

# **Margins of the Anthropocene. Theoretical and literary spaces**

**October 24-25, 2024**

**Department of Cultures and Societies, University of Palermo**

The international conference “Margins of the Anthropocene” aims to provide an opportunity for rethinking the discursive relationship between two fields of knowledge: ecology and literature. Starting from the contemporary debate about Ecocriticism and Environmental Humanities, the conference's purpose is to offer a multifaceted contribution to a *marginal* perspective on how literature is tackling the issues raised by ecological thinking. A notion such as “margin” discloses different meanings: it refers either to the outermost part of a surface or the written words exceeding the usual text layout. Furthermore, it points out a zone of passage, clash, contact, a boundary of human discourse and a limit of the established norm; a frontier toward which is pushed everything that exceeds social, political, cultural standards. Therefore, the concept of “margin” is chosen as a category of thought, to offer a new insight into the expanding field of literary ecology.

The conference will be articulated along the following lines:

- 1) Historical and geographical margins: reflections starting from pre-modern literary ages usually neglected by studies of literature and the Anthropocene and/or from geographic, linguistic, or cultural areas somehow perceived as marginal.
- 2) Margins of the human: interventions on animality and otherness (post-human, non-human creatures, hybrid, androids, cyborg...).
- 3) Margins of mind: theoretical insights exploring the limit and the potential of a few concepts at the core of the debate on literature and ecology (anthropocentrism, Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Chthulucene, Deep Ecology, Dark Ecology, sustainability, utopia, dystopia...).

Contributions inquiring at least one of the lines defined above will be considered, whether they insist on a purely literary perspective or take an intermedial approach (iconotexts, phototexts, visual art, transmedia storytelling, illustrated book, graphic novel).

Those interested in attending the conference are encouraged to send a proposal to the following e-mail addresses: [lorenzo.marchese02@unipa.it](mailto:lorenzo.marchese02@unipa.it); [silvia.lavancolivreri@unipa.it](mailto:silvia.lavancolivreri@unipa.it); [valentina.grispo@unipa.it](mailto:valentina.grispo@unipa.it).

The proposal, including an abstract up to 3000 characters (spaces included) and a brief bio-bibliographical note up to 1000 characters (spaces included), shall be submitted within May 15, 2024.

Acceptance to the conference will be notified by e-mail by June 15, 2024.

Participation at the conference is free of charge.

## **Languages**

Italian

English

## **Committee**

Clotilde Bertoni

Valeria Cammarata

Roberta Coglitore

Michele Cometa

Gianfranco Marrone

Valentina Mignano

Francesca Tucci

Valentina Grispo

Silvia Lavanco Livreri

Lorenzo Marchese