The Mine and the Sea. Exploring "Islandness" in Sardinian Miners’ Narratives

In the post-mining regions of South-West Sardinia, during the last decades, the see seems to have changed its function in relation to the mining activity. The relation between (former) miners and this “geographical border”, reshaped the miners “islandness” in an ambiguous way. In recent decades it was initially considered a space of leisure and finally a place for developing a “greener” alternative to the mining exploitation. Starting from ethnographic research on miners’ memories carried out during the last ten years, I will analyze how different concepts of “islandness”, mine, and sea affect the different forms of discursive practices in miners’ narratives.

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