

SURVIVING THE ANTHROPOCENE

Towards elemental literacy and inter-disciplinary partnerships

An interdisciplinary symposium co-organized by

Institute for Philosophical Studies, Science and Research Centre Koper, Slovenia

Department of Philosophy, University of Iceland, Iceland

University of Innsbruck, Institute for Educational Sciences, Austria

Alma Mater Europaea ECM, Slovenia

Iceland (online), May 24–26, 2021

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.

Conference organizers

Sigrídur Thorgeirsdóttir, University of Iceland, Iceland
Lenart Škof, Science and Research Centre Koper, Slovenia

Programme and organizing committee

Lenart Škof, Science and Research Centre Koper, Slovenia
Sigrídur Thorgeirsdóttir, University of Iceland, Iceland
Shé M. Hawke, Science and Research Centre Koper, Slovenia
Reingard Spannring, University of Innsbruck, Austria
Nives Dolšak, University of Washington, USA & Alma Mater Europaea ECM, Slovenia
Maja Bjelica, Science and Research Centre Koper, Slovenia
Emil Månsson, University of Iceland, Iceland

The language of the symposium is English.

Contributions are to be designed as 20 min presentations to which a 10 min discussion will follow.

The symposium will be held online, through the Zoom video-conferencing platform.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://eu01web.zoom.us/j/68505592733>

Meeting ID: 685 0559 2733

Join by SIP: 68505592733@109.105.112.236 / 68505592733@109.105.112.235

Join by H.323: 109.105.112.236 / 109.105.112.235

Contact: conference2020@zrs-kp.si

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SYMPOSIUM'S PROGRAMME

Note: the times are given in timezones of the organizers – GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) and CEST (Central European Summer Time, UTC/GMT +2 hours) – and EDT (Eastern Daylight Time, UTC/GMT -4 hours)

MONDAY, May 24, 2021

15.00 GMT / 17.00 CEST / 11.00 EDT

Welcome to the Anthropocene

Sigrídur Thorgeirsdóttir, University of Iceland, Iceland
Lenart Škof, Science and Research Centre Koper, Slovenia

15.15–16.45 GMT / 17.15–18.45 CEST / 11.15–12.45 EDT

Panel I

THE ANTHROPOCENE SCENE

Chair: **Sigrídur Thorgeirsdóttir**

Gísli Pálsson: Anthropocene Survivors

Nives Dolšak: Three Facets of Climate Justice in the U.S.A.

Naresh Giangrande: What does it mean to hope radically in 2021?

TUESDAY, May 25th, 2021

9.00–10.30 GMT / 11.00–12.30 CEST / 5.00–6.30 EDT

Panel II

EMBODIED COGNITION AND AESTHETICS

Chair: **Reingard Spannring**

Viðar Hreinsson: Complicated, bloody complicated: Against dehumanizing denaturalization or denaturalizing dehumanization

Guðbjörg R. Jóhannesdóttir: The Glacier and Me – Understanding the Human Being in the Anthropocene

Bart Vandeput: Aronia m. BaBe: A Leaky Reality Through Co-Morphing of Aronia
m. / Baroa b., Bartaku and companions

10.30–11.00 GMT / 12.30–13.00 CEST / 6.30–7.00 EDT

Break

11.00–12.30 GMT / 13.00–14.30 CEST / 7.00–8.30 EDT

Panel III

EMBODIED THEOLOGIES AND SENTIENT COSMOLOGIES

Chair: **Petri Berndtson**

Tamara Ditrich: “Sentience” and its Ethical Implications: New Ways of Thinking,
Informed and Inspired by Ancient Indian Discourse

Lenart Škof: Being in the Heart of the Matter: Reflections on Ontology, Cosmic
Christ and Polar Bears

George Handley: Embodied Theology and the Problem of Evil: Toward a Theodicy
of the Anthropocene

12.30–14.30 GMT / 14.30–16.30 CEST / 8.30–10.30 EDT

Break

14.30–16.00 GMT / 16.30–18.00 CEST / 10.30–12.00 EDT

Panel IV

AIR, DUST AND FLESH

Chair: **Lenart Škof**

Jerry Zee: Between Whirlwinds: Dust and the Poetics of Phases in China

Petri Berndtson: Avicenna’s Flying Person in the Aerial Flesh

Emil Månsson: Elements of ECT

WEDNESDAY, May 26th, 2021

9.00–11.00 GMT / 11.00–13.00 CEST / 5.00–7.00 EDT

Panel V

**CROSS-CULTURAL, ELEMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS
AND EMBODIED COHABITATION**

Chair: **Guðbjörg R. Jóhannesdóttir**

Freya Mathews: “Walking the Land”: An Alternative to Discourse as a Path to Ecological Consciousness

Shé M. Hawke: Re-stor(y)ing a world: Porous entanglements and elemental literacy

Clifton Evers: Toxic Love: Men doing polluted leisure in blue spaces

Ram Eisenberg: Rewilding Thinking

11.00–11.30 GMT / 13.00–13.30 CEST GMT / 7.00–7.30 EDT

Break

11.30–13.00 GMT / 13.30–15.00 CEST / 7.30–9.00 EDT

Panel VI

PEDAGOGICAL AND EXPERIENTIAL SENTIENCE

Chair: **Emil Månsson**

Michael Marder: Vegetal Pedagogy

Reingard Spannring: Subjective experience as the basis for connectivity and respect in a more-than-human world?

Maja Bjelica: Deep re-listening: re-referring to the world as sentient, through co-subjectivity

13.00–14.30 GMT / 15.00–16.30 CEST / 9.00–10.30 EDT

Break

14.30–16.00 GMT / 16.30–18.00 CEST / 10.30–12.00 EDT

Panel VII

LIVED EXPERIENCES IN/BEYOND THE ANTHROPOCENE

Chair: Shé M. Hawke

Claire Petitmengin: Anchoring in lived experience as an act of resistance

Donata Schoeller: Environmental Responsiveness in Conceptual Thinking

Sigrídur Thorgeirsdóttir: From Eco-Anxiety to Embodied Knowing

16.00 GMT / 18.00 CEST / 12.00 EDT

Symposium's concluding discussion

Chairs: Sigrídur Thorgeirsdóttir and Lenart Škof