

PROPOSITIONS

attached to the thesis

The Challenge of Generational Renewal in Post-Industrial Farming Contexts: Regimes of Agrarian Social Reproduction in the Basque Country

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1. The analytical tools historically used to understand efforts for social change suffer from some shortcomings, limit our view of political subjectivity and even can exacerbate instead of bridge divides between potential revolutionary subjects. Social reproduction theory helps fill this gap. *This thesis.*
2. Maldistribution, misrecognition and misrepresentation are mutually constitutive processes. Taken together these institutionalized patterns of injustice have contributed to a crisis of social reproduction in rural areas, one of the symptoms of which, is a crisis of generational renewal in Basque farming. *This thesis.*
3. In the post-industrial period, agrarian welfare has contributed to providing care, but this has come at the expense of the environment, degraded by an intensive and industrial model of agrarian production. CAP subsidies have also fueled processes of concentration. In this process, despite the enduring role of the family, new entrants are playing a more and more central role in generational renewal. *This thesis.*
4. In the process of building a Basque nationalist collective imaginary, the rural world was the cultural essence of what Franco wanted to colonize and extinguish, contributing to a sense of collective identity wherein Basques are the victims of colonization. Basques are also representatives of a white European culture that benefitted from colonialism. These distinct relationships to colonialism are now coming to a head. *This thesis.*
5. Basque agroecofeminist politics strategically position farmers as care workers, arguing that their labour needs to be properly valued. In practice agroecofeminism attempts to restructure the relationship between production and reproduction. This requires redistributing surplus value and channelling more resources towards the forces of reproduction, but it also means redistributing what the system itself values. *This thesis.*
6. Europe needs to talk about race, especially in rural areas.
7. Agroecology and food sovereignty provide guiding principles for regenerative human-nature relations. However framing future farmers as modern manifestations of traditional European peasants in an effort to mobilize for food system transformation can whitewash rural collective imaginaries and alienate many current and future rural working people.
8. The industrial food system is unsustainable. The CAP has contributed this and to rural depopulation, but already struggling farmers are dependent on it, limiting political will and the prospects for change.
9. Transformation of rural Europe is already underway and only set to increase as food and energy production adapts to climate crises, but shaping and understanding the direction of that change requires looking, not only at productive relations. Social reproduction theory offers a crucial lens for thinking about rural futures.
10. The distinction between the urban and the rural is often bigger in our imagination, than in reality.
11. Research is never neutral, nor should it be.