

Wednesday Seminars

LECTURE SERIES IN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

15.10.2025 | 5 p.m. | @ Übungsraum IKSA | NIG, 4th floor

Claudio Sopranzetti (Central European University)
Ethnographic Realism: Experiments in Graphic Ethnography



Claudio Sopranzetti is an Associate Professor at CEU and a Quondam Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford. He authored *Red Journeys* (2012), *Owners of the Map* (2018), which won the AAA Margaret Mead Award, and *The King of Bangkok* (2021), which received several prestigious awards. His research explores capitalism, urbanism, environmental change, social movements, and multi-modal ethnography, focusing on Southeast Asia and Southern Europe. Currently, he investigates the impact of a phytopathogenic epidemic in Southern Italy that has killed over 21 million olive trees in the past decade.

Over the course of the last couple of decades, social sciences have seen the flourishing of what some scholars have called “comics-based research.” On the side of comic producers and illustrators this trend has generated and continues to generate a variety of experimentations in narrative forms, graphic styles, relations to research practices, epistemologies, forms of representation, and theoretical implications. Unfortunately, academic engagements with this emerging field at the nexus of comics and social science have tended to sidetrack these developments and focus two main conversations: one about comics’ potential for dissemination of research findings; the other about the processes of translation of research in graphic form. Neither of these lines of analysis are the object of this talk. In it, I explore how the comic form can contribute to long-standing epistemological and conceptual debates in anthropology over ethnographic realism and offer some reflections on its affordances for contemporary anthropology.



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