

“The environment as a conflictual construction. Semiotic analysis of conflicts and negotiations around the meaning of sustainability and environmental justice”

(Pierluigi Cervelli)

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Abstract: My communication aims to investigate the environment - particularly about issues of sustainability and environmental justice - as a socio-cultural construct, following J. Lotman, A.J. Greimas and B. Latour theoretical insights and analytical frames. This will be accomplished by analysing the narrative and discursive organizations of the first political text that dealt with it, the 1998 Aarhus Convention, and the interpretive conflicts that have accompanied its subsequent amendments, over the past 25 years, through consideration of the intertextual network related to the debate and subsequent transformations since its adoption (in 2001). The aim of the communication is to produce an analysis of the social construction of the environment and a cultural object by highlighting in particular: 1) how its definition takes the form of a conflicting assemblage of human and non-human actors correlated with the narrative distribution of agency around it 2) if there are aporias and limits in the multiple processes of intersemiotic translation between texts, images and practices necessary to put into practice and cast in the concreteness of environmental processes the general principle expressed in the Aarhus convention 3) how it is defined the particular discursive status of environmental damage and waste, which definitions seem to indicate the points of encounter and friction between the abstractness of norms and the concreteness of situated and local risk situations.