

SEPTEMBER 20TH 2021, 13:00-16:00

NORDIC ANTHROPOCENE MEDIA

BETWEEN SCREEN AND GREEN LIFE

Open workshop at Aarhus University

PRESENTERS

Robert Saunders, Professor, History, Politics, and Geography, SUNY (USA)

Perilous Visions of the North: Screening the Anthropocene in Nordic Television Drama

Julia Leyda, Professor, Art and Media Studies, NTNU, Trondheim (N)

Theorizing Norwegian Screen Petrocultures

Irina Souch, Lecturer in Comparative Literature and Cultural Analysis, UoA, Amsterdam (NL)

Troubling the Nordic waters: water crisis, environmental art and public awareness in the Danish family drama The Legacy (Arvingerne)

Henrik Bødker, Associate Professor, Media and Journalism, Aarhus University (DK)

Seasonal Journalism as Vernacular Phenology

CHAIRS & DISCUSSANTS

- **Lill-Ann Körber**, Professor, Nordic Studies, AU (DK)
- **Heather A. Swanson**, Assoc. Prof., Anthropology, Center for Environmental Humanities, AU (DK)
- **Anne Marit Waade**, Professor, Media studies and Journalism, AU (DK)

**Venue: ADA 333, Katrinebjerg Campus, Aarhus university.
Åbogade 34, 8200 Aarhus N**

Environmental Humanities has emerged as an interdisciplinary and powerful international field of research. We have invited leading international scholars to present their work on Anthropocene media in a Nordic context.

Media images and discourses are highly constituent of how people in various (national) context relate to issues of climate change. In this workshop we will discuss how different media practices – film, television and journalism – help construct perceptions of environmental issues in the Nordic countries. Regarding the most pressing issue of our time – the climate crisis – Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, and Finland hold key positions of influence, not only as “nations of the north,” but also as models for less-affluent countries to follow in terms of sustainability and environmental policy (Witoszek and Midttun 2018). Hence, it is vital to scrutinise the Nordic media when it comes to the threatened ecologies of the High North.

Here, perhaps more than anywhere else, the notion of the “good Anthropocene” (see Arias-Maldonado 2019) finds purchase. With its small, wealthy populations, dense woodlands, and smartly-designed cities, the Nordic countries are well-branded as sustainable and environmentally-friendly when compared to nearly any other region on the planet (see Frig and Sorsa 2020). Norden seems to be at the cutting edge of achieving a “brave new world” where fossil fuel use and endless waste-making give way to “agroecology, green roofs and buildings [and] distributed renewable energy systems” combined with “a reawakened sense of wonder, an ethic of care, and aesthetic and cultural production” associated with the planet (Buck 2015, 369). Part of this is linked to the self-congratulatory stance of the Nordic governments, which are keen to be seen as the most progressive state actors with regards to sustainability and care for the environment. Moreover, this image of a sustainable Norden is one alloyed to the benevolent exceptionalism of Nordicity (Browning 2007), from the region’s reputation as a socialist utopia outside cutthroat realm of globalised capitalism, to the deluded notion that the northern countries are free of the colonial legacies of their western European counterparts Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

Hosts

The research programme **Cultural Transformations** is hosting this event in collaboration with following research centres at Aarhus University: **Centre for Environmental Humanities**, **ReNEW** and **NAU**.

Contact persons

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- Anne Marit Waade, Professor, Media and Journalism studies, AU (amwaade@cc.au.dk)

Registration

The event is free. You need to register in advance. Deadline September 10th: <https://events.au.dk/nordicanthropocenedia/signup>