

Panel 29

Identities, Landscapes and the Anthropocene

Reconfigurations of the Text: Speculative Aesthetics of the Anthropocene

Tymon Adamczewski
Kazimierz Wielki University

In the face of ecological collapse and the representational challenges posed by climate change, contemporary inter-artistic projects increasingly turn to experimental forms to address what resists traditional modes of representation. My paper will examine such projects as Anna Nacher's *Breath Library*, Katie Paterson's *Future Library 2014-2114*, and Mark Fisher and Justin Barton's *On Vanishing Land* (2013) as case studies on how intermedial practices reconfigure textuality, especially with respect to the Anthropocene's complex temporalities and distributed agencies.

Across their diverse modalities, these works are shaped by an enduring – though often implicit – debt to the materiality of the book. Even as they move beyond the printed page, they remain tethered to literary form as both medium and metaphor, exploring, questioning, or revising the conceptual legacies of inscription. They do not merely represent the environment; rather, they position it as a site of im/material inscription, where landscape, time, and text intersect. In my paper, particular attention will be given to the audio essay as an experimental, affectively charged form that renders material surroundings through sound. In *On Vanishing Land*, the presence of landscape is conjured through the atmospheric layering of voice, music, and field recordings – an aesthetic approach deeply informed by Fisher's theorization of the weird and the eerie (2016).

Ultimately, the paper will argue that such inter-artistic practices enact a reconfiguration of the text itself – transforming literary form into a speculative, distributed interface through which the Anthropocene may be thought, sensed, and narrated otherwise.

Biography

Tymon Adamczewski is University Professor at the Department of Anglophone Literatures of Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz, Poland, where he teaches literary and cultural studies. He has recently edited a monograph entitled *All Along Bob Dylan: America and the World* (Routledge 2020) and is the author of *Following the Textual Revolution: The Standardization of Radical Critical Theories of the 1960s* (McFarland 2016), as well as a number of articles published in various international academic venues (e.g., *Journal of Illustration*, *JPMS*, *AVANT*, *Image [&] Narrative*, *NJES*). He is currently conducting research as the PI in a project entitled *The Matter of Words: The (im)Materiality of Literature in Multimodal and Experimental Texts* funded by the OPUS grant of the Polish National Science Centre (NCN) and has held fellowships at Yale (Lewis Walpole Library) and at Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz (Visiting Professorship at Department of English Literature and Culture).