

## CALL FOR PAPERS

Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE)

American Literature Association 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

May 25-28, 2017

Boston, MA

The Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE) seeks proposals for two panels for the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the American Literature Association.

### 1) The Idea of Anthropocene Literature

In *Living in the Anthropocene: Toward a New Global Ethos*, Paul Crutzen and Christian Schwägerl write: “It’s a pity we’re still officially living in an age called the Holocene. The Anthropocene — human dominance of biological, chemical and geological processes on Earth — is already an undeniable reality. Evidence is mounting that the name change suggested by one of us more than ten years ago is overdue. It may still take some time for the scientific body in charge of naming big stretches of time in Earth’s history, the [International Commission on Stratigraphy](#), to make up its mind about this name change. But that shouldn’t stop us from seeing and learning what it means to live in this new Anthropocene epoch, on a planet that is being anthroposized at high speed. For millennia, humans have behaved as rebels against a superpower we call ‘Nature.’ In the 20th century, however, new technologies, fossil fuels, and a fast-growing population resulted in a ‘Great Acceleration’ of our own powers. Albeit clumsily, we are taking control of Nature’s realm, from climate to DNA. We humans are becoming the dominant force for change on Earth. A long-held religious and philosophical idea — humans as the masters of planet Earth — has turned into a stark reality. What we do now already affects the planet of the year 3000 or even 50,000.”

Is the Anthropocene a useful category for the study of literature? Why or why not? Papers welcome on this question in the context of American and/or transatlantic literature.

By 13 January 2017, please send 300-500 word abstracts and one-page CVs to Nicole Merola at [nmerola@risd.edu](mailto:nmerola@risd.edu) and Helena Feder at [federh@ecu.edu](mailto:federh@ecu.edu). Please include your contact information, academic affiliation, and any A/V requests.

This ALA panel is sponsored by ASLE. While you do not need to be a member of ASLE to submit a proposed abstract for an ALA panel, presenters must be or become ASLE members before the ALA conference in order to participate in an ASLE-sponsored panel.

### 2) Speculative Fictions and Socio-Ecologies of the Americas

This panel seeks submissions that examine the ways in which North American, Caribbean, Central American, and South American authors have used the conventions and techniques of speculative fiction (including science fiction and magical realism) to represent and respond to socio-ecological circumstances, events, and issues.

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