

Saharan dust: An invitation to drift

Lucy Sabin

PhD Candidate

Geography (Practice-Related)

University College London

www.aerography.uk

Presented at Amsterdam University College

June 11th 2024





Research visit to University of Alicante, February 2022.

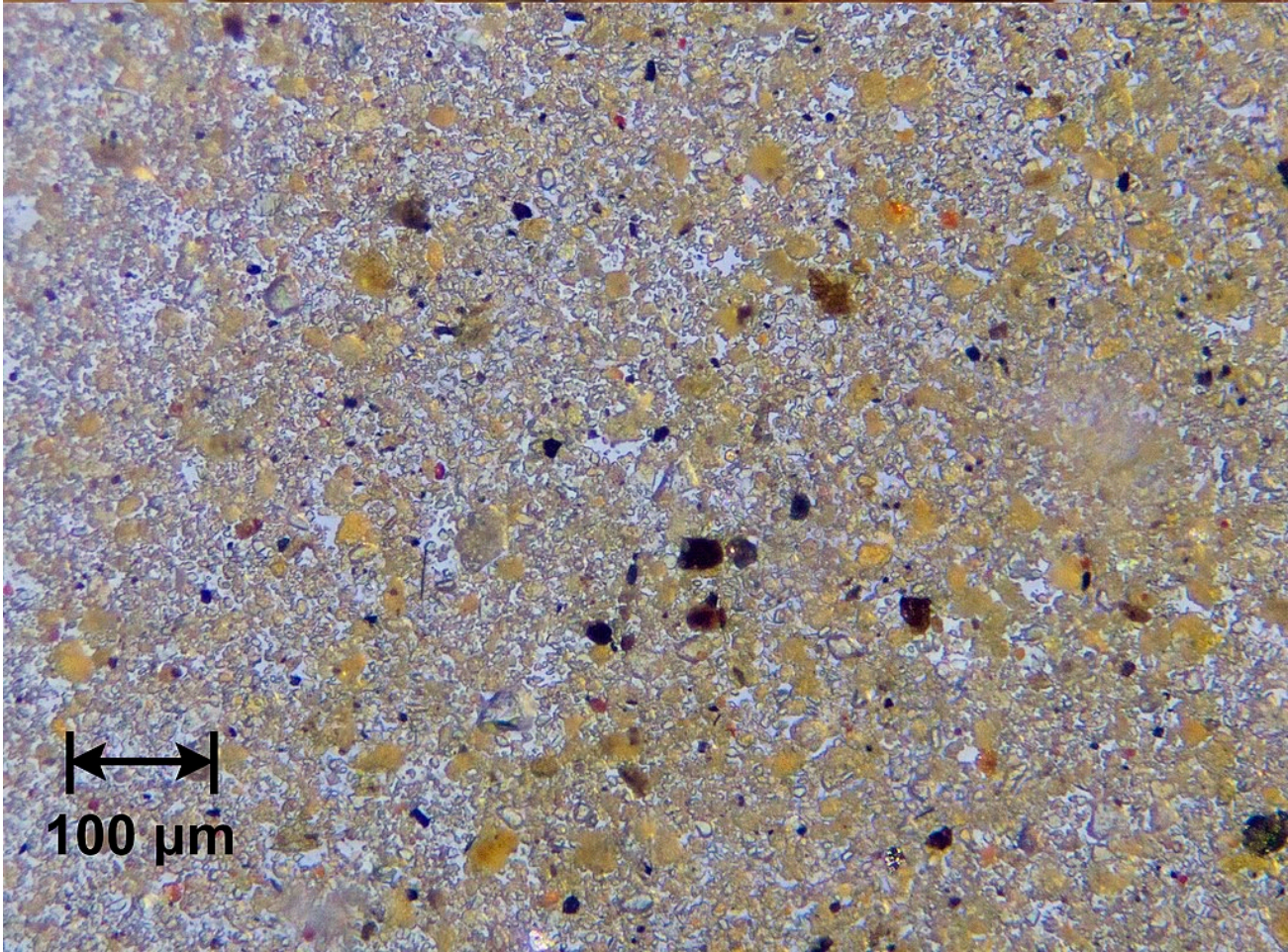


Minas de Ríotinto, Huelva, March 15, 2022.



Sahara sand and Sahara dust depicted on the same scale

Source: Jan1959, Wikimedia Commons.





Walking around Punta Umbría, Huelva, on March 15, 2022.



United Nations

@UN



Sand & dust storms have become a serious global concern due to their significant impacts on the environment, health, agriculture, livelihoods & socio-economic well-being.

More on Wednesday's first-ever Int'l Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms: un.org/en/observances... #SDSDay



10:01 PM · Jul 11, 2023 · 51.1K Views

WMO highlights efforts to tackle sand and dust storms

NEWS

12 July 2023

The World Meteorological Organization is supporting the first ever International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms to draw attention to the significant impacts on the environment, socio-economic well-being and health. It coincides with another major intrusion of **Saharan dust** into the Mediterranean and across the Atlantic to the Caribbean.

Weather as other(?)

- “militarization of meteorological language” in mid-20th Century Europe, with the labelling of air masses as “fronts” and “continents”.
- Berland continues that “we see a stark instance of science constructing its ‘other’ as hostile, inanimate, vanquishable matter” (1994, p. 102).
- “territorialize the air” (Kim, 2024)

Berland, J. (1994). On reading ‘The weather’. *Cultural Studies*, 8, 99–114. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09502389400490061>

Kim, S. (2024). Territorializing the air: Border-crossing air pollution and the geopolitics of atmospheric science in East Asia. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, online. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02637758241246380>



Sand and dust storm hits Europe

NEWS
08 February 2021
Una tormenta de arena y polvo afecta a Europa
22 de febrero de 2021

Saharan dust: Weather experts spot huge desert dust clouds heading to the UK

European sky scientists say we can expect more Saharan dust in the atmosphere over the Midlands in the next few days.
By David Tooley | Published Oct 9, 2023 | Last updated Oct 9, 2023 | Comment

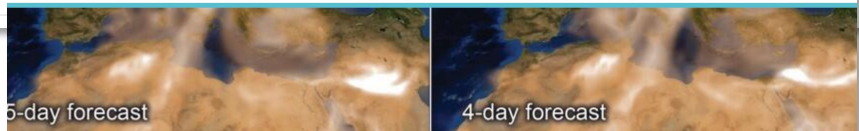


News > UK News > UK Weather

Weather maps reveal when Sahara dust cloud the size of the UK will sweep over country

As the Sahara dust moves northwards and approaches the UK, it will cause beautiful sunrises and sunsets, forecasters say

NEWS By James Holt Senior Live and Breaking News Reporter & Georgia
21:17, 28 JAN 2024



Desert dust strikes southern Europe

Saharan dust cloud today could cover cars and create a stunning sunset for Shropshire

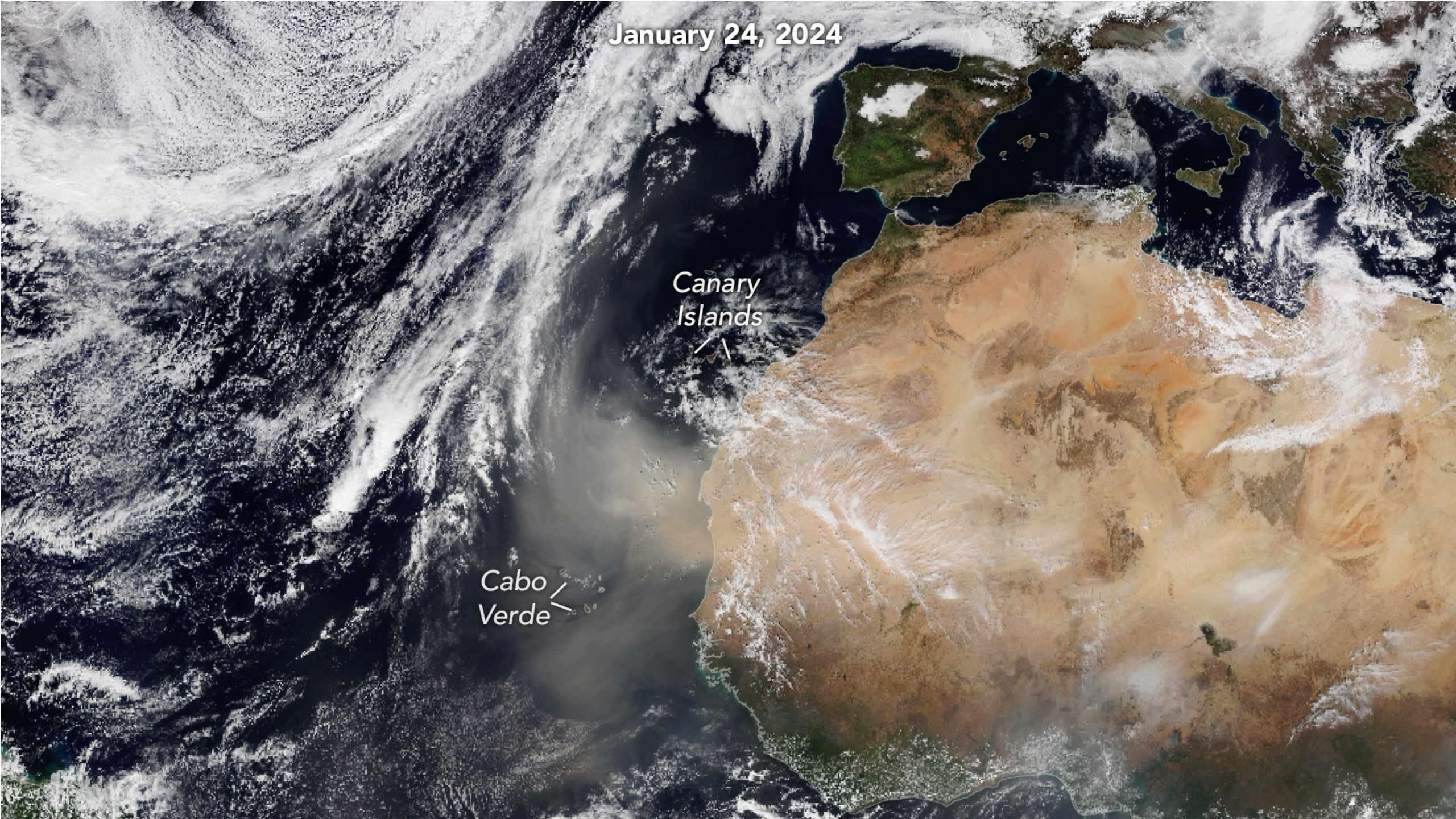
Weather experts have warned a massive Saharan dust cloud could be heading towards the United Kingdom today.

Irony as Saharan dust returns radiation from French nuclear tests in the 1960s

January 24, 2024

Canary
Islands

Cabo
Verde



Satellite vision & territory

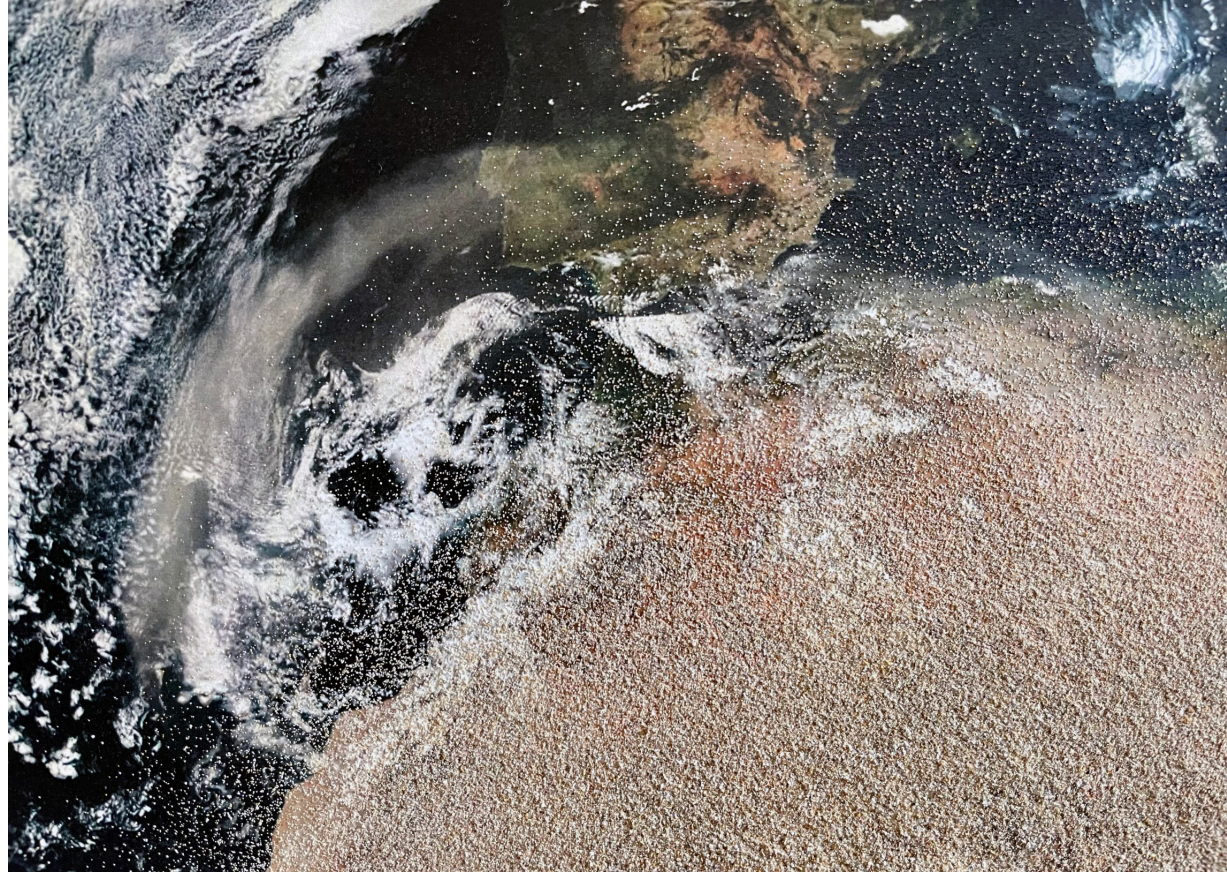
- “god trick of seeing everything from nowhere” (Haraway 1988, p. 581)
- “a ‘border spectacle’ (De Genova, 2002) – a nodal spectacularized meeting point between the North and the South” (İşleyen and El Qadim, 2023, p. 3).
- On deserts, climate, and identity, see “Black as Drought” by Brittany Meché (2022)

Haraway, D. (1988). Situated knowledges: The science question in feminism and the privilege of partial perspective. *Feminist Studies*, 14, 575–599. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3178066>

İşleyen, B. & El Qadim, N. (2023). Border and im/mobility entanglements in the Mediterranean: Introduction to the special issue. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 41, 3–13. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02637758231157264>

Meché, B. (2022). Black as Drought: Arid landscapes and ecologies of encounter across the African diaspora. *Environment & Society*, 13, 60–77. <https://doi.org/10.3167/ares.2022.130105>



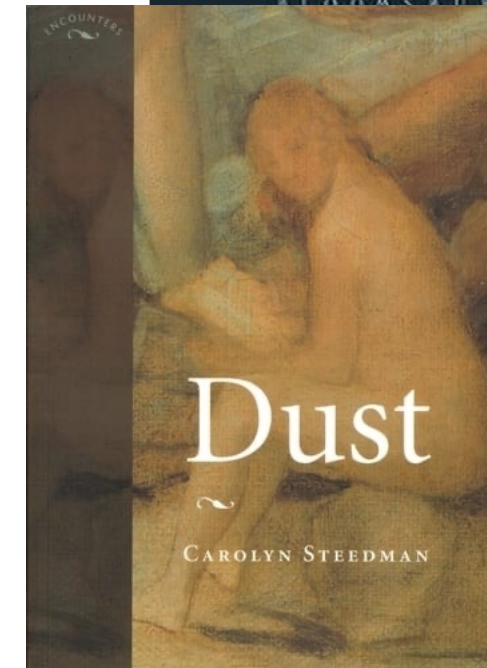
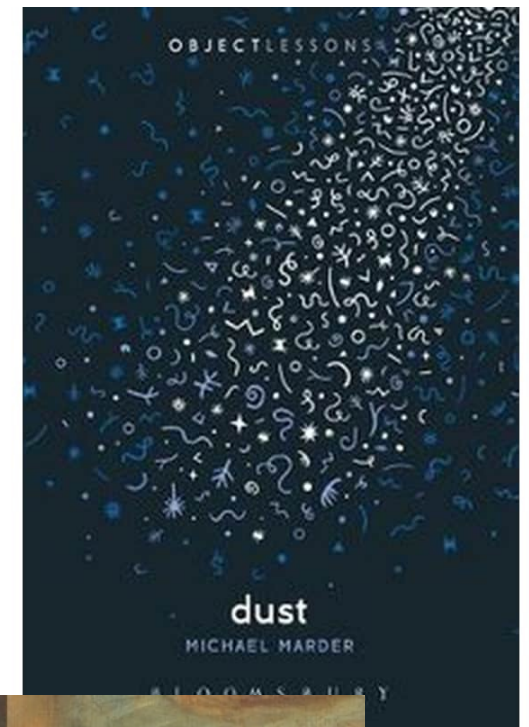
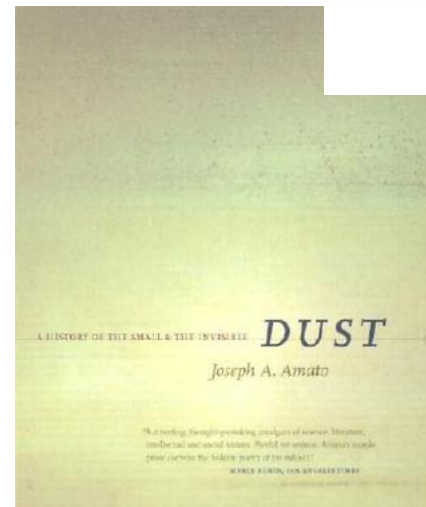


Monographs on dust

- Michael Marder (2016)
- Joseph A. Amato (2000)
- Jerry Zee (2022)
- Carolyn Steedman (2001)



JERRY C. ZEE





>> PROVOCATIONS

Air in the Time of Oil

By Gabrielle Hecht

01/21/2019



Explosion in the Hoggar massif in March 1963 ©Photographe inconnu/ECA/ECPAD/Défense/F63-115 RC19, Author provided



CASTILIA PARS

VALENTIA



Corduba

Ican

Alcala real

Granada

Gaudix Acci

Baza Baza

MURCIA

CARAGENA, sive CARTAGO NOVA

GRANADA

ANDALUSIA

VIRGITANVS SINVS

IBERICVM MARE

MARI S M E D I T E R R A N E I



Questions

- Questions / comments about the reading or today's paper
- Questions / comments about method / practice
- Reflections on your own research / experiences with dust
- Anything else?