



Tishman Environment  
and Design Center



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# What Will Change: Eli Nadeau on Decolonization and Resistance

*The next four years will prove to be unprecedented in the roll-back and dismantling of environmental protections. In our series, What Will Change, members of The New School community reflect on the environmental and social justice impacts of the election results from the perspectives of their research, practice, and passion.*

## DECOLONIZE ALL THE PLACES

*By Eli Nadeau*

The (s)election of Donald Trump changes: changes everything, changes nothing. The ascension of DT to power in the US changes nothing because that which has been violated for centuries remains in violation, and those who seek to protect, to defend, to cherish and nourish and steward — land, creatures, spirits, connections, life — have been, will be, are now under attack. The struggle at [Standing Rock](#) and at other pipeline sites continues. Our appetite for energy is boundless, but it doesn't have to be. At the New School, we have committed to divestment on the surface — from fossil fuels — but we have to acknowledge that as long as we support the status quo, business as usual, we are living unsustainably. On the personal level, it's one step up from recycling to remove our money (— our business) from the [banks that fund the pipelines](#), but it is not enough. What can we do that could ever be enough? Educate ourselves, commit ourselves to another way. The [Standing Rock Syllabus](#) is one place to start, the [Movement for Black Lives](#) is another — These are not isolated battles; the possibility of different ways of knowing and being sings through these texts. [Decolonize](#) ourselves, decolonize our gatherings,

unions, homes, schools, streets,  
galleries; open the doors to migrants,  
tear the doors off their hinges and  
use them to build a shelter for  
someone who is cold, a fire for your  
heart; build a bridge. Decolonize the  
curricula, the programming, the  
papers we write, the works we cite.  
@decolonizethisplace is under attack,  
but this fight is older than Trump, it  
is older than fascism, we are in this  
for the long haul, this story is  
centuries old. Defend those who are  
under attack: attend to that which is  
at hand: our shared life on this fragile  
earth, our island home is at stake. *Eli  
Nadeau is a graduate student in  
Politics at [The New School for Social  
Research](#).*



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