

CHANGING CONCEPTS OF NATURE IN LITERATURE AND FILM

Workshop with Public Lectures

Tuesday, 28th January 2020

Room 3.134 – Nordeuropa-Institut

Keynote-Lecture Henrik-Steffens-Vorlesung

18:15 Reinhard Hennig – Universitetet i Agder
Writing the Anthropocene: Contemporary Norwegian Literature and the Global Environmental Crisis

Global environmental and climatic change is now occurring on such a great scale that the planet can even be said to have entered a new geological epoch: the Anthropocene.

The implication that humanity has become a geological force has sparked controversial debate in both the sciences and the humanities. In literary studies, an obvious question is how literature can help us imagine and understand the Anthropocene, and perhaps even equip us to live better with its problematic consequences.

Norway is not only the first country in the world to boast an organization of environmentally committed writers: in much contemporary Norwegian literature, there is also a significant trend to address environmental issues. This lecture will discuss the various ways in which the Anthropocene enters recent texts from Norway, and ask whether attempts to imagine humanity's geological agency also call for literary innovation.

The workshop is funded by the
H e n r i k - S t e f f e n s - P r o f e s s o r s h i p

All lectures of the workshop are public.

Wednesday, 29th January 2020

Room 3.246 – Nordeuropa-Institut

9.15 Registration and welcome

Session 1 – Moderation: Marie-Theres Federhofer Interconnectedness

9.30 Hanna Eglinger – FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg
Invading Anthropocentrism: Scandinavian Poetics of Eco-Parasitism

10.00 Marte Hagen – Universitetet i Oslo
Interweaving of self and world in Nils-Aslak Valkeapää's "The Sun, My Father"

10.30 Dörte Linke – Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Interconnectedness: reflections on Donna Haraway's "Staying with the trouble" and Josephine Klougart's novel "Om mørke"

11.00 Discussion

Session 2 – Moderation: Reinhard Hennig The Ecological Self – Rethinking the Human

11.45 Kathrin Mengis – Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Exploring the relationship between humans and the environment in contemporary travel literature

12.15 Henning Howlid Wærp – UiT Norges arktiske universitet
Grensen mellom natursansning og imaginasjon i Knut Hamsuns roman "Victoria" (1898)

12.45 Discussion

Session 3 – Moderation: Dörte Linke Narrating Nature – New Perspectives

14.30 Beatrice M. G. Reed – Universitetet i Oslo
Hva gjør en forteller økosentrisk?

15.00 Philipp Wagner – Universität Wien
Memorizing the Anthropocene: Siri Ranva Hjelm Jacobsen's "Havbrevene" (2018)

15.30 Discussion

16.45 Evening programme and dinner*

Thursday, 30th January 2020

Room 3.246 – Nordeuropa-Institut

Session 4 – Moderation: Dörte Linke Nature and Cultural Identity

9.30 Katie Ritson – Rachel Carson Center – LMU München
A Platform for Growth: The Imagination of North Sea Oil

10.00 Anna Christina Harms – Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
How nature shapes a cultural image: An internal and external view on the culture of the Sámi

11.00 Stefanie Schenke – Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Performing Nature and Nation

11.30 Pauline Kwast – Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
A novel about Iceland

12.00 Discussion

Session 5 – Moderation: Marie-Theres Federhofer Climatic Changes in Fiction and Photography

14.00 Sissel Furuseth – Universitetet i Oslo
Nordic Contemporary Fiction Grieving the Loss of Snow

14.30 Maike Teubner – FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg
Nordic Photography in times of the Anthropocene. Mette Tronvoll's series "Svalbard" (2014)

15.00 Final discussion and prospects



*Evening programme and dinner are only for invited participants of the workshop.

W o r k s h o p

Literature, film, and other forms of cultural expression play today an important role in addressing the controversies and paradoxes connected to the human-nature relationships. They negotiate, invent, and transform those relationships, which is shown, for example, by the prominence of the subject of climatic change in literature.

This is an international phenomenon, yet it may be especially marked in the Nordic countries. Norway, for example, has the world's first organization of writers committed to climate action, Forfatternes klimaaksjon.

Climatic and environmental change has become a very frequent motif in contemporary Nordic literature, with works such as Maja Lunde's *Bienes historie* (which focuses on species extinction) and the TV-series *Okkupert* (based on a scenario of climate catastrophe) having become international successes.

In this workshop we will ask how ideas of both human and non-human nature are interrelated and changing, and how literary and cinematic texts and genres contribute to the re-negotiation of established notions of nature and the relation between humans and the environment. The focus will be both on contemporary works and on how new concepts such as the Anthropocene and the material turn in literary and cultural studies retrospectively change our understanding – even of older works.

The workshop is funded by the
Henrik-Steffens-Professorship

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Nordeuropa-Institut
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Room 3.134 and 3.246

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www.ni.hu-berlin.de/changing-nature

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