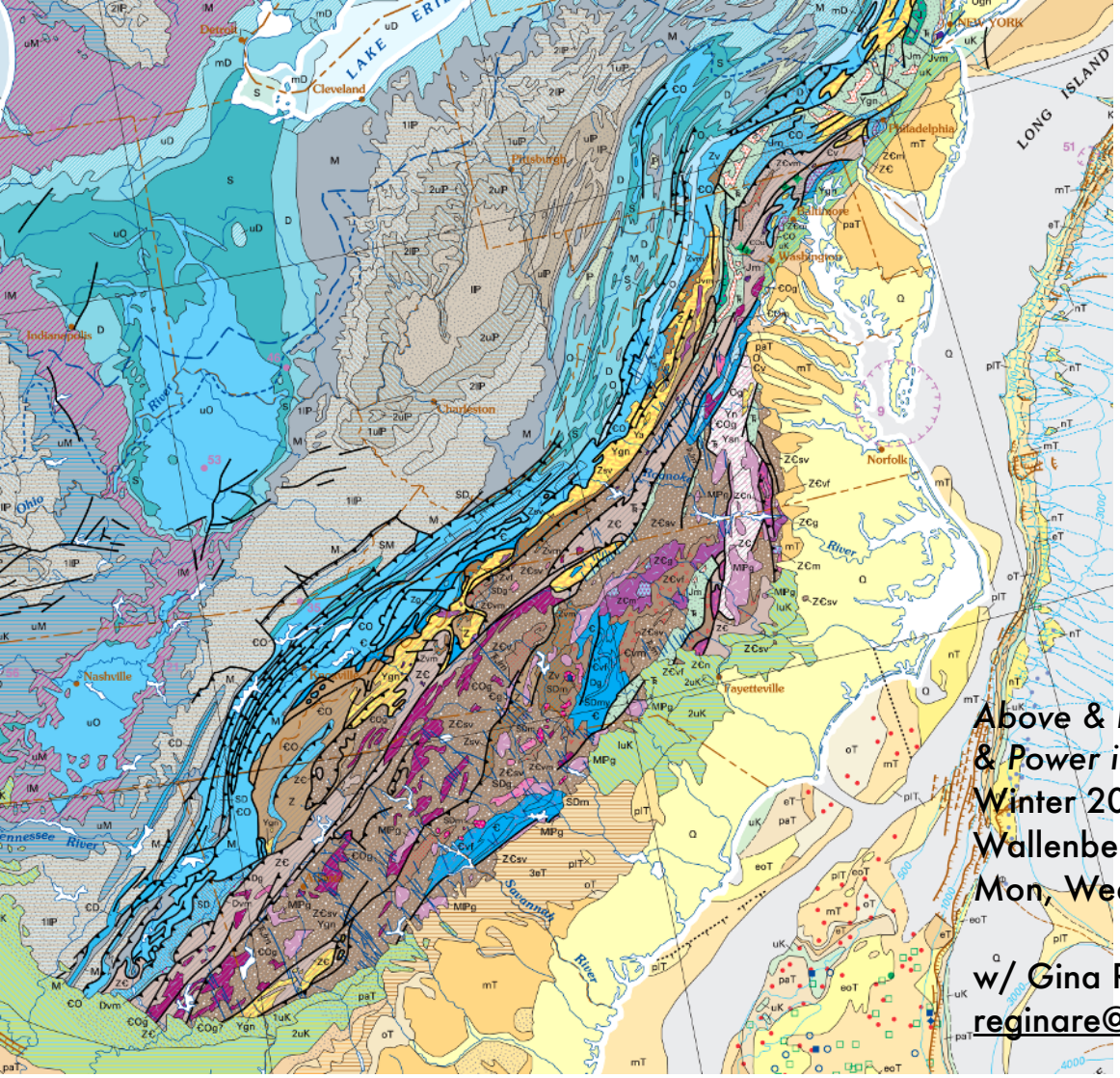

Above & Below: Energy, Identity & Power in Appalachia

Winter 2024
Wallenberg Studio – Arch 442
Mon, Wed & Fri, 1-5 PM

w/ Gina Reichert
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"The geology of the Appalachians dates back more than 1.1 billion years to the Mesoproterozoic era when two continental cratons collided to form the supercontinent Rodinia… the first of several mountain building plate collisions that culminated in the construction of the supercontinent Pangea with the Appalachians and neighboring Anti-Atlas mountains (now in Morocco) near the center. These mountain ranges likely once reached elevations similar to those of the Alps and the Rocky Mountains before they were eroded."[1]

This studio section will focus in on a corner of Appalachia, on one town in a tri-state area where the boundaries of Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky were drawn, at the confluence of two rivers, the Ohio and Guyandotte. This is a place of rich cultures and traditions; a wealth of foods, medicinal plants, music, literature, folklore and hand craft. A place of strong community and great natural beauty. A place tapped for extraction where, for over 200 years, natural resources have been mined and milled at the expense of human labor and quality of life for surrounding ecosystems. A place at a critical point of transition.

We will visit the town of Huntington, West Virginia, and its environs, to learn about energy transitions, deep rooted culture, re-writing histories and embedded geologies of time and place. We will meet and learn from some of the people who are making possible these transitions. From these experiences, as well as our own research investigations, we will respond with speculative projects proposals and development ideas, based in a specificity of place.

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[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geology_of_the_Appalachians