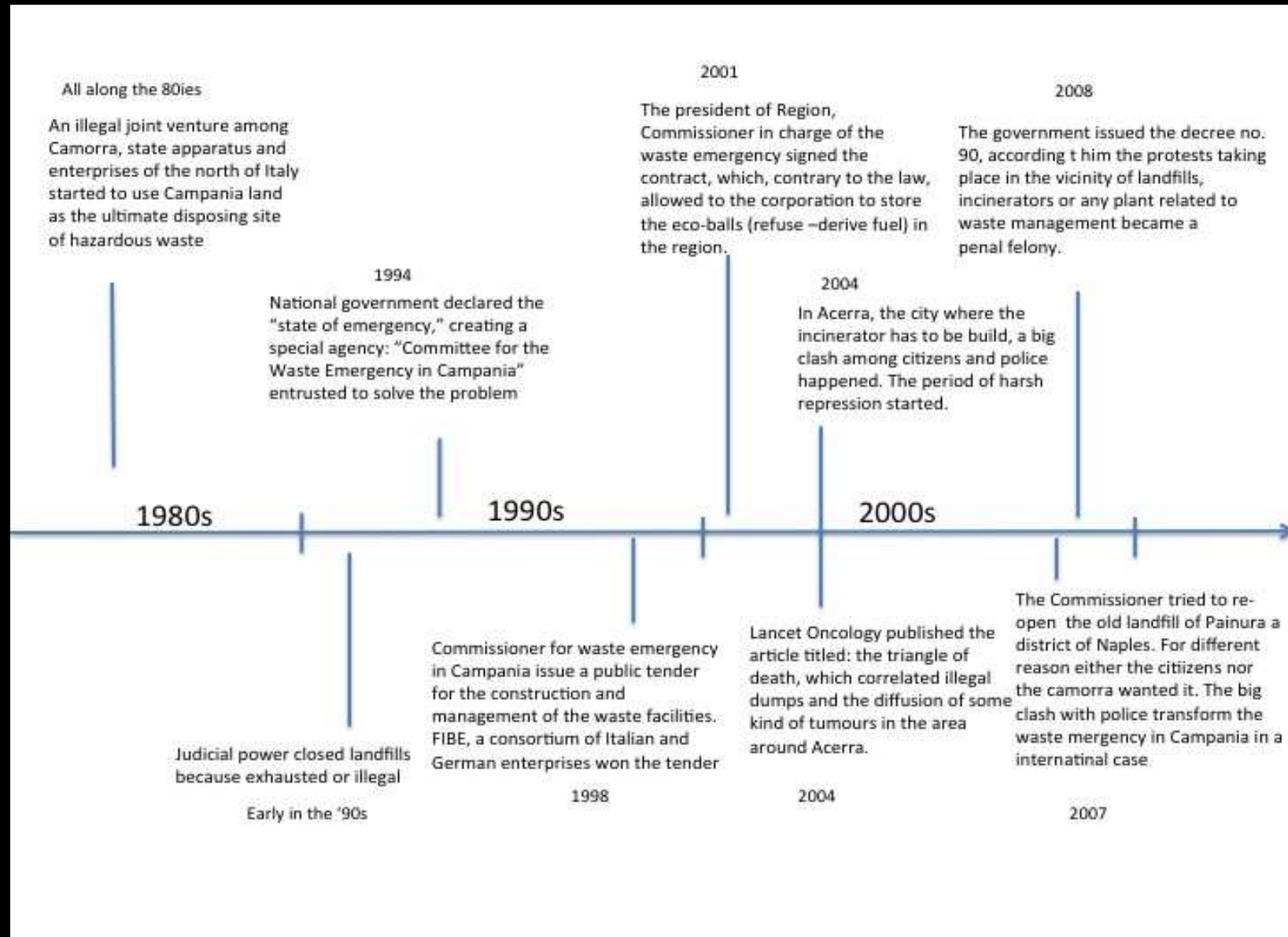
**Science, Power, and Environmental
Conflicts in the Struggle over Garbage and
Incinerators in
Contemporary Naples, Italy**



Context



Chronology





New York Times 2007





Guardian 2010





CNN Europe 2008

LIFE'S



EJ made in Naples?

- Unequal distribution risks and benefits
- Sacrifice zones
- Path of least resistance
- Denial strategy
- Exclusion of people from decision process



The framework



- EJ in the European context: what is new?
race; class; political parties; religion
- Science and politics: militant experts,
objective science, and the building of the
acceptable truth
- Narratives of conflicts and the making of
resisting communities





Methodology

- Historical methodology (critique of sources, long term perspective, narrative approach)
- Bottom-up and “participant observing” approach (Cattaneo; D’Alisa)
- “Strong objectivity” (Harding)
- Action research (?)





Problems or a research in its making

“There is this guy from Stanford who wants to make interviews. Who is this yankee?” (Anonymous, but S.)

- The embedded researcher
- The activist
- The intellectual
- The suspicious guy from the US





Problems or a research in its making

"I curse all of you for what you are doing to our land and our children! You and your children must be cursed forever!" (M.)

Gender

Curse

Land

Children



“No, that was not politics. I was there through the church” (T.)

Just regular housewives?

Self narratives

Genderizing politics

Rhetorical tool



“The picket became a open air home. I loved spend the Sundays there. I have made so many friends (A.)

“The town is very small so to discredite the movment they started a romour that I was gay” (Anonymous)

- The rhetoric of community
- Is there a community or is it a creation coming from the conflict?
- Placed based struggles against the Empire (or cosmopolitan communities?)



“we have already payed our price” (L.)

- Giugliano has payed a high price to the crisis
39 landfills (27 with toxic waste)
Facing the emegency the CWE has opened 6
dumps for 8,829,727 tons.
- Abnormalities in the mortality rates due to cancer
lung, pleura, larynx, bladder, liver, and
encephalic, as well as due to circulatory diseases
and diabetes



Towards an environmentalism of marginals

- Environmentalism of the poor
- Environmental Justice Movement
- Defining what is marginal; who is marginal
- Spatial/gender/social category

