Planned obsolescence and the industrial heritage of tomorrow: 
The case of Choapa Valley and Minera Los Pelambres, Chile
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Abstract

“Planned obsolescence and the industrial heritage of tomorrow are processes associated with the crisis cycles of late capitalism. The future obsolescence of mining deposits in mining territories allows us to think of an eventual heritage construction process considering the socioeconomic and paternalistic intervention by a private company. The case of Minera Los Pelambres located in the Choapa valley in the Coquimbo region of Chile is an example of the process of industrial obsolescence subordinated to global and local socioeconomic processes. We will therefore examine the spatial transformations that permeate local territories in the face of mining obsolescence.”

Biographical note
Rodrigo Díaz Escobar, born 1996 in Santiago de Chile, is a graduate geography student at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, interested in social, rural and industrial studies. His curiosity about the industrial mining processes of the 21st century and their relation with processes that took place during large parts of the 20th century arose from studies he realised on the practices of legitimization imposed by the new large mining industry in Chile. For his graduate thesis due by December 2021, he is currently exploring the discourses on sustainable development and the paternalistic practices that the Los Pelambres Mining Company is implementing in the Choapa Valley, analysing how these influence the construction of new realities in rural territories and on the social conflicts that have taken place here.

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