



GUEST LECTURE

Nuclear legacies. Should we turn radioactive waste into heritage?

Date and time: 16 March, 15.00-16.30. Room: B24 CG

Zoom: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/61083933328>

One of the most pressing issues related to nuclear energy is the production of wastes that remain radioactive for a very long time. In the last decades, many countries have started the construction of deep geological repositories, deemed to be the safest solution for the disposal of spent radioactive fuel. The plans of building underground deposits have usually been accompanied by an imperative question: how to communicate to future generations the presence of harmful materials deeply buried in a geological site? Moving from my experience of collaboration to the 'Project Memory' (ANDRA / University of Limoges), my talk will review some of the proposed solutions, so to show how some of the most recent projects that relates to geological repositories converge on the idea of establishing a transmissible memory about the nature (its function and meaning) of the deposit site. Quite paradoxically, this approach forces us to rethink nuclear waste as a peculiar kind of legacy that we are leaving to future generations: a sort of (anti)heritage. What are the possible implications of adopting this approach, in the era of 'wastocene' (to use Marco Armiero's recent expression)?

Image: Implore/Explore, by Tugba Varol and Adrien Chevir

Francesco Mazzucchelli

PhD in Semiotics, Senior Assistant Professor at the University of Bologna. He is currently the Director of Trame—Centre for the Semiotic Study of Memory and researcher at CUE, the International Center for Advanced Studies in the Humanities "Umberto Eco."