

Call for papers

Intermedial Ecocriticism: The Anthropocene Condition across Media and the Arts

Cluj-Napoca, Romania August 29-31

Conference Organizers

Doru Pop (Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca), Liviu Lutas and Jørgen Bruhn (Linnæus University Centre for Intermedial and Multimodal Studies, Sweden)

The conference is a collaboration between Linnæus Centre for Intermedial and Multimodal Studies and The Center for Transdisciplinary Research - Ekphrasis, Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca

Anthropocene is a much-debated, yet highly influential catch-all term for a planetary condition, which casts humankind as a geological force. Subsuming phenomena like dramatically diminishing biodiversity, detrimental pollution, destruction of marine and telluric ecosystems, and anthropogenic climate change, Anthropocene succeeds in capturing the contemporary moment of crisis, anxiety, and even “pre-trauma” depression (Anne Kaplan).

At the time the term was coined in the early 2000s, environmental alarms have been sounding for more than three decades, and environmental issues have already transcended the domain of natural sciences. Indispensable in diagnosing damage and construing simulated scenarios, when it comes to engaging the public at large, the natural sciences are no match for the humanities, the social sciences and the arts. For them, Anthropocene is a tool for making cultural, political, and ideological sense of irreversible environmental phenomena, for rendering them graspable, and even resolvable.

The conference organizers would therefore like to convene scholars of the Anthropocene condition from a wide variety of disciplines – communication studies, literary ecocriticism, new materialism and post-humanism, media studies and animal studies as well as engaged colleagues from the social sciences and the natural sciences. Artists and writers confronting the Anthropocene condition in aesthetic media are encouraged to apply for the conference.

We would also wish to consolidate innovative discussions within the methodological frame of intermedial *ecocriticism* since we consider intermediality and multimodality to be crucial in communicating interaction, and believe that

° Intermedial ecocriticism understands all medial expressions as medially and modally mixed, meaning that Intermedial ecocriticism considers art, mass media, journalism and science on a gliding scale instead of as absolute entities;

◦ Intermedial ecocriticism aims at comparing different medial expressions of societal and scientific facts related to environmental questions, therefore

◦ Intermedial ecocriticism aims to reinvestigate the basic ecocritical questions from a media comparative point of view.

Possible topics of interest include but are not limited to

Anthropocene dystopias (and utopias?);
Anthropocene media;
Comparative Climate Change communication;
Dark media ecologies;
Ecofeminisms;
Ecopoetics;
“Hyperobjects” across media;
Intersections between environmental philosophies, science and the arts
Media-oriented discussions of Science and Technology Studies;
Parascientific histories and methodologies;
Posthumanities versions of scientific reasoning;
Science representation as a medial question;
Queer ecologies;
Speculative and “weird” Anthropocene fictions.

Confirmed Key Note Speakers

Lars Elleström, professor of Comparative Literature, Linnaeus University, Sweden
Simon Estok, associate professor of English and Foreign Languages, Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea
Alexa Weik von Mossner, associate professor of American Studies, Klagenfurt University, Germany
Christina Stojanova, associate professor, University of Regina, Canada

Guide for authors

The official language of the conference is English.

We welcome proposals for papers and pre-constituted panels (2-3 papers).

Art-based researchers and artists are strongly encouraged to submit suggestions for presentations in various formats.

Each paper will be allotted 20 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes for discussion.

Important Dates

Deadline for proposal submission: May 1st, 2019.

Notification of acceptance: May 15, 2019

Conference registration deadline: June 15 th, 2019

Other Important Information

The conference fee is € 100, payable online. It includes conference dinner, and access to all conference activities and materials.

The organizers will provide a meal plan and housing at the Babeş-Bolyai University hotel for an extra fee of € 50.

Reduced fees for graduate students and independent artists/writers are to be discussed with the organizers.

The venue of the conference is the main building of Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj, Romania, Mihail Kogălniceanu St. 1, 400084.

Publication of Conference Proceedings

We are planning to publish a selection of the articles presented in the peer reviewed journal Ekphrasis (ESCI, ERIH/ EBSCO <http://ekphrasisjournal.ro/index.php?p=call>)

- a separate volume edited by the organizers, to be published at an international publisher, pending on the range and quality of papers

For further details, please contact Professor Doru Pop
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