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*Environmental Destruction: Women's Testimony and Struggles*

By this issue of *La camera blu* we intend to make room to two fields of research – Environmental History and Gender History – that Italian Historiography – especially Contemporary History – has left in a niche, not facing up to their radical criticism towards mainstream History.

In other contexts, the intertwining of the two fields have produced original and important results, such as the historical research by the eco-feminist Carolyn Merchant.

In the theoretical field, eco-feminists, as well as, more recently, material feminists (e.g. *Material Feminism*, ed.by Stacy Alaimo and Susan Heckman, Bloomington&Indianapolis, Indiana University Press, 2009), underline a permanent contradiction in the post-structuralist thought : the binary division between Nature and Human world. Eco-feminists, as well as material feminists, develop a different vision of both human and not-human Nature : they think that Nature has its own agency, that it is neither passive, nor destined to be dominated by Man (as women are not). Feminists think of Nature in terms of continuity, affinity, or, in Merchant's thought, partnership with human beings.

*La camera blu* with this issue aims at putting forward again the attention that from its beginning our journal has dedicated to environmental subjects, as other Italian reviews of Gender Studies have done : journals such as *Genesis. Rivista della Società Italiana delle Storiche* XII/2 (2013) (*Ecostorie. Donne e uomini nella storia dell'ambiente*), *DEP. Deportate, esuli, profughe*, 35 (2017), dedicated to Rachel Carson, and *DEP*, 20 (2012), and 23 (2013), both about eco-feminism.

*La camera blu* from its second issue has dedicated its attention to Nature and environmental subjects : *Bodies and Languages* (2007); *Posthuman* (2015), articles on environmental subjects in various issues.

Our journal dedicated a particular attention to women's struggles in Campania, reported in the volume edited by Marco Armiero, *Teresa e le altre*. About the volume a round table is published in this issue.

From the Nineteenth Century, Gender is also part of political discourses aimed at denigrating environmentalist struggles and research. So was for Rachel Carson, when in *Silent Spring* (1962) she denounced the consequences of pesticides on environment. Her book was succesfull, but its opponents argued that Carson was sentimental and hysterical: gender stereotypes were used as political and anti-environmentalist weapons. So was for women activists in the *Terra dei Fuochi*, as well for the unheard Tina Merlin when she pointed out the dangers of the Vajont dyke.

Other environmental subjects of this issue are Elena Croce's engagement for environment; Swedish women's struggles against Nuclear in the seventies; women's testimony about asbestos at Casale Monferrato, Mothers' Commettees defending environment, militant women scientists' stories, women's struggles for land in Latin America and Morocco.

The *Highlighter* of this issue is dedicated to the consequences of toxic agents on human bodies (*toxic bodies*) : bodies telling stories of global pollution, injustice and oppression.

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