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Rethinking Environmental Citizenship for Grassroots Politics

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Message from the Guest Editors

In response to climate change, social inequality and environmental degradation, citizens in various countries developed grassroots forms of civic engagement. It appears that civic engagement has turned to the local and the material in order to establish alternative socio-material orders. Community supported agriculture, zero-waste-networks, community gardens, repair cafés, upcycling projects, eco-villages, energy cooperatives, slow food, and green mobility are just a few examples for this development. These phenomena have been studied under conceptual frameworks such as grassroots innovations, real utopias, degrowth, prefigurative politics of sustainable lifestyle, conviviality or solidarity economy. They have promoted a turn towards material objects, infrastructures, bodily practices, emotions, and tangible space within the research of social-ecological transformation. Most of the studies in this field address questions of how to scale-up related practices or interpret this development as part of movement mobilization that try to decrease the dominance of growth economy in everyday life.



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