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The limits of work

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Abstract

Three essays and three short films exploring the relationship between land dispossession and the ideological production of work. The first essay responds to the iconic film of Harun Farocki, *Workers Leaving the Factory* (1995), by examining the history of photographic and filmic images of mine work in South Africa. The second essay explores the way in which the discourse around work and unemployment fail to critique the ideological production of work. The third essay is a conceptual mapping of the processes of land dispossession, its relation to wage labour and creation of frontier zones. The three films explore the dispossession and restitution of land in Salem, Eastern Cape. Each focussing alternatively on the legal processes, the 19th century historical dispossession and the contemporary challenges on the restituted farms.