

## Workshop "Rights of Nature: Framing, Practicing, Spreading"

**Place:** Forum of the Institute for Architecture, Technical University of Berlin (Straße des 17. Juni 152, 10623 Berlin)

**Date:** Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 15 – 19hrs

**Streaming:** <https://hu-berlin.zoom-x.de/j/61867024487>

### Workshop description

This workshop offers an in-depth exploration of the ideas, strategies, and challenges involved in implementing the rights of nature as both a praxis and a legal framework. Focusing on the Mar Menor in Spain, the first European ecosystem to be protected under this legal framework, the workshop will examine the legal innovation introduced by this case in the European region. We will delve into the history of its implementation as narrated by its key protagonists and explore the possibilities this case presents for similar struggles across Europe.

The workshop will be divided into two main segments. In the first part (2 hours), we will explore the case of the Mar Menor with Teresa Vicente, an activist and professor of philosophy of law at the University of Murcia, and one of the leading promoters of the law that led to the recognition of the Mar Menor as a legal subject. Teresa will discuss the history and legal innovations of the law. Additionally, we will be joined by Estefanía Sánchez-Guerrero, a grassroots activist involved in the organizations that advocated for the law, and Pedro Ortuño, an art professor from the University of Murcia. Estefanía and Pedro will share insights from a photographic exhibition “A Signature for the Mar Menor. Photographing Processes” about the struggle and campaign for the Mar Menor, highlighting the fundamental role of artistic interventions in forging an emotional bond between the citizens and the campaign. During this panel, we will also present a teaser of “The Summer of ‘22,” a documentary by Lorenzo Sandoval about the ecological degradation of the Mar Menor, with a commentary from the director himself.

In the second part of the workshop (1.5 hours), we will explore the connections between the Mar Menor and other European cases where the rights of nature as a legal framework are being promoted. Joined by Teresa Vicente, we will have a roundtable discussion with Camille de Toledo, a writer and artist who has been a key advocate for legally recognizing the River Loire in France as a subject with rights in the past years, and Emmanuel Schlichter, representative of the citizen initiative Rechte der Natur e.V., who will share insights on the state of discussions to implement rights of nature at a German level.

The workshop will finish with the inauguration of the photo exhibition “A Signature for the Mar Menor: Photographing Processes,” which will be held at the Architecture Faculty’s main hall from July 6 to July 18, and a small reception.

With this workshop, we aim to provide a unique platform for transdisciplinary exchange, where scholars, environmental activists, and documentarists can share their views on the challenges and opportunities of implementing nature rights as a legal framework in Europe. By offering this platform, we hope to reflect on what it means to legally recognize the rights of other-than-human entities and the potential of such a framework to foster environmental and multispecies justice.

## Program

### I. The Mar Menor Case (15 – 17hrs)

- Teaser “The Summer of ‘22” + brief intro by the director Lorenzo Sandoval
- Teresa Vicente: Recognizing the Legal Personality of the Mar Menor Lagoon
- Estefanía Sánchez-Guerrero and Pedro Sandoval: Art as a catalysator for environmental campaigns

Break – (17:00 – 17:30hrs)

### II. Rights of Nature in Europe: framing, practicing, spreading (17:30 – 19:00hrs)

- Camille de Toledo: the case of the Loire River in France
- Emmanuel Schlichter: Rights of Nature in Germany
- Open discussion between panelists and Teresa Vicente

### III. Inauguration of the photo exhibition “A Signature for the Mar Menor. Photographing Processes” by Estefanía Sánchez-Guerrero and Pedro Ortuño

## Map of the place

