

Europa Dreaming

Research Cluster: Trans-Form – exploring design, art and social practices for political and eco-social transitions | Timespan: 2015 – 2017

Europa Dreaming (the book)

Yearning for Europe at the Brenner Pass.

Team

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The book, edited by Valeria Burgio and Matteo Moretti, is a spin-off of the on-line project Europa Dreaming. It expands and develops the contents of this visual journalism project and serves as a retrospective reflection on the design process behind it. With the help of different contributors from different backgrounds (Massimiliano Boschi, Claudia Corrent, Gerhard Glüher, Daniele Salerno, Fulvio Vassallo Paleologo), the book tries to answer to these questions: what happens to the European dream when it meets the dream of migrants? Is this Europe, raising external barriers and restoring internal borders, still responding to the ideals and values on which it was founded? Is it possible to protect our achievements - freedom, respect of human rights and welfare - without denying them to others who are drawn to Europe by the dream of access to these rights?



Figure 1. Cover for the book *Europa Dreaming* (2018). V. Burgio and M. Moretti eds. Bolzano: bu,press.

With these questions in mind, an interdisciplinary team was established in 2015 at the Free University of Bolzano to observe what was happening in Europe from a specific vantage point – the border between Italy and Austria at Brenner. Its aim was to point to the lack of shared migration policies and to reposition the so-called migrant-crisis on a wider timescale than the short-term perspective of a perceived emergency. The impression was that the crisis concerned the institution of Europe itself, its values, principles and policies, rather than the fortuitous circumstances of protecting and relocating refugees. The results of this observatory are collected in the web-project *Europa Dreaming*, published online in 2016.