

Landscape genealogies: anthropology of modern conservation in the Catalan Pyrenees

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The current Catalan Pyrenees are perceived by most of the population as a natural haven, a place to rest and enjoy its untouched natural beauty. These mountains, nowadays, are characterized by an overabundance of protected areas, relatively scarce human demography, and an economic framework dominated by tourism. It goes without saying, the Pyrenees were not always like this. The goal of this talk is to explore the recent past (200 years) of the Pyrenees to understand its current socioecological configuration. In order to do so, we will establish an historical dialogue between demography, public policies (municipalization, disentailment campaigns, forest expropriations, and conservation policies), human settlements (housing and infrastructures), productive practices (agro-ranching, mining, energy production, industry, ski), and ecology. In other words, this talk analyses the process of modernization of this territory and how it affected its people and ecology.

WEDNESDAY, 17th JANUARY 2024 – 12h (CET)
<https://conectaha.csic.es/b/xav-yoe-4g8-420>

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