



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
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DI FILOSOFIA

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Book Presentation

Discounting the future: the ascendancy of a political technology

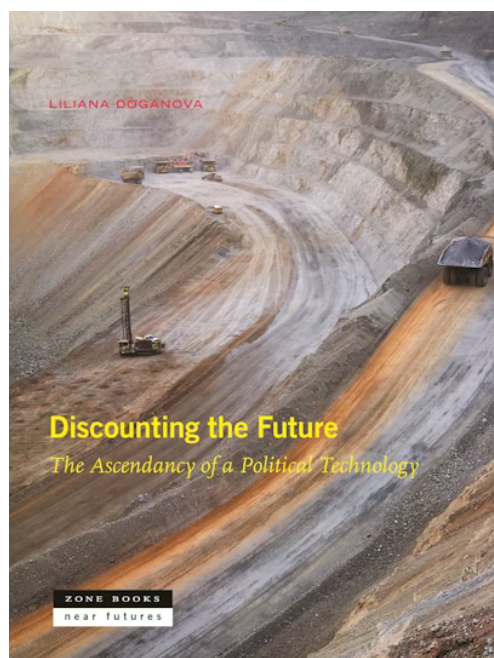
By Liliana Doganova

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Liliana Doganova, *Discounting the future: the ascendancy of a political technology*, Brooklyn, New York, Zone Books (2024).

Discounting means valuing things through the flows of costs and benefits that they are likely to generate in the future, with these future flows being literally dis-counted as they are translated in the present. How have we come to think of the future, and of valuation, in such terms? Building on original empirical research in the historical sociology of discounting, Doganova takes us to some of the sites and moments in which discounting took shape and gained momentum: valuation of European forests in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; economic theories devised in the early 1900s; debates over business strategies in the postwar era; investor-state disputes over the nationalization of natural resources; and drug development in the biopharmaceutical industry today. Weaving these threads together, the book pleads for an understanding of discounting as a political technology, and of the future as a contested domain. (More at the publisher's [website](#))