

Call for Papers, EWIS 2023, Amsterdam, 12-14 July

Care, compost, capitalism, and cats: Dissident Anthropocenes / Dissident Scholarship

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Workshop Outline

The Anthropocene condition comes with multiple crises leaving us unprepared for uncertain futures. Central IR categories such as “the state”, “the system” and “agency”, seem no longer adequate to deal with the fundamental – ontological and epistemological – ruptures associated with the Anthropocene’s multiple crises. We see that well-established resolution mechanisms no longer guarantee a return to a safe space. Indeed, we can rather opt for “safer spaces” – those that allow for new cooperative entanglements, relevant for an understanding of IR that cares about nature, extinction, and emotion. In this sense, and responding to the question raised by next year’s theme ‘*Are we doomed?*’, we opt for readings of the Anthropocene which provide more radical suggestions for theory development in IR. We invite contributions engaging with:

- (1) new-materialist approaches that mobilise more-than-human ontologies and juxtapose our perspectives on nature, civilization, and wilderness, highlighting the dimensions of care and kinship, queering our understanding nature-society-relations, and exploring different forms of mutual care.
- (2) decolonial readings on how IR and international politics have contributed to upholding a world order based on settler-colonial relations. These may include quests for Indigenous cosmovisions that offer post-apocalyptic readings of the Anthropocene, as well as radical democratic approaches aiming to deconstruct current democratic practices, challenging the continued effects of colonialism in international relations today.
- (3) approaches that problematize technoscientific responses to the ecological crises, and imagine post-developmental, post-apocalyptic, post-capitalist futures. These may include but are not limited to neo-marxist, post-marxist, feminist, post-capitalist and degrowth approaches, proposing to undo modern, developmental, growth-focused logics by replacing them with convivial ways of organising society and its institutions across the globe, through the re/imagination of more-than-human relations.

In that sense, we explicitly encourage early career scholars to jointly reflect upon our roles as scholars and activists, resonating with what Bruno Latour calls ‘earthbound people’, an imaginary collective of people who consider themselves sensitive and responsive, due to being bound by and to the Earth: What is our role as one that is dissident in academia, unruly in IR’s orderly structures, and uneasy within social movements? In which ways do our roles as researchers need to shift as we are facing destruction of a different kind? Particularly, we invite engagements with the temporal element in global political activisms of our times, where post-apocalyptic forms of environmentalism understand “catastrophic loss experienced

as already having occurred, ongoing or impossible to prevent, rather than a future risk or threat” (Cassegård and Thörn 2018).

With the EWIS workshop, our goal is to bring these themes together, around the “future as method” debates taking place among EISA, and connect them with other threads of the so-called ‘temporal turn in IR’ (McKay et al. 2016, Hutchins 2018), to take stock of that experience and build something novel, which we tentatively call “dissident Anthropocenes.” Accordingly, the workshop aims at making way for research agendas, curricula, methodological challenges, science communication and not least institutional innovations that may guide a way out of IR’s dilemmas, forming the basis of a toolbox for dissident IR scholarship and for co-creating IR as a science of extinction and survival (Mitchell 2018) in a conflict-prone world. This goal will also be reflected in a more experimental account at the workshop format itself.

Submission deadline: 5 February 2023, <https://eisa-net.org/ewis-2023-abstract-submission/>

Bibliography

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