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"(Dis)Empowered Communities: A Conversation with Davide Orsini"

Orsini, Davide, and Uwe Lübken



Demolition of the cooling towers at the Grafenrheinfeld Nuclear Power Plant, Germany, 16 August 2024.

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Anthropologist and historian Davide Orsini and his research partners are conducting a five-year

comparative study that explores the hidden costs and environmental implications of decommissioning nuclear power plants and facilities. Nuclear experts define decommissioning as the process of safely disposing of obsolete nuclear installations at the end of their productive life, with the objective of returning sites to public use or other purposes, if possible. Launched in March 2025, Davide's Volkswagen Foundation Change! project seeks to foster research collaborations between academic and nonacademic partners to promote social change. It sheds light on the uncertainties surrounding decommissioning projects and aims to involve affected communities in the management of decommissioning strategies. (Dis)Empowered Communities promises to challenge consolidated, and often misleading, ideas about the fate of obsolete nuclear facilities, as Davide explains in an interview with historian Uwe Lübken. (From the interview)

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2025 Davide Orsini and Uwe Lübken



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