



**Politecnico
di Torino**

Honors Thesis

Master's degree Science in Architecture Construction City

Abstract

**Hyperobjects of Production. Intensive Livestock Farming and Meat Territories in the Province of
Brescia.**

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The thesis investigates one of the most pervasive spatial phenomena of our time: intensive livestock farming. This hyperobject of production emerges as a deeply rooted system that is systemically difficult to grasp in its entirety, yet profoundly impacts ecological and territorial transformations. What unfolds is a spatial phenomenon that extends far beyond the fenced enclosures of farms, encompassing monoculture agriculture, logistics networks, hydraulic infrastructures, and global food systems. These operational landscapes are not merely sites of production but constitute true infrastructures of production itself, simultaneously its condition and its outcome. The “territories of meat” thus appear as tangible expressions of the complexity and reach of these processes, shaped by the intensive use of bodies, soils, and ecological materials. Within this framework, the thesis adopts water as a privileged interpretative lens, revealing the water-intensive nature of industrial livestock farming. Water becomes a tool for reading the territorial logics of animal-based industrial production, an element that is opaque, transcalar, and often invisible, yet essential. The case study of the Brescian plain, one of the areas with the highest livestock density in Italy, offers a concrete ground for analyzing the territory through its material dependencies. Using tools such as cartographies and micro-ethnographies, the research aims to reconstruct a stratified reading of animal production landscapes, also revealing the conflicts, frictions, and disturbances that traverse them. In its final part, the thesis proposes alternative scenarios and counter-spaces to imagine processes of de-saturation and forms of multispecies coexistence. Starting from the most compromised territories, particularly the floodplains along the tributaries of the Po River, it outlines design possibilities capable of reimagining these spaces of production.
