Abstract

This dissertation thesis focuses on variations of "mushroaming" – it analyzes activities that involve foraging, cultivating, and learning about mushrooms, and demonstrates their potential for extending theories and practices of commons (Bollier and Helfrich, 2021). The thesis draws upon the concepts of commons that are not limited to economic governance, but enable also the analysis of the potential of multispecies relations, affectivity, and responsibility for generating new approaches to the environment (Singh, 2017; Federici, 2012). Specifically, this thesis examines how the state, civic associations, and individuals manage forest territories, how foraging and cultivation of edible mushrooms connect economic and biological growth, and how are non-humans incorporated into social practices or representations. Research reveals that various types of mushroaming enhance multispecies reciprocity, enable informal management of natural resources, and participate in the integration of mushrooms into human collectives or create new representations of mushrooms in public debate. The thesis contributes to current research programs that analyze economics (Tsing, 2015), multispecies relations (Haraway, 2016), and interspecies care (Puig de la Bella Casa, 2017).

Keywords: foraging; commons; care; forest ecosystems; multispecies relations