

# HUMANITIES ON THE BRINK

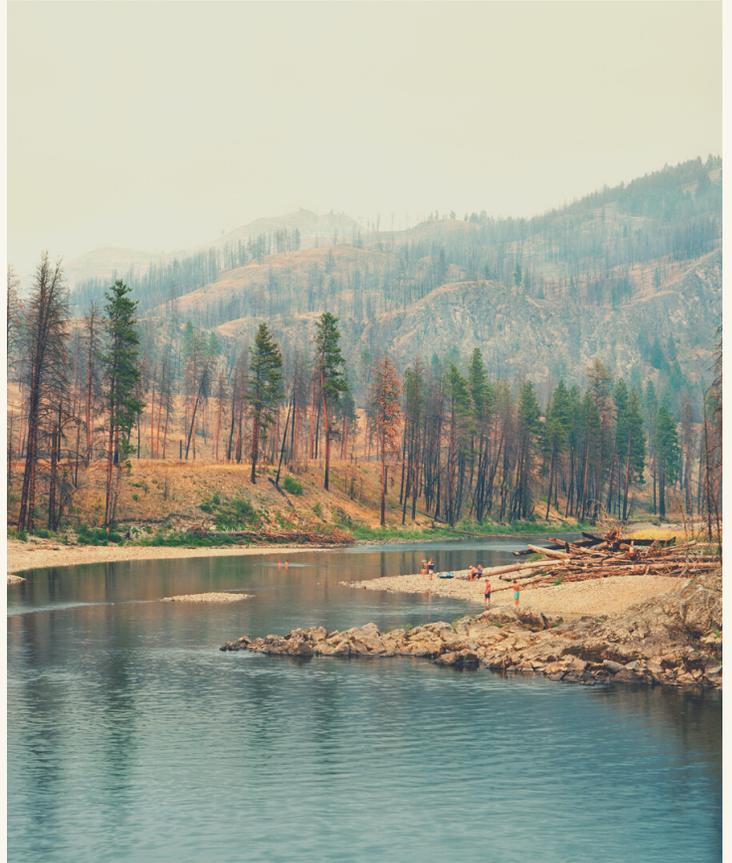


## HUMANITIES ON THE BRINK: ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, EMERGENCY

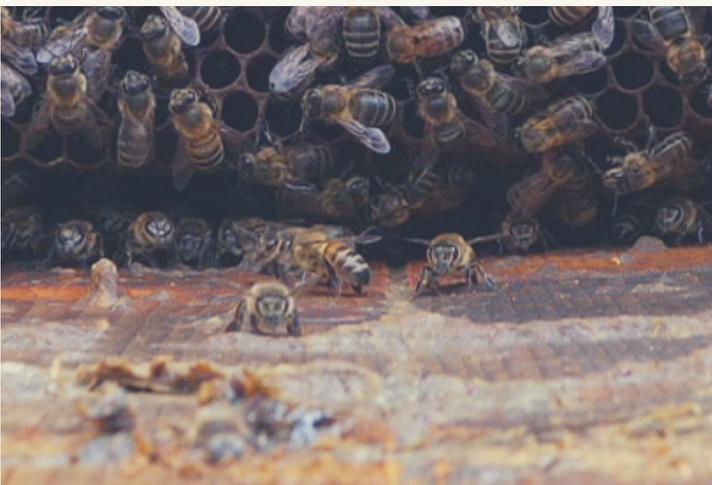
AN ASLE-SPONSORED NCN SYMPOSIUM HOSTED BY UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

JULY 10-30, 2020

Organized by Jacob Goessling, Jordan B. Kinder, & Bart Welling

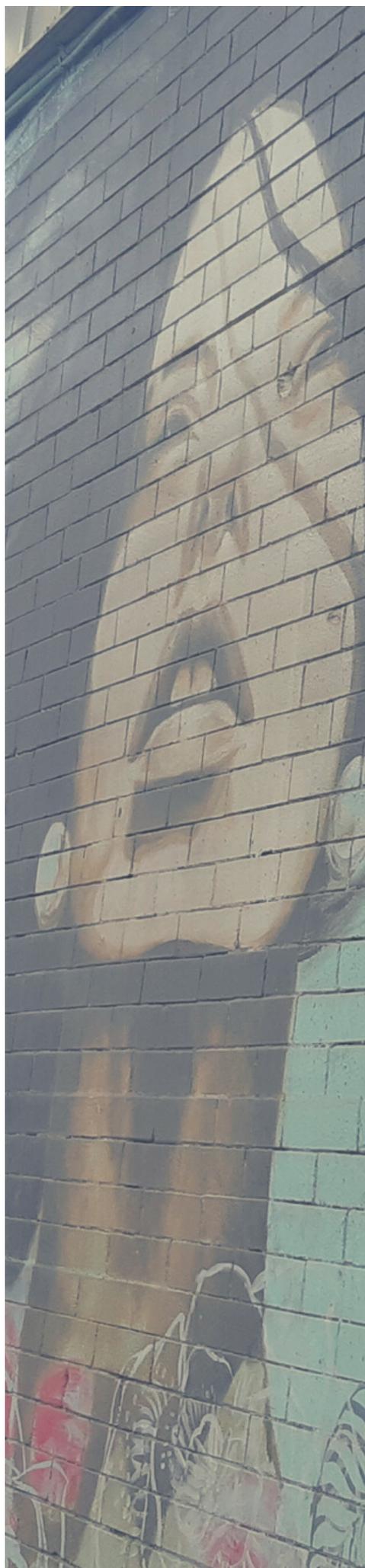


**#ASLE2020virtual**  
**#OntheBrink**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>SPECIAL SESSIONS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1. THE EMERGENCY HUMANITIES</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1 Reading on the Brink	
1.2 Media on the Brink	
1.3 Disaster Responses	
1.4 Auguries of the Anthropocene	
1.5 Antipodean Environmental Literary Studies on the Brink	
<b>2. RESEARCH ON THE BRINK</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 Models of Sustainability	
2.2 Writing the Future	
2.3 Climate Justice in the Classroom	
2.4 The (Post)Humanities	
<b>3. ENERGY CULTURES IN CRISIS</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1 Energy Infrastructures, Markets, and Endless Futures	
3.2 Literatures and Poetics of Energy	
3.3 Cultures of Extraction in U.S. Videogames	
3.4 Infrastructuralisms of Brutalism, Justice, and Anarchy	
<b>4. ECOMEDIATIONS</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1 MultiMediations	
4.2 Toxic Mediations	
4.3 Situated Knowledges	
<b>5. WHOSE EMERGENCIES? ANTI- AND DECOLONIAL EMERGENCY THINKING</b>	<b>7</b>
5.1 Against Climate Colonialism	
5.2 Unsettling Alterity, Unsettling Environments	
5.3 Theorizing Urgency from the Global South	
<b>6. EMERGENCY ETHICS AND POETICS</b>	<b>8</b>
6.1 Excavating Urgency: Slow Violence, Fast Disaster and What Lies in Wait	
6.2 Embodying Emergency	
6.3 Anthropocene Ethics, Anthropocene Materialisms	
6.4 Anthropocene Poetics	
<b>7. MORE-THAN-HUMAN ECOLOGIES</b>	<b>9</b>
7.1 From Emergency to Emergent -Cenes	
7.2 Nonhuman Encounters, Entanglements, and Agencies I	
7.3 Nonhuman Encounters, Entanglements, and Agencies II	
7.4 *Topias	
7.5 Queer Ecologies and Ecosexualities	
7.7 Strange Futures	



# SPECIAL SESSIONS

## ARCHITECTURE AND THE RIGHT OF ASSEMBLY: BLACK LIVES MATTER AND THE MEADOWS OF FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED

**ELAINE SCARRY**

Available July 10 onwards

## INVASION WATCH-PARTY

July 18 | 10AM PST/1PM EST/5PM UTC

A collective screening of *INVASION*, a documentary about the Unist'ot'en Camp, Gidimt'en checkpoint and the larger Wet'suwet'en Nation standing up to the Canadian government and corporations who continue colonial violence against Indigenous people. See [here](#) for more information and how to support. Introduction and discussion will be moderated by Jordan B. Kinder.

## BEYOND THE LIFE/DEATH BINARY: A FEMINIST- INDIGENOUS READING OF SETTLER APOCALYPSE 2020

**KIM TALLBEAR**

July 23 | 9AM PST/12PM EST/4PM UTC

A plenary session with Kim TallBear, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta, and Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Peoples, Technoscience & EnvironmentCanada Research Chair. A recorded talk will be available on July 16, followed by a live Q&A open to participants on July 23.

## A CONVERSATION WITH JENNIFER WENZEL & STEPHANIE LEMENAGER

July 28 | 10AM PST/1PM EST/5PM

A conversation between Jennifer Wenzel and Stephanie LeMenager in response to the video gallery submissions from other scholars.

## CLOSING SOCIAL

July 30 | 3pm PST/6pm EST/10pm UTC

A virtual Happy Hour sponsored by the ASLE Energy Humanities Interest Group.



# PANELS

## 1. THE EMERGENCY HUMANITIES

### 1.1 READING ON THE BRINK

- Lydia Nixon (Angelo State University), "The Ship of This World on Its Voyage to Eternity": Allegories of Ecological Apocalypse in Katherine Anne Porter's *Ship of Fools*"
- Katie Reschenhofer (University of Vienna), "Re-thinking Home in Refugee Picturebooks and Graphic Novels"
- Octavia Cade (Massey University), "Observation and Conversation: Post-Apocalyptic Literature and the Young Adult Audience"
- Beatriz Revelles-Benavente (University of Granada), "Contemporary Literature: The Politics of Aesthetics in *The Handmaid's Tale*"

### 1.2 MEDIA ON THE BRINK

- Caren Irr (Brandeis University), "The Eco-fascist Emergency: An Examination of Godfrey Reggio's *Qatsi* Trilogy"
- Olusegun Stephen Titus (Obafemi Awolowo University), "Sounding the Environmental Benefits of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Nigeria"
- Seon-Myung Yoo (Texas A & M University), "Hermeneutics of the Anthropocene in *Parasite* (2019): Class, Society, and Climate Change"
- Eric Dean Wilson (CUNY Graduate Center), "'This Place Is a Mess': *Atlanta*'s 'Woods' and the Everyday Surrealism of Petro-Capitalist America"

### 1.3 DISASTER RESPONSES

- Danielle Crawford (University of California, Santa Cruz), "The Implications of Aid in Times of Emergency: Destructive Storms, Climate Change, and Disaster Militarism"
- Christine Daigle (Brock University), "The Posthumanities as a Way to Tackle 'Emergency'"
- Trang Dang (Nottingham Trent University), "Attunement as a Response to Climate Emergency"
- Jessica Holmes (University of Washington), "(Mis)Reading at High Tide: Emergent Unreadability in an Age of Emergency"
- Davy Knittle (University of Pennsylvania), "The Climate of AIDS: Gentrification, Urgency, and Loss at the End of Nature"

### 1.4 AUGURIES OF THE ANTHROPOCENE

- Ryan Lawrence (Cornell University), "Chaucer's Corrupt Air: Atmosphere, Mood, Ecological Crisis"
- Alan Marshall (Mahidol University), "Was a Climate Change Catastrophe Really Responsible for *Frankenstein*?"
- Sara Torres (University of Virginia), "Pastoral Access, Activism, and the Plague Archive"
- Kathryn Dolan (Missouri University of Science and Technology), "Farming Stories: Robin Wall Kimmerer's Three Sisters and Honorable Cultivation"

### 1.5 ANTIPODEAN ENVIRONMENTAL LITERARY STUDIES ON THE BRINK

- Jennifer Hamilton (University of New England (Australia)), "The Future of Housework: Feelings about Domestic Labour in *All the Beginnings and Indelible Ink*"
- Sue Hall Pyke (University of Melbourne), "Snaking from Old to New Pathways: A Lyrical Critique"
- Rachel Fetherston (Deakin University), "'Part of Their Story!': Nonhuman Narratives in Australian Habitat Stories"
- Jessica White (University of Queensland), "Australian Botany on the Brink"



## 2. RESEARCH ON THE BRINK

### 2.1 MODELS OF SUSTAINABILITY

- Emily Roehl, Anne Pasek, Caleb Wellum (University of Alberta), "Virtual Conferences on the Brink: Critical Reflections on Research-Creation and Digital Collaboration in Times of Crisis"
- Dan Platt (Graceland University), "Sustainability Studies and the Unsustainable University: A View from the Brink"
- Heather Christenson, Eleanor Koehl, and Graham Dethmers (HathiTrust), "Against the Day: HathiTrust, Arks, and the Emergency of the Present"

### 2.2 WRITING THE FUTURE

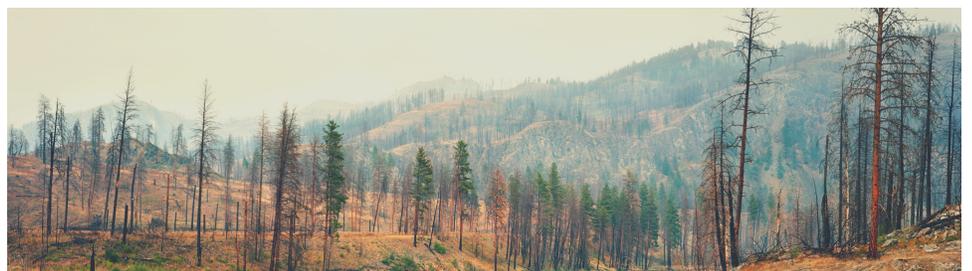
- Petra Kuppers (University of Michigan) and DJ Lee (Washington State University), "Practices of Hope: Building Creative Community in Eco poetic Literary Production"
- Alexandra Nikoleris, Johannes Stripple, Paul Tenngart, and Ludwig Bengtsson-Sonesson (Lund University), "Making Sense of Climate Change: Stories From the *AnthropoScenes* Competition"
- Jennifer Browdy (Bard College at Simon's Rock), "Purposeful Memoir as a Path to a Thriving Future: The Worldwrights Lead the Way"

### 2.3 CLIMATE JUSTICE IN THE CLASSROOM

- Kimberly Skye Richards (University of Fraser Valley), "We Are in Crisis, and the Importance of a Petro-Politicized Classroom"
- Kyhl Lyndgaard (College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University), "Climate Storytelling and Active Learning in Rural America"
- Sarah Nolan (University of Colorado Boulder), "Teaching Environmental Justice with Ana Castillo"
- Judith Wakeman (Independent Scholar), "Using Cli-Fi to Help Reframe Young People's Responses to Climate Change"

### 2.4 THE (POST)HUMANITIES

- Massih Zekavat and Tabea Scheel (Europa-Universität Flensburg), "Interdisciplinary Environmental Interventions through Humor and Satire"
- Laura Barbas-Rhoden (Wofford College), "Participatory Inclusion in Knowledge Creation in Public Posthumanities Research"
- Thomas Asmuth (University of West Florida) and Sara Gevurtz (Auburn University), "Eco-Art and Sciences in an Age of Cynicism"
- Irina Belyakova and Elena Plakhina (University of Tyumen), "Environmental Knowledge Production: A Case Study of Journalism Students at the University of Tyumen"



## 3. ENERGY CULTURES IN CRISIS <sup>5</sup>

### 3.1 ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURES, MARKETS, & ENDLESS FUTURES

- Nicole Stahl (West Virginia University), "Environmentalism Un-Earthed: Estranging the Energy Narrative from the Human Experience"
- Gabe Eckhouse (University of California, Berkeley), "Carbon Purgatory and the Never Ending End of Oil"
- Kameron Sanzo (University of California, Riverside), "Hacking the Loop: Energy Politics in Market-Mediated Recycling"
- Mary Le Rouge (Kent State University), "How Literate Responses to Technical Communication Can Promote Practical Responses to Environmental Change"
- N. A. J. Taylor, (University of British Columbia and University of New South Wales), "'Marking' the Australian Nuclear Fuel Cycle as Future Cultural and Environmental Heritage"

### 3.2 LITERATURES & POETICS OF ENERGY

- Connor Weightman (Charles Sturt University), "Crudely Written: A Petro-Poetry Survey"
- Hannah Klaubert (Stockholm University and Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen), "Nuclear Storyworlds: Writing (Radio)Toxic Wilderness in Mary Mycio's *Wormwood Forest: A Natural History of Chernobyl* (2005)"
- Melanie Dennis Unrau (Columbia University and University of Manitoba), "Rig Talk as Disidentification in Peter Christensen's *Rig Talk* and Mathew Henderson's *The Lease*"
- Lisa Schantl (University of Graz), "Humanizing the Non-Human: Aesthetic Reflections of the Anthropocene in Contemporary Petrofiction"

### 3.3 CULTURES OF EXTRACTION IN U.S. FILM & VIDEO GAMES

- Sarah Stanford-McIntyre (University of Colorado Boulder), "Selling the American 'Oil Frontier': *Tulsa*, *Giant*, and American Resource Politics during the Early Cold War"
- Matthew S. Henry (University of Wyoming), "Red Dead Extraction: Reading Red Dead Redemption 2 as a Critique of Extractive Capital"
- Brian James Leech and George Boone (Augustana College), "Leveling Up by Digging Down: The Portrayal of Mining and Sustainability in Video Game Genres"
- José Sebastián Terneus (Miami Dade College), "'Y'all Sitting Up Here Comfortable:' Extracting the Afrofuturist Myth from Ryan Coogler's *Black Panther*"

### 3.4 INFRASTRUCTURALISMS OF BRUTALISM, JUSTICE, & ANARCHY

- Michael Truscello (Mount Royal University), "The Death Train Narrative and Infrastructural Brutalism in *Snowpiercer* and *Train to Busan*"
- Delia Byrnes (Allegheny College), "Black Infrastructures of Environmental Justice in Attica Locke's *Houston*"
- Kelly MacPhail (University of Minnesota Duluth), "'Got to Hate Fences': Infrastructure and Anarchy in *Lonely Are the Brave* (1962)"



## 4. ECOMEDIATIONS

### 4.1 MULTI-MEDIATIONS

- Kristen Brown (Dixie State University), "Of Sound Mind and Body: Lessons in Listening to the Jingle Dress Dance"
- Robert Geal (University of Wolverhampton), "Surviving Environmental Apocalypse in Film 'Lifeboats': Cinema, Psychoanalysis, and the Formal Structure of the 'Stories We Live By'"
- Christopher D. Foley (University of Southern Mississippi), "From Cultural Hero to Zero (Emissions): The Ecofeminist Critique of Maui's Resource Extraction in Disney's Moana"

### 4.2 TOXIC MEDIATIONS

- Orchid Tierney (Kenyon University), "Destruction Is a Real Hidden Investment: Waste's Modernity in the Urban Pastoral"
- Nicolai Skiveren (Aarhus University), "Cinematic Wasthetics: An Empirical Eco-critique of Slow Violence and Plastic Pollution"
- Ruby de Vos (University of Groningen), "On (De)Familiarizing Toxicity: Getting Intimate with Polluted Soil"

### 4.3 SITUATED KNOWLEDGES

- Giulia Lepori and Michal Krawczyk (Griffith University), "Regenerative Dwelling in the Age of Collapse: A Story"
- Bethany Williams (University of California, Davis), "Embodied Ecocriticism: Action and Agriculture as Environmental Texts"
- Andreas Rutkauskas (University of British Columbia Okanagan), "Wildfire in an Uncertain Time: Photography and Regeneration"

## 5. WHOSE EMERGENCIES? ANTI- & DECOLONIAL THINKING

### 5.1 AGAINST CLIMATE COLONIALISM

- Paula Wiczorek (University of Rzeszów), "Imagining Anthropocene Future: Indigenous Communities, Extractive Industries and the City in Zainab Amadahy's *Resistance* (2013)"
- Tori Bush (Louisiana State University), "We Are Not Beasts: Deconstructing and Challenging Representations of Climate Displacement"
- Muhammad Manzur Alam (West Virginia University), "Reading South Asian Ecofiction as Counternarratives to Climate Denialism"

### 5.2 UNSETTLING ALTERITY, UNSETTLING ENVIRONMENTS

- Lucien Darjeun Meadows (University of Denver), "The Soul, The Snake, The White Road: Adelaide Crapsey's Translations of Cherokee Incantations"
- K. Abilasha (Sri S. Ramasamy Naidu Memorial College), "The non-existent other in Deepak Dalal's *Andaman Adventure The Jarawa* and *Andaman Adventure Barren Island*"
- Karen Siu (Rice University), "Naming Asian American Environmental Literature in an Era of Environmental Crisis"

### 5.3 THEORIZING URGENCY FROM THE SOUTH

- Brooke Stanley (University of Delaware), "Urgencies of the Dry City: Cape Town in the Global Imagination"
- Akua Banful (Columbia University), "Scientists and Fishermen: Environmental Theory, Myth, and Practice in Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide*"
- Rebecca S. Oh (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), "Postcolonial Apocalypse and Pessimistic Aesthetics"



## 6. EMERGENCY ETHICS & POETICS

### 6.1 EXCAVATING URGENCY: SLOW VIOLENCE, FAST DISASTER, AND WHAT LIES IN WAIT

- Stacey Balkun (University of Mississippi), "Post-Apocalyptic Latency Poetics and Living 'Here'"
- Elijah Ohrt (University of Mississippi), "'Shit Happens': Excavating Excrement in Contemporary(ish) Ecopoetics"
- Ann Fisher-Wirth (University of Mississippi), "Toward a Corona Journal"
- Regina Young (University of Mississippi), "Carbon Glow"

### 6.2 EMBODYING EMERGENCY

- Arlene Plevin (Olympic College), "Which Portal Will We Go Through? Environmental Humanities and Activism in a Time of Distant Bodies"
- Agata Kowalewska (Warsaw University), "A Speculative Mythology for a Future of Practicing Kinship and Distance"
- Dominic Wilkins (Syracuse University), "Bearing Witness in the Environmental Humanities?"

### 6.3 ANTHROPOCENE ETHICS, ANTHROPOCENE MATERIALISMS

- Dong Yang (University of Georgia), "Affectsphere as an Ecosphere: Thoreau, von Üexkull, and the Anthropocene of Care"
- Nathan Schmidt (Indiana University Bloomington), "Nihilism and Bravery"
- Fazila Derya Agis (Independent Scholar), "Teaching Environmental Ethics with *Fünf Freunde* [Five Friends] and *Five on Kirrin Island Again*"
- Sean Collins (University of Utah), "'There's No More Nature': Beckett and New Materialisms"

### 6.4 ANTHROPOCENE POETICS

- Becca Hamilton (University of Cambridge), "'Things of Each Possible Relation Hashing Against Each Other': Juliana Spahr's Climate Crisis Entanglement"
- Matthew Ellis (Brock University), "Listing Atrocity: Queering the Epic with Ecopoetics in Dionne Brand's *Inventory*"
- Emily Simon (Brown University),
- "Different Daylight: Crises of Visuality and Futurity in Sueyeun Juliette Lee's Post-Fluorescent Poetics"



## 7. MORE THAN HUMAN ECOLOGIES 8

### 7.1 FROM EMERGENCY TO EMERGENT -CENES

- Cara Judea Alhadeff (Independent Scholar), "Climate Justice Now: Transforming the Anthropocene into the Ecozoic Era"
- Chantelle Mitchell (Independent Scholar) and Jaxon Waterhouse (University of Tasmania), "Ecological Gyre Theory: Vortextual Thinking After the Ecologic Turn"
- Dee Horne (University of Northern British Columbia), "New Imaginaries in the Anthropocene"
- Jacqueline Dillion (Pepperdine University), "'Ancient Permanence': Thomas Hardy and the Anthropocene"

### 7.2 NONHUMAN ENCOUNTERS, ENTANGLEMENTS, AND AGENCIES I

- Meg Perret (Harvard University), "'Chemical Castration': White Genocide and Male Extinction in Rhetoric of Endocrine Disruption"
- Rebecca A. Durham (University of Montana), "Biophony in the Anthropocene: Changes to the Avian Soundscape Since Thoreau's Time at Walden Pond" and "Bird Count: Avian Reverence/Violence Since Thoreau's Walden"
- Brian Glaser (Chapman University), "Saltwater Wetlands"

### 7.3 NONHUMAN ENCOUNTERS, ENTANGLEMENTS, AND AGENCIES II

- John Charles Ryan (Southern Cross University), "Literary Ethnobotany as a Site of Possibility? Poetry and Traditional Knowledge of Vegetal Life in the Planthropocene"
- Timothy S. Miller (Florida Atlantic University), "Fantasy and Urgency: Climate Change and Rewilding the Imagination in Richard Powers's *The Overstory*"
- Dixon Bynum (University of Mississippi), "A Nest of Cottonmouths: Snake Lore and White Anxiety in Southern Literature"
- Velina Dinkova (University of Colorado Boulder), "Challenging Humanity: Silence, Loss, and Resilience in the Contemporary French Eco Novel"

### 7.4 \*TOPIAS

- Lawrence Coates (Bowling Green State University), "Always Coming Home: Ursula K. Le Guin's Utopian Aesthetic"
- Sheryl M. Medlicott (Independent Scholar), "The Way to Utopia in an Environmental Crisis"
- David Latour (Université de Clermont-Ferrand), "Solarpunk: Imagining a Political and Ecological Aesthetics for the Future"
- Ariel Kroon (University of Alberta), "Solarpunking the Impasse of the Anthropocene"

### 7.5 QUEER ECOLOGIES AND ECOSEXUALITIES

- Eva Hoffmann (Whitman College), "Queer Zombies and the Apocalypse of Man: Ecocriticism, Post-Feminism and Queer Theory in Recent German Literature and Film"
- Sabine LeBel (University of New Brunswick, Fredericton), "Queer Environmental Futures"
- Nicholas Tyler Reich (Vanderbilt University), "Can Truck Sluts Be Environmentalist?"

### 7.6 \*STRANGE FUTURES

- Matthew Morgenstern (Purdue University), "Nobody Knows Anything for Sure: Uncertainty as Monstrosity in Louise Erdrich's *Future Home of the Living God*"
- Jemma Deer (Harvard University), "Quick: Life and Speed in an Era of Extinction"
- Siobhan Angus (Yale University) and Samantha Spady (University of Alberta), "2020 Vision: Futurity and Climate Crisis"
- Rachel Hill (Independent Scholar), "'Kindling Suns': Decolonial Spaceflight Imaginaries"
- Jessica Hurley (George Mason University), "Apocalypse: A Manifesto for the Futureless"



---

.....

**THANK YOU**

UCSB

Ken Hiltner  
Baron Haber  
Lydia Borowicz

ASLE

Amy McIntyre  
Christy Tidwell  
Bridgitte Barclay

.....

---



