

SURVIVING THE ANTHROPOCENE

Towards elemental literacy and inter-disciplinary partnerships

An interdisciplinary symposium co-organized by

Institute for Philosophical Studies & Mediterranean Institute for Environmental
Studies, Science and Research Centre Koper, Slovenia
Department of Philosophy, University of Iceland, Iceland
University of Innsbruck, Institute for Educational Sciences, Austria

Skálholt, Iceland, May 11–13, 2020

About the symposium

This interdisciplinary symposium is intended to bring together innovative g/local expertise in philosophy and pedagogy, ecofeminism, policy, theology, biosocial cultural studies and theories and practices of embodied critical thinking, to configure equitable and realistic ways for life on earth to survive the Anthropocene. Our focus is shared with the natural environment, understood as a sentient partner with inherent values beyond purely commodification and economic frameworks. In recognising the natural environment as an agent in its own becoming, the symposium aims to 'breath with nature', as a companion. We further aim to better understand and work towards resolving the perceived clash between nature, culture, ethics and policy, through new conceptual thinking and engagement that champions an elemental philosophy of connectivity and respect. Developing 'elemental literacy' to transpose current understandings of: what/how nature is, how it is acted upon, and how it acts upon, constitutes a primary focus for this symposium that seeks to imagine and dynamically participate in: new, complex and adaptive possibilities, environmental management provocations and reforms, and philosophical analyses of restorative ecological justice pathways, both conceptually and practically.

Intelligent (informed, perceptive/interoceptive) *partnership with* the natural and more-than-human world (broadly understood), and human culture, within the frameworks of policy decision-making, is crucial for a connected and ethical way forward for life on planet earth. The climate change crisis increasingly demonstrates that we stand at the precipice of change. We are changing the face of the earth. How humans continue to do that change, matters in this Anthropocene crisis that has been largely produced by human recklessness. Our aim and hope is to restore our biosocial relationships and elemental sensibilities, and our forgotten ontologico-environmental-material being.

Workshop style papers/panels that respond to one of the following themes or fields are welcome:

- Philosophy and Pedagogy
- Embodied Critical Theory
- Policy, Governance and Political Ecology
- Creative Industry (such as film, music, poetry, and art)
- First Nations and Transboundary Dialogue and Knowledge
- Ecofeminism and Deep Ecology
- Biosocial Cultural Studies and Anthropology

While papers should aim for a half an hour presentation initially, the symposium design will allow for a more deeply engaged cross-pollination of ideas through discussion time in this live-in environment over three days. There will be opportunities through our Icelandic hosts for us to actively 'meet with' the natural environment near the venue, as part of the Symposium program.

Programme and organizing committee

Dr Lenart Škof, Science and Research Centre Koper, Slovenia

Dr Sigridur Thorgeirsdottir, University of Iceland, Iceland

Dr Shé M. Hawke, Science and Research Centre Koper, Slovenia

Dr Reingard Spannring, University of Innsbruck, Austria

Dr Maja Bjelica, Science and Research Centre Koper, Slovenia

The language of the symposium is English. A limited number of places in the panels is open to applications. Proposals up to 250 words and a brief biographical note should be sent by January 15, 2020 to: conference2020@zrs-kp.si. Selected presenters will be notified by February 5, 2020. Accommodation and travel costs cannot be covered by the organizers. Please note that presenters will need to arrive by the 10 May and to depart after the 14 May to fit in with Iceland flight scheduling. Live streaming is available at Skálholt. It will be possible to follow the lectures and discussions through internet communication channels.



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