

INFRASTRUCTURED TIMESCAPES OF THE ANTHROPOCENE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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Abstract:

Time and temporality are inherently part of the concepts of “crisis”, “risk”, and “transition”. Amid the “great acceleration” and the scenarios outlined by IPCC reports, the precarious agreement of the COP meetings, the pressing demands for climate justice and the phasing-out of fossil fuels, temporal aspects are taking on new relevance for STS.

As Bensaude-Vincent (2021) pointed out, the actual debate on the Anthropocene still emphasizes the ‘Anthropos’ and the human exceptionalism over the ‘Kainos’ (epoch) and its time multiplicity. The panel seeks to address this asymmetry by exploring the heterogeneous, co-existing, clashing, uneven, and materially organized temporalities of the Anthropocene and Climate Change. The aim being to unfold their timescapes (Adam 1998), their polychronic and more-than-human existence, where modern linear time is but one account among many others.

First, the timescape of the Anthropocene and the one of Climate Change seem to bring specific ‘time-frames of reference’ conducive to different forms of political engagement (Nordblad 2021).

Moreover, such timescapes are infrastructured, with infrastructures becoming key sites for time production, allowing or hindering navigation across the past, present and future at varying paces and tempo. Finally, since the Anthropocene and Climate Change are temporally infrastructured, they undergo time leaks, delays and accelerations as well as interferences that require new forms of care to be monitored, managed, maintained, governed, understood.

The panel invites to discuss the infrastructured timescapes of the Anthropocene and Climate Change as shaped by different means of time production, including technoscientific knowledge, climate governance, political actions and movements, (digital) infrastructures, as well as maintenance & repair and care practices.

We welcome theoretical, empirical and methodological contributions on topics including (but not limited to) the following:

- The technoscientific work to define the Earth’s time horizons; the making of the “ends of the world” (Danowski and Viveiros de Castro 2017); the emerging approaches to deal with risk in critical infrastructure settings, such as the regulatory regimes based on hybrid temporalities adopted in the nuclear energy sector ; the “deep-time reckoning” practices (Ialenti 2020) in geoengineering processes (e.g. nuclear waste management, GHG capture, etc.).
- The rhythms and timelines set by climate governance at transnational, national and urban scales, translated across situated variations and interests; the frictions between near-time actions and long-term planning; the momentum and the urgency enacted by climate movements to update the agenda with radical temporalities and hopes.
- Temporalities of more-than-human ecological reparation (Papadopoulos et al. 2022), including futures best served by human inaction, drawing on “the mastery of non-mastery” (Taussig 2020) - where at times not intervention (e.g. planting trees), but restraint and patience may be the best route

to regeneration. Or decolonized forms of care, such as indigenous landscape and ecosystem cultivation through burning.

- The increasingly experimental nature of transitions to climate-neutral futures; The temporalities of digital infrastructures; the socio-technical interactions between the big data assemblages for real-time management and the futures produced by the “vast machine” (Edwards 2013) that allows projecting human and environmental conditions in the next decades and centuries.

Key words:

Time, Infrastructures, Anthropocene