Migrant Struggle, Anarchist Resistance and Controlled Chaos in Greece

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Abstract

This talk/screening will examine the value of anarchist practices such as direct action, reciprocity (or solidarity), autonomous forms of organization and assembly, and tactical illegality in support of migrant struggles in Thessaloniki, a city located on the Balkan route, in eastern Greece. Since 2009, our involvement, primarily with the anarchist migrant support group Clandestina, has led to radical cultural production across a considerable array of platforms.

In July 2016 we (Ernie Larsen and Sherry Millner) conducted outdoor screenings of short-form radical experimental films at the (unsanctioned) No Border encampment on the campus of Aristotle University where about 2000 anti-authoritarian migrants and activists engaged in 12 days of protest, education, and cultural exchange. Within this context, we will screen How Animals and Plants Live, a 26-minute video essay that concentrates on the physical, social and affective consequences of the government’s violent eviction of migrants and their supporters from the self-organized squat Orfanotrofio in late July 2016, just two days after the NO Border events.

Keywords: migrant, anarchism, Greece, resistance, border

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