

# CHANGING CONCEPTS OF NATURE IN LITERATURE AND FILM

## Workshop with Public Lectures

**Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> 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  
**Henrik-Steffens-Professorship**

All lectures of the workshop are public.

**Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> 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 "Havbrevne" (2018)

**15.30** Discussion

**16.45** Evening programme and dinner\*

**Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

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[www.ni.hu-berlin.de/changing-nature](http://www.ni.hu-berlin.de/changing-nature)

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