New Humanities & the Anthropocene

10:00 MAY 14 | 9:00 MAY 15

To register for this event, please email: the.posthumanities.hub@gmail.com

OPEN LAB CAFE
Valhallavägen 79

AN OPEN HUMANITIES LAB
ALLA VÄLKOMNA!
Open Humanities Lab Symposium: The Anthropocene and the New Humanities (Uncertainty, response-ability and humankind)

14-15 May 2019
Openlab,
Stockholm

Now, the environment is in us, and we humans are fully in the environment: that much is clear in this new planetary era of uncertainty some call the Anthropocene. This new geological period, the environmental ‘Age of Man’, is often defined by unparalleled human disturbance of the Earth’s ecosystems, climate, and biodiversity. Almost half of the wildlife on Earth has been lost in the past forty years. Perhaps we will soon have spawned more transgenic organisms, synthetic biological systems, hybrid creatures or artificial intelligences than we ever asked for. In the age of the Anthropocene, humans have become a ‘force of nature’, making nature – in its classical sense – over. The old idea of Universal Man in its classical and imagined sense of a bounded individual, safely zipped up in a white skin of his own, guided by rational thought rather than sociability, preconceptions and desires, along with his anthropocentrism seem dated, if not downright detrimental to our planetary existence. Conventional divides between nature and culture, sex and gender, body and technology, human and animal, and between science and society, have collapsed. During the past several decades, emerging research in the humanities has turned its
attention to subjects that were previously conceived as ‘not human enough’: women, queers, children, migrants, people of colour, elderly, and other groups. Simultaneously, popular culture, technologies, animal subjects, insects, plants, whole ecosystems, along with all kinds of human and more-than-human infrastructures, call for our attention. After all, values, purpose, existential conditions and sociocultural formations that are historically sustained, or not, on local or larger scales, are the expertise of the humanities (and its sibling social sciences). The human exceptionalism of the humanities is increasingly abandoned in favour of planetary ethics, societal accountability, and a more-than-human humanities of conviviality. We witness now the exciting emergence of new humanities, responding to present societal challenges.

**How can the humanities accommodate the transformations associated with advances in science, technology, medicine, with the Anthropocene and the ‘great acceleration’ of planetary damage following suit with ‘progress’ and ‘growth’?** Is there a solidarity in our precarious diversity as we now all have to learn to live with the wounds of the world, to live on a damaged planet? Can we, like Timothy Morton, re-imagine kindness in its human and more-than-human sense? **How can the new humanities**, like environmental humanities, feminist bio-philosophy, cyborg studies, architectural philosophy, multispecies studies, eco-art, citizen humanities, gender studies, human-animal studies, plant theory, techno-humanities, media studies and digital humanities, respond to the challenges of the Anthropocene? Such forms of posthumanities – or new humanities – often share a sense of belonging in a world not divided across nature and culture, arts and sciences. For new humanities, postdisciplinary bridge-building and collaborations are crucial. So is responsibility, response-ability, and situated knowledges, as Donna Haraway and decades worth of feminist theorising on what gets to count as human or natural remind us.

**Can the new humanities, transformative and integrative in nature, become not just relevant to society but also enact real change?** Can we have research that is participatory, communicable, and, as Rosi Braidotti puts it, ‘worthy of our times’?

Come join the conversation on uncertainty, response-ability, and humankind in the age of the Anthropocene, and see if the new humanities’ cultivation of attentiveness, curiosity, care, concern, and critique can do something for you, co-existentially with others.
Warmly welcome to an open dialogue amongst various artists, scholars, educators, citizens, academic activists, and journalists, a symposium where we break bread together in public and forge new brave alliances in the face of the unexpected!

After all, humanities is for everybody.

Speakers:

Katja Aglert, independent artist and researcher, SE
Marco Armiero, KTH, SE
Rosi Braidotti, Utrecht University, NL
Christine Daigle, Brock University, CA
Christina Fredengren, Stockholm University, SE
Hélène Frichot, KTH, SE
Matthew Fuller, Goldsmiths, UK
Myra Hird, Queen’s University, CA
Janna Holmstedt, KTH, SE
Lauren LaFauci, Linköping University, SE
Amanda Lagerkvist, Uppsala University, SE
Hayden Lorimer, University of Glasgow, UK
Nina Lykke, Linköping University, SE
Tara Mehrabi, Karlstad University, SE
Norie Neumark, Melbourne University, AU
mirko nikolić, independent artist, SE/FI
Jesper Olsson, Linköping University, SE
Marietta Radomska, Linköping University, SE/University of Helsinki, FI
Lina Rahm, Linköping University, SE
Margrit Shildrick, Stockholm University, SE
Sverker Sörlin, KTH, SE
Daniel Urey, Färgfabriken, SE
Adam Wickberg, KTH, SE
Lotten Wiklund, journalist and science communicator, SE
Cecilia Åsberg, KTH, SE/Linköping University, SE
Programme

(for the full info on the speakers and titles of their interventions – please, see page 8)

14th May (Tuesday)

10:00-10:30
Welcome and introduction
Cecilia Åsberg & Marietta Radomska

10:30-11:10
Keynote
Hayden Lorimer, Companion Culture and Coastal Change - A Seaside Story

11:10-11:20
Q&A – moderator: Cecilia Åberg

11:20-11:30
Critical Intervention - VIDEO:
Christine Daigle, Posthuman Methods as Radical Transformative Affirmation

11:30-12:25
Panel 1 – moderator: Janna Holmstedt
Sverker Sörlin
Christina Fredengren
Hélène Frichot
Hayden Lorimer

12:25-13:35
LUNCH

13:35-15:15
Panel 2 – moderator: Cecilia Åsberg
Margrit Shildrick - video
Marco Armiero
Adam Wickberg
mirko nikolić
Marietta Radomska
Janna Holmstedt
Myra Hird - video

15:15-15:30
Break
15:30-17:00
Panel 3 – moderator: Marietta Radomska
Matthew Fuller - video
Lotten Wiklund
Amanda Lagerkvist
Lina Rahm
Katja Aglert - video
Jesper Olsson
15th May (Wednesday)

9:00-9:30
Welcome and introduction
Cecilia Åsberg & Marietta Radomska

9:30-10:10
Keynote
Norie Neumark, *Minor voices, Minor gestures: politics, ethics, and grappling with the world (mess) through art*

10:10-10:25
Q&A – moderator: Cecilia Åsberg

10:25-10:40
Critical Intervention - VIDEO:
Rosi Braidotti, TBA

10:40-11:55
Panel 4 – moderator: Marietta Radomska
Nina Lykke
Daniel Urey/Färgfabriken
Tara Mehrabi
Lauren LaFauci
Cecilia Åsberg
Norie Neumark

11:55-12:15
Closing conversation including Q&A – moderators: Cecilia Åsberg and Marietta Radomska
Biographical notes and titles

Katja Aglert, Rehearsals for 8 ~ X

Katja Aglert is a Stockholm based independent artist and researcher whose practice – situated in feminist, more-than-human imaginaries – is transdisciplinary in nature, and includes both individual and collaborative projects. Currently she examines artistically through hybrid forms of storytelling how we through the experiences of multi-beings-encounters can investigate what it can mean to materialise perspectives beyond the human-centred narratives. She exhibited widely, including venues such as Marabouparken and Biologiska Museet, Stockholm (SE); Solyanka State Gallery, Moscow (RU); Polarmuseet, Tromsø (NO); Fotografisk center, Copenhagen (DK); FLORA ars+natura, Bogota (COL); Museum for Contemporary Art, Santiago (CHL). She is an executive board member of The Seed Box, an international environmental humanities collaboratory headquartered at Linköping University. She teaches regularly at Umeå Art Academy, and Konstfack University of Arts, Crafts, and Design. katjaagler.com

Marco Armiero, Revolutionary Humanities. Stories to change the world

Marco Armiero is the Director of the Environmental Humanities Laboratory at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. His research focuses on toxic waste, migrations and environment, and climate change, the city, science, and power in ecological conflicts, and he works on environmental justice at global, local, and transnational scales. Armiero is the author of numerous articles, chapters, and books, including A Rugged Nation: Mountains and the Making of Modern Italy (2011), Environmental History of Modern Migrations (2017), Future Remains: A Cabinet of Curiosities for the Anthropocene (2018). Before moving to KTH, he has been post-doctoral fellow and visiting scholar at Yale University, UC Berkeley, Stanford, Autonomous University in Barcelona, and Coimbra.

Rosi Braidotti, TBA

Rosi Braidotti is Distinguished University Professor and founding Director of the Centre for the Humanities at Utrecht University. She was the Founding Professor of Gender Studies in the Humanities at Utrecht (1988-2005) and the first scientific director of the Netherlands Research School of Women's Studies. Website: https://rosibraidotti.com/

Christine Daigle, Posthuman Methods as Radical Transformative Affirmation

Christine Daigle is Director of the Posthumanism Research Institute and Posthumanism Research Network, and Professor of Philosophy at Brock University. She has published extensively on Nietzsche, Sartre, and Beauvoir. Her most recent research is in posthumanism, material feminism, and environmental posthumanities.
Christina Fredengren, *Garbage Nivana – Or Deep Time Karma?*

**Christina Fredengren** is Head of Research at the National Historical Museums in Sweden, with several international publications in archeology, feminist posthumanities, cultural heritage and environmental humanities, and Associate Professor/Researcher at the Archaeological Research Laboratory, Department of Archaeology and Classical Studies, Stockholm University. Heading the Stockholm University Environmental Humanities Research School and one of the founders of Stockholm University Environmental Humanities Network. Doctorate in Archaeology at Stockholm University 2002/3, Director at the Discovery Programme, Ireland’s Research Institute in Archaeology 2002-2007, key member of The Posthumanities Hub and the Seed Box: An Environmental Humanities Collaboratory, and PI of research project Checking in with Deep Time (three-year funding from Formas- A Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development) as well as PI of Water of the Times (funded by the Swedish Science Council, Berit Wallenberg foundation).

Hélène Frichot, *Architectural Environment-Worlds, Posthuman Landscapes*

**Professor Hélène Frichot** is the director of Critical Studies in Architecture, School of Architecture, KTH (Royal Institute of Technology) Stockholm, Sweden. Her research examines the transdisciplinary field between architecture and philosophy, with an emphasis on feminist theories and practices. In 2017 she was the recipient of a Riksbankens Jubileumsfond sabbatical grant, one outcome of which is *Creative Ecologies: Theorizing the Practice of Architecture* (Bloomsbury 2018). She is a co-editor of *Architecture and Feminisms: Ecologies, Economies, Technologies* (Routledge 2017); *Deleuze and the City* (EUP 2016), and *Deleuze and Architecture* (EUP 2013).

Matthew Fuller, *People of the Climate*

**Matthew Fuller** is the author of *How to Sleep, the art, biology and culture of unconsciousness,* (Bloomsbury). Other titles include *How to be a Geek*, essays on the culture of software (Polity), *Media Ecologies, materialist energies in art and technoculture* (MIT), *Behind the Blip*, essays on the culture of software, *Elephant & Castle* (both Autonomedia) and *ATM* (Shake Editions). With Andrew Goffey he is co-author of *Evil Media* (MIT) and with Olga Goriunova of the forthcoming, *Bleak Joys, aesthetics of ecology and impossibility* (Minnesota U.P.). He has worked in and with artists groups such as I/O/D, Mongrel and YoHa as well as independently. Recently, with Shu Lea Cheang, he has curated the events SLEEP48 (Linz) and SLEEP79 (Taipei). Fuller is editor of books including Software Studies, a lexicon (MIT), and is a co-editor of the journal Computational Culture (http://www.computationalculture.net). He is Professor of Cultural Studies at Goldsmiths, University of London.
**Myra Hird, Science Needs Help**

**Myra J. Hird** is Professor, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and Queen’s National Scholar in the School of Environmental Studies, Queen's University (www.myrahird.com). Professor Hird is Director of Waste Flow, an interdisciplinary research project focused on waste as a global scientific-technical and socio-ethical issue (www.wasteflow.ca). Hird has published nine books and over seventy articles and book chapters on a diversity of topics relating to science studies.

**Janna Holmstedt, Between Earthworms and Satellites**

**Janna Holmstedt**, PhD, is an artist and researcher based in Stockholm. She works transdisciplinarily with various media and contexts, ranging between installation, sonic fiction, text, and performance with a particular interest in listening, storying and situated practices. She explores entangled issues such as multispecies relations, interspecies communication, and the intra-action of bodies, environs and technology. Her doctoral work focused on how sound and listening, in a visually dominated culture, could mediate new relationships with the more-than-human. It departed from the archival material of American neurophysiologist John C. Lilly, who in the 1950s and 1960s conducted controversial scientific communication experiments with dolphins. Her current work focuses on soil care and soil as multispecies activity zone. Holmstedt is a researcher at the Posthumanities Hub and research engineer at the Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment at KTH. She is also a member of Fylkingen, an international artist-run venue and association for new music and intermedia art in Stockholm. http://jannaholmstedt.com

**Lauren LaFauci, Plants and People: Some Reflections on Collaborative and Citizen Humanities**

**Lauren LaFauci** is assistant professor of environmental humanities in the Unit of Gender Studies, Department of Thematic Studies at Linköping University in Sweden, where she also directs the “Multispecies Stories” research area of the Seed Box Environmental Humanities Collaboratory and serves as an international liaison for ASLE, the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment. She is part of the interdisciplinary team behind the citizen humanities website, Herbaria 3.0 (www.herbaria3.org), which collects stories about the intertwined relationships between plants and people. Her research and teaching are wide-ranging, focusing on histories of racial formation, medicine, and the body; US literature, history, and culture from to 1900; Scandinavian cultural studies; and multispecies story-telling.

**Amanda Lagerkvist, Existential Media Studies is a New Humanism: Reinventing ‘the Human’ as Co-exister in Terrains of Shared Environmental and Technological Vulnerability and Anticipation**

**Amanda Lagerkvist** is a media phenomenologist and a founder of existential media studies. Her work focuses on the broader merits of existential philosophy for media studies in the context of
digital death and the automation of the lifeworld. Theorizing digital-human and techno-environmental vulnerability she pursues a co-existentialist virtue ethics of care and responsibility. She chairs the interdisciplinary research network DIGMEX (cf. ”Digital Existence: Memory, Meaning Vulnerability”: http://et.ims.su.se/files/Program-Digital-Existence.pdf and ”Digital Existence II: Precarious Media Life”: Digital_Existence2_2017.pdf) and is the editor of Digital Existence: Ontology, Ethics and Transcendence in Digital Culture (Routledge 2019, with a foreword by John D. Peters). Her forthcoming book Existential Media is contracted with OUP. Dr. Lagerkvist is Associate Professor of Media and Communication Studies and Research Fellow in the Department of Informatics and Media at Uppsala University.

Hayden Lorimer, Companion Culture and Coastal Change - A Seaside Story

Hayden Lorimer is currently based at University of Glasgow, and later this year will join University of Edinburgh as Professor of Cultural Geography and Environmental Humanities. His research explores the geographical dimensions of a series of intersecting themes: landscape, place, fieldwork, ecology, memory, mobility, biography and the life of the senses. In an age of ecological breakdown, he is interested in the stories we tell ourselves, how we tell them, and the work that we make them do. In addition to academic publishing, Hayden has written and presented programmes for BBC radio.

Nina Lykke, Speculatively Poeticizing as Critical-Affirmative, Posthuman Methodology


Tara Mehrabi, Corpse, Pollen, Mites and Bodies Falling Apart: On Rethinking Body/Self as a Contact Zone

Tara Mehrabi, PhD, is a Lecturer at the Centre for Gender Studies, Karlstad University (Sweden). She is a feminist technoscience studies scholar who is interested in the intersection of gender studies, medical humanities and environmental humanities. She is a founding member of Queer Death Studies Network and a member of The Posthumanities Hub. Mehrabi is the author of the monograph Making Death Matter: A Feminist Technoscience Study of Alzheimer’s Sciences in the Laboratory (2016). She has published in anthologies such as Animal Places. Lively Cartographies of
Norie Neumark, *Minor Voices, Minor Gestures: Politics, Ethics, and Grappling with the World (mess) Through Art*

Norie Neumark is Honorary Professorial Fellow at Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne University and Emeritus Professor, La Trobe University. She is currently resident artist at Titanik, Turku. She is a theorist and sound/media artist. She has a collaborative art practice with Maria Miranda as www.out-of-sync.com, which began in radio, then expanded to include media art, site-responsive and unsitely installations and performances. Their award-winning work has been commissioned and broadcast and exhibited nationally and internationally. Their earlier work engaged with questions of culture, place and memory. Recent projects, such as Waiting, Coalface, and Shredded, have engaged with new materialist questions of working with animals, ecology, power and ethics. Norie’s 2017 monograph, *Voicetracks: Attuning to Voice in Media and the Arts* (MIT Press) explores voice and new materialism. Norie co-edited *Voice: Vocal Aesthetics in Digital Arts and Media* (MIT Press, 2010) and *At a Distance: Precursors to Internet Art and Activism* (MIT Press, 2005). She is founding editor, *Unlikely: Journal for Creative Arts*  http://unlikely.net.au

mirko nikolić, *minoritarian environmental arts & humanities: queer/feminist re(con)figurations of climate politics*

Through performance and critical writing, mirko nikolić seeks to prefigure more just collaborations among different species and heterogeneous bodies. In recent projects, mirko has been working on counter-extractive ontopolitics, multispecies commoning, performativity of vegetal touch, and unlearning of anthropocentric and capitalist survival ideologies. Their works have recently been exhibited at Art Sonje, Seoul; SIC Gallery, Helsinki; KC Grad, Belgrade; P3 Ambika, London. Currently they are dedicated to co-constructing a place-based radio platform entangling forest, mineral and human modes of being in North-East Finland and beyond. mirko holds a PhD in Arts & Media Practice from the University of Westminster, London.

Jesper Olsson, TBA

Jesper Olsson is Professor in Language and Culture (with a focus on Literature and Media History) at Linköping University and director of the research program The Seed Box. A Mistra-Formas Environmental Humanities Collaboratory. His latest book is *Spaceship, Time Machine. Öyvind Fahlström’s Ade-Ledic-Nander* (2017)
**Marietta Radomska, Ecologies of Death: Storytelling for the Anthropocene**

**Marietta Radomska, PhD**, is a Postdoc at the Department of Thematic Studies (Gender Studies), Linköping University, SE, and at the Department of Cultures (Art History), University of Helsinki, FI. She is the co-director of The Posthumanities Hub; founder of The Eco- and Bioart Research Network, co-founder of International Network for ECOCRITICAL and DECOLONIAL Studies and a founding member of Queer Death Studies Network. Her current research focuses on ecologies of death in the context of contemporary art. She is the author of the monograph Uncontainable Life: A BIOPHILOSOPHY of Bioart (2016), and has published in Australian Feminist Studies, Somatechnics, and Angelaki, among others.

**Lina Rahm, Educational Imaginaries of Technology**

**Lina Rahm**, PhD, is a postdoctoral researcher at the Dept. of Behavioural Sciences and Learning at Linköping University, Sweden. She holds a BSSc in Gender Studies, an MSSc in Social and Welfare Studies and is currently researching educational imaginaries of artificial intelligence and automated systems.

**Margrit Shildrick, Postconventional Modes of Thinking and the Posthumanities**

**Margrit Shildrick** PhD is Guest Professor of Gender and Knowledge Production at Stockholm University, and a Fellow at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. Her research covers postmodern feminist and cultural theory, bioethics, critical disability studies and body theory. Books include Leaky Bodies and Boundaries (1997), Embodying the Monster (2002) and Dangerous Discourses of Disability, Sexuality and Subjectivity (2009), as well as several edited collections and many journal articles. Most recently, she has been addressing the socio-political and embodied conjunction of microchimerism, immunology, corporeal anomaly and death.

**Sverker Sörlin, Planetary Humanities**

**Sverker Sörlin** is an historian and author. He holds a PhD in the History of Science and Ideas (1988) and has been Professor of Environmental History since 1993, first at Umeå University, at KTH since 2002. His current research interests encompass the history of the new human-earth relationship and the emergence of 'the environment' as a governable object through societal discourse, scientific practices, and 'environing technologies', a concept he started developing in 2011 in the context of starting the KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory of which he was a co-founder. Recent books include The Future of Nature (Yale 2013) and The Environment -- A History of the Idea (Johns Hopkins 2018), both with Libby Robin (ANU) and Paul Warde (Cambridge).
Daniel Urey, Färgfabriken, Contemporary Arts and the New Humanities

Daniel Urey has a background in political science and has been working at Färgfabriken since 2013, managing international programs, including "New Urban Topologies", "Baltic Dimensions" and “Patchwork of Narratives", which are dealing with issues of democracy, urban development and intercultural dialogue. Urey has an extensive cross-sectorial network, both in Sweden and internationally. Urey has experience in working strategically with initiating and executing projects, conducting theory-development and starting collaborations, through creating conditions for interdisciplinary meetings, co-creation and exchange of know-how.

Adam Wickberg, Anthropocene Historiography

Adam Wickberg is a Postdoctoral fellow in media history at the KTH Environmental Humanities Lab and a visiting scholar at the Max Planck Institute for History of Science in Berlin (MPWIG I). His project Plus Ultra studies the making of colonial environment through media. Central to the project are different kinds of environing media; surveys, illustrations, sketches, maps, descriptions and natural histories that were key to both knowledge production and the systematic large scale exploitation of the empire. Recent publications include Pellucid Paper: Poetry and Bureaucratic Media (Open Humanities Press 2018) and “Plus Ultra: Francisco Hernández and the Mapping of American Natureculture” in Nescus: European Journal of Media Studies (2018:2). An article on “Anthropocene Historiography: Coloniality, Media and Environment” is forthcoming in Resilience special issue on “Roots of the future” (2019:4).

Lotten Wiklund, The Public as Co-storytellers of Environmental Humanities

Lotten Wiklund is educated at Stockholm University and has been working as a science journalist, editor and science communicator since early 2000, mainly focusing on the ever-shifting relation between science/technology and human self-understanding. Among other things she is the author of the book 'Du sköna nya människa; om smarta proteser, odlade organ och kärleksfulla robotar' and director of the short documentary 'Ström i hjärnan'. Currently she runs the Posthumanities Hub-project Popularizing Environmental Humanities where students at Bromma gymnasium in Stockholm are storying climate change and environmental issues by creating their own digital narratives with the inspiration from environmental humanities. The project can be followed on website pophum.wordpress.com. Some of Lotten Wiklunds writings can be found on www.kajman.se

Cecilia Åsberg, Planetary Arts for the Anthropocene

Cecilia Åsberg, PhD, is Guest Professor of STS, Gender and Environment at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm 2018-2020, and since 2015 Professor of Gender, Nature, Culture at Linköping University. She is Founding Director of the Posthumanities Hub, and of the Seed Box: An Environmental Humanities Collaboratory, and associate editor of the journal Environmental...

**Practicalities:**

**Venue:**
Openlab is conveniently located at the address: Valhallavägen 79, 114 27 Stockholm. It can easily be reached by metro: red line 14 towards Mörby Centrum (when coming from T-Centralen) – stop: Tekniska Högskolan. Alternatively, you may opt for a tram or commuter train to Stockholm Östra Station (Stockholm East Station).

**Coffee breaks (fika):**
Coffee and sweets will be provided to all registered participants.

**Lunch:**
Openlab is surrounded by places where you can easily purchase your lunch:
THS Café, Nymble Restaurant and Café Entré: https://ths.kth.se/en/om-ths/restaurang-cafe
You can also check the 7 eleven store and Espresso House, both located nearby Tekniska högskolan metro station.
Another, more expensive option is restaurant Syster o Bror: http://www.systerobror.se/