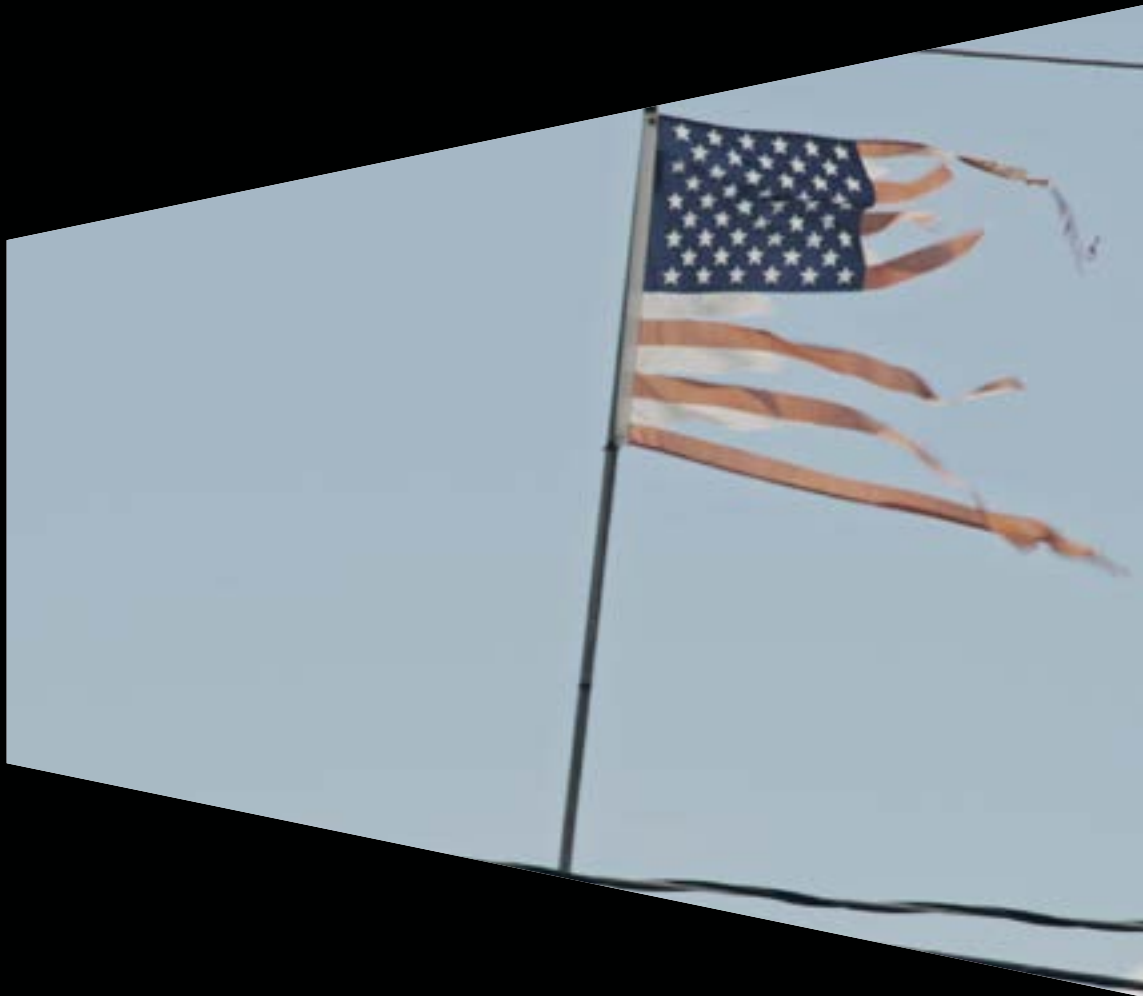


PUERTO RICAN VOICES: STUDY GUIDE

Burning Ashes / El peso de las cenizas

DIRECTED BY ISMAEL "KIKE" CUBERO



Produced By
CENTER for Puerto Rican Studies

**CEN
TRO** CENTER FOR
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Burning Ashes / El peso de las cenizas

Directed by Ismael “Kike” Cubero

The AES coal plant has been polluting towns in the southern east of Puerto Rico for decades. Residents are developing rare diseases, and cancer rates are on the rise in the nearby communities of Salinas, Guayama, and Peñuelas. Following the lives of cancer patients, this episode looks at how the People are organizing to demand closing of the coal plant, and transparency about how the coal ash was disposed of.

KEY TERMS

- Fossil Fuel Dependency
- Environmental Racism
- Coal Ash
- Mangroves
- Collective Efforts
- Rural Mobilization

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did the government of Puerto Rico establish a contract with the AES Power Plant?
2. What are some of the health conditions that people are developing in Salinas and Peñuelas, and why are they linking it with the AES Power Plant?
3. Due to the environmental pollution generated by the AES Power Plant, what are some of the damages that locals are noticing in the mangroves near the community?
4. What is Agremax? What is the controversy behind the product?
5. Why is the community of Guayama and Salinas seeking alternatives to fossil fuel generation, and what are some of these initiatives?



Still of Burning Ashes

RECOMMENDED READINGS

- “The Invention of the Human and the Tree Pillars of the Colonial Matrix of Power: Racism, Sexism, and Nature” by Walter D. Mignolo (2018)
- **Racial Ecologies** by Leilani Nishime and Kim D. Hester Williams (2018)
- **The Extractive Zone** by Macarena Gómez-Barris (2017)
- **The Rise of Cheap Nature** by Jason Moore (2016)

RESEARCH MATERIALS

- **“Bomba de tiempo, las cenizas de carbón”** by Omar Alfonso and Perla del Sur (August 10, 2018)
- **“Estudio Epidemiológico en las comunidades de Puente de Jobs y Miramar en Guayama y Santa Isidra y Rafael Bermúdez en Fajardo”** by Gilberto Ramos Valencia y Rosa Rosario Rosado (July 2019)
- **“Prevalencia de enfermedades crónicas en las comunidades de Miramar y Puerto de Jobs del municipio de Guayama: un estudio de comunidad por encuesta”** by Luis A. Bonilla
- **Kicking Off The Bootstraps. Environment, Development, and Community Power in Puerto Rico** by Déborah Berman Santana (1996)

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