

CFP: Facing the Great Derangement: Cultural Responses to Climate Change and the Unthinkable from Latin America and the Global South

International Workshop, Stockholm University

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The adverse effects of the colonial and modern project are becoming increasingly apparent each day. From the perspective of Latin America and the Global South, this issue turns into a pressing, unavoidable reality, as the relationship among environmental extraction, militarization, and the politics of decolonization are strongly tied to a longstanding history of colonial and neoliberal violence masked under the promise of progress and modernization. On top of that, natural and human-fueled phenomena are hitting the Global South hard, causing displacement and devastation in the shape of fires throughout the Amazon Basin, hurricanes Maria and Dorian sweeping through the Caribbean, severe droughts in Africa, or extreme flooding and scorching temperatures in Asia. Hence, it is not by chance that, as one of the leading characters in this story, the Global South has become both the extractive zone—as Macarena Gómez-Barris puts it—and the recurrent site at which the hyperobject of climate change—Timothy Morton’s concept—reveals its most aggravating effects. If, as Amitav Ghosh states in *The Great Derangement*, the climate crisis is also a crisis of culture, and thus of the imagination, how can we sketch out future agendas for critical work and political action by exploring the cultural archives of Latin America and the Global South? This workshop will problematize this cultural and imaginative crisis by turning to the Latin American and Global South ecology of cultural media—i.e., literature, film, visual, plastic, and performative arts—in order to remap cultural representations of climate change, the unthinkable, and human-nonhuman entanglements that clash with neoliberal and New Left extractive policies. By exploring these alternative archives of modernity and precarity, the workshop seeks to unearth, from the standpoint of a broad conceptualization of literary, film, and cultural studies, renewed understandings of human and nonhuman relations, as well as to propose fruitful prospective visions on politics, well-being, community, resilience to environmental change, and culture.

The workshop will congregate a group of junior and senior scholars working on these topics to discuss: 1) What are the possible outcomes that can be derived from alternative ways of reading and discussing the representations of post-nature, climate change, and the unthinkable in Latin America and the Global South? and 2) How can the human-nonhuman entanglements depicted in contemporary cultural media ecologies around the Global South contest the depletion of natural resources, the boundaries of nations and natural frontiers, colonial Western binarism, social and environmental precarities and uncertainties, as well as toxic narratives?

Possible topics for the CFP (but not limited to):

- Speculative fiction, cli-fi, sci-fi, the new weird
- Ecological art
- Dystopian and utopian futures
- Ecocriticism
- Art-science entanglements and activisms
- Nonhuman agency and viewpoints
- Post-growth art and literature
- Altered geographies
- Climate trauma
- Slow violence in literature and other cultural expressions
- Challenging the Anthropocene: Black Anthropocenes, the Anthro-not-seen, the colonial Anthropocene
- Climate fiction at the intersection with indigenous, gender, and race studies
- Post-natural aesthetics and theories
- Tales about ecological refugees
- Eco-media and media ecology

Keynote Speakers:

Gisela Heffes (Rice University, USA): “Extracted Landscapes and Decapitation Resistance: Activism, Violence, and Imaginaries of (Dis)possession in Latin America” (In English)
See her profile here: <https://spanishandportuguese.rice.edu/faculty/gisela-heffes>

Victoria Saramago (University of Chicago, USA): “Fiction Writing and Environmental Conservation in Latin America” (In English)
See her profile here: <https://rll.uchicago.edu/victoria-saramago>

Igor Barreto (Universidad Central de Venezuela): “Los caminos que no se ven. Cómo estructuré mi representación de la naturaleza” (In Spanish)
Poet and university professor. One of the most intriguing ecological artists from Latin America.
See his profile here: <http://igorbarreto.blogspot.com/>

Send your submissions (English, Spanish, or Portuguese) not later than March 30, 2021 to greatderangement@su.se. Abstracts (max. 250 words) and a short bio (max. 5 lines)