

A black and white photograph of a large crowd gathered in a city square at night. The crowd is dense and fills the foreground and middle ground. In the background, there are historic buildings with multiple stories, arched windows, and balconies. A street lamp is visible in the center of the crowd. The sky is dark with some clouds.

SOUNDS OF DECLINE. INDUSTRIAL ECHOES IN ASTURIAN MUSIC

Rubén Vega - University of Oviedo

Conference "Industrial Heritage, Historical Culture
and Regional Identity in regions/cities undergoing
structural transformation"

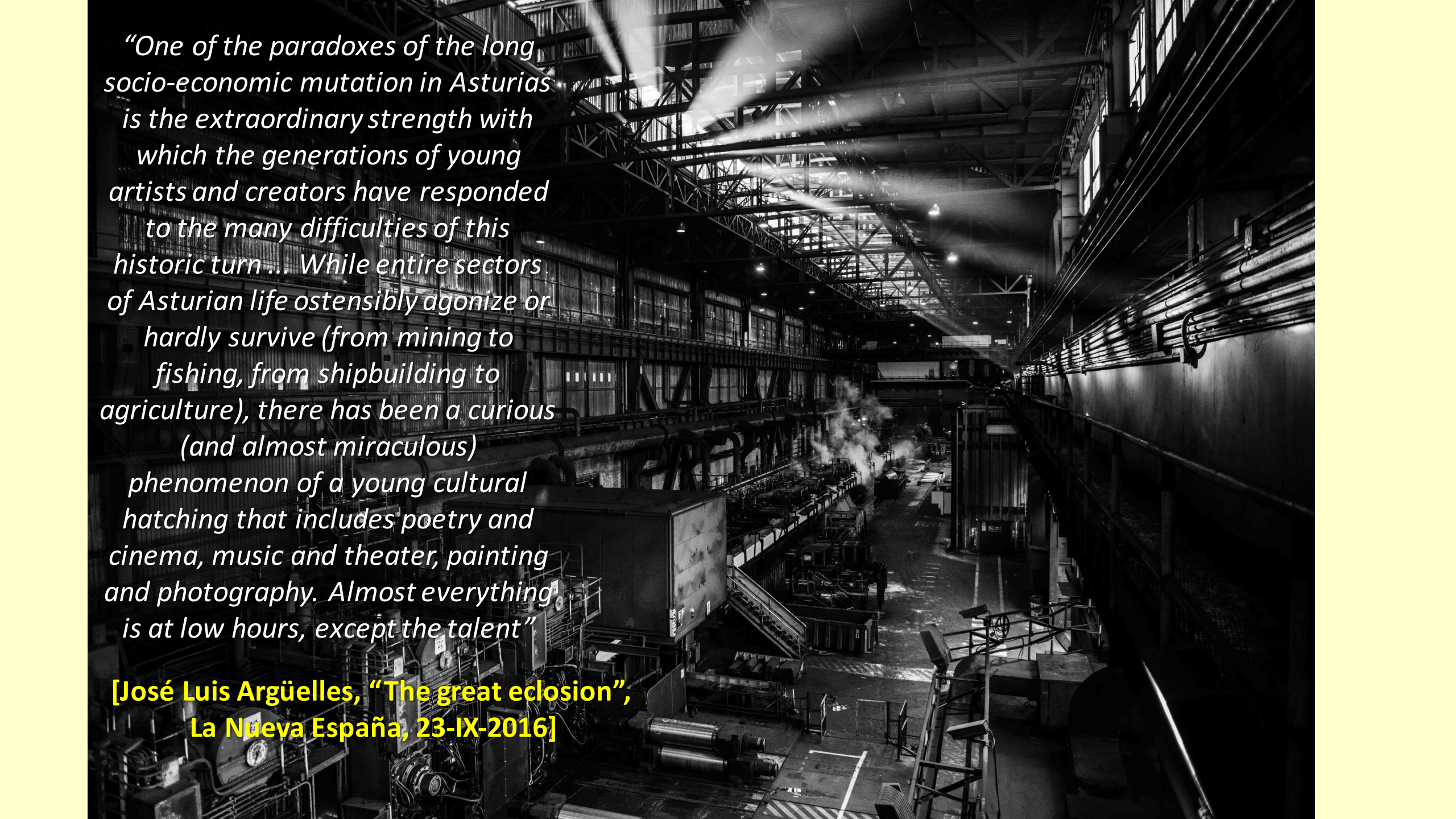
Bochum 1st to 3rd December 2016



Benigno Delmiro (Mining Literature scholar):

*“Nalon valley future, and the Coalfield
as a living organism, depends on
putting culture as leader, culture as
the pit which can't be closed”*

(26/1/2005)



“One of the paradoxes of the long socio-economic mutation in Asturias is the extraordinary strength with which the generations of young artists and creators have responded to the many difficulties of this historic turn ... While entire sectors of Asturian life ostensibly agonize or hardly survive (from mining to fishing, from shipbuilding to agriculture), there has been a curious (and almost miraculous) phenomenon of a young cultural hatching that includes poetry and cinema, music and theater, painting and photography. Almost everything is at low hours, except the talent”

**[José Luis Argüelles, “The great eclosion”,
La Nueva España, 23-IX-2016]**

A collage artwork titled "DIXEBRA" featuring industrial imagery. It includes a large crane structure, a sign reading "LARANES", and a figure in a blue jacket. Handwritten text "Grie/Ka" is visible in the upper right corner.

“Working class and lower social strata of this society are being beaten. We have to be more aggressive. Music is our weapon and sceneries are our battlefield. Currently, the groups are obligate to channel through the music the feeling of the people. We must be their channeler and also continue to remove the consciousness of the sleeping”

A collage titled "Refugees in Palestine" featuring a grid pattern, silhouettes of hands, and various text elements including "Thees", "No", "Yes", "a en palestina", "Refugees", "Mientras inmigrantes", "No estar cruciar", "Dellos d atenios por", and "esboriar indicad".

A political poster with a yellow background. The main title 'SPANTA LA XENTE' is written in large, bold, black letters at the top. Below it is a detailed illustration of a large, multi-story building with a central tower. A banner hangs across the front of the building with the word 'REVOLUCIONANDO' in black letters on a white background, preceded by a red square containing a white letter 'R'. In the foreground, a large, dense crowd of people is gathered, many with their arms raised in a gesture of protest or celebration. The sky is filled with white clouds. To the left of the main poster, there is a partial view of another poster with red and yellow colors and some text that is partially cut off.



Landscape and industrial references as part of a narrative

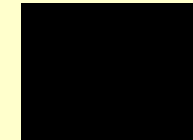


Artist: Dark la eMe

Song: Semillas del rosario

Genre: folk & rap fusion

Year: 2008



Filanda

Despeinando'l silenci



Artist: Filanda

Song: Enraigonaes (Rooted)

Genre: ballad

Year: 2015



Workers memory: the long shadow of past



Lyrics:

*Any day, January cold,
the same routine every day
He wakes up early and starts the first
The moon shines, and the sky is grey
He remembers the years when he was a child
Life was hard, he could not choose
He looked at his hands and saw
they were smashed
Silently looking to reach a future for me
and risking his neck
It seems like it's never cold for him
When he wants to go forward
Nobody can push him out of the way
Fighting against the world
and counting the footsteps
to never lose course
An example of courage,
a mirror to look at*

Artist: Desakato

Song: Friu de xineru (January cold)

Genre: rock

Year: 2010



Workers memory: the long shadow of past



Lyrics:

*Neither ministers or councilors
Want to get wet under this rain
How much did fight our grandpas
It was for Asturias, it was for ours*

Artist: Avientu

Song: La semeya (The photo)

Genre: folk rock

Year: 1999



Workers struggles: the epic reference



Artist: Spanta la Xente

Song: Díes de barricá (Days of barricade)

Genre: folk rock

Year: 2009



Don't mourn, fight!



Artist: Avientu

Song: Licenciáu en barricaes (Bachelor in barricades)

Genre: rock

Year: 1999

Lyrics:

*In this time of Asturias
There will be a new career
Bachelor of Barricades
Is the future study*

*In this time of Asturias
You will have the opportunity
You will not last unemployed
There is work in quantity*

*Youth students
Lads without occupation
Supporting the working class
And screaming no submission*





Artist: Escuela de Odio

**Song: Los antidisturbios invaden la cuenca minera
(Riot police invade the coalfields)**

Genre: hardcore

Year: 2004

Repression

Lyrics:

*A good form to understand
The strategy of power
How to calm the situation
Always in the name of repression
I don't understand why, why your response is always
Bringing more police!
How you hide information
Always in the name of your reason
You send your dogs to eat
Workers meat, dismissed without a reason
I don't understand why, why your response is always
Binging more police!
Your forms of acting
Always will feed hate*





ARMA X

Asocial

Betrayal

Artist: Arma X

Song: Zona minada (Mined Area)

Genre: hip hop

Year: 2008

TC+00:00:00:00



Lyrics:

*You don't understand other paths, neither that yours failed
You call us lost bullets but is 'cos the target has changed
You legate us a culture which leaks water everywhere
And meanwhile, from above, you judge our immaturity
You make us jump and then we discover there is no network
There must be other ways to teach us to fall*



Artist: Fe de Ratas

Song: ¿Generación perdida? (Lost generation?)

Genre: hardcore

Year: 2000



End of the proletarian times

Lyrics:

*Subversive, fighter
Accelerate your strong heart
Future is over
You don't fight anymore
You feel a loser
They say you are extinguishing
That a species like yours will not be able to change the world
They say soon will end those futile efforts
which are the reason for your existence*

Artist: Stukas

Song: Luchador en crisis (Fighter on crisis)

Genre: rock

Year: 2000





A bitter taste of defeat

Lyrics:

*A future as black as the mine
So many mates, all scattered
Those plans came out crooked
(...)
Hell of life, streets without people
(...)
Since the blows a few years ago
They fuck us and it does not hurt us
At the table in a bar, totally drunk
All were workers, now sold out themselves*



Artist: La Col.lá Propinde
Song: Ascu de vida (Hell of life)
Genre: folk rock
Year: 2010

Looking for a job: hard times for workers



Lyrics:

*The contract is over and again in unemployment
Running the streets, another round to look for
A fucking contract or maybe without papers
Working a thousand years without insuring
One hundred conventions a day signed by unions
One hundred business a day the bosses make
What rights are these served hot
What rights are these, I can not dine
Rents go up, interest rises
Macaroni rises, I do not know what not to mention
(...)
To hell with the worker, let's king Pelayo work
And the Woody Allen statue that is in the capital,
And the syndicalists leading the lists
And the pigs of the master and employer.*

Artist: La Tarrancha

**Song: Presente indicativu del verbo nuntrabayar
(Present of verb donotwork)**

Genre: Ska

Year: 2004



Far from home. The sadness of the emigrant



Artist: D'aki Alhao
Song: D'Asturias
Genre: celtic rock
Year: 2016

Drugs: the big fear

Lyrics:

*I live in a paradise of methadone
I am not but a shadow of another person
You can meet me in the Miner bar,
there's always a dose for a colleague.*



Artist: Anabel Santiago
Song: La cai el viciu (Street of vice)
Genre: vals & tonada fusion
Year: 2007



Anger, rage and desperation. A youth without future



Artist: Stoned Atmosphere
Song: Patria sin sol (Sunless homeland)
Genre: hip hop
Year: 2004

