



# Narratives of Scale in the Anthropocene. Imagining Human Responsibility in an Age of Scalar Complexity

International Conference organized by the DFG-project *Narratives of the Anthropocene in Science and Literature* (University of Vechta),  
hosted by *Haus der Kulturen der Welt*, Berlin

Haus der Kulturen der Welt  
Berlin  
John-Foster-Dulles-Allee 10  
11. – 13. September 2019

Illustration: J Henry Fair: *Hambach, Remains of the Forest* (July 2018)  
Instagram: @jhenryfair

## Wednesday, September 11, 2019

*Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Konferenzraum 1*

16:30–17:00 Welcome and Introduction by BERND SCHERER (tbc), Director of Haus der Kulturen der Welt, GABRIELE DÜRBECK and PHILIP HÜPKES (University of Vechta)

### Keynote I

*Moderation: PETER FEINDT (Humboldt University, Berlin)*

17.00–18.00 NIGEL CLARK (Lancaster University) / BRONISLAW SZERSZYNSKI (Lancaster University)  
»Planetary Multiplicity, Earthly Multitudes: Trans-Scalar Articulations on a Volatile Planet«

**18:30 Dinner**

## Thursday, September 12, 2019

*Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Konferenzraum 1*

### Panel 1: »Scale and Time I«

*Moderation: GABRIELE DÜRBECK (University of Vechta)*

09.15–10.00 AXEL GOODBODY (University of Bath)  
»Time Travel as a Way of Modelling Trans-Scalar Thinking: Some Examples from German Environmental Fiction«

10.00–10.45 DEREK WOODS (Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH)  
»Scale Critique for the Anthropocene, Part II«

**10.45–11.15 Coffee Break**

### Panel 2: »Scale and Time II«

*Moderation: MONIKA ALBRECHT (University of Vechta)*

11.15–12.00 KYVELI MAVROKORDOPOULOU (Georg-Simmel Center, École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris)  
»Scaling the Future: *The Period of Great Contaminations* as an Exercise in Prediction«

12.00–12.45 REINHOLD LEINFELDER (Freie Universität, Berlin)  
»From the Deep Past to the Futures: Integrative Multimodal and Multiscale Storytelling for Involving Us with the Anthropocene?«

**12.45–13.45 Lunch**

### Panel 3: »Scale, Alterity, and the Nonhuman«

*Moderation: JONAS NESSELHAUF (Saarland University)*

13.45–14.30 HEATHER SULLIVAN (Trinity University, San Antonio, TX)  
»The Dark Green: Plant and Human Scale in the Anthropocene«

14.30–15.15 BERNHARD MALKMUS (University of Newcastle)  
»Do you need something that's not at your Disposal? Anthropomorphic Scales and Absolute Alterity«

15:15-16:00 ADELINE JOHNS-PUTRA (University of Surrey)  
»When All Yardsticks are Lost: Arendt, Benjamin, and the Ethics of Scalar Derangement in Anthropocene Fiction«

**16.00–16.30 Coffee Break**

### Panel 4: »Scale and the Public«

*Moderation: OLIVER KOZLAREK (University of Vechta)*

16.30–17:15 AYSEM MERT (Stockholm University)  
»Scaling up Democracy for Governance in the Anthropocene: New Narratives and Imaginaries«

17:15–18:00 FRANZ MAUELSHAGEN (University of Vienna)  
»Anthropocene Biographies«

**18.00–18.30 Refreshments**

### Keynote II

*Moderation: GABRIELE DÜRBECK (University of Vechta)*

18.30–19.30 J HENRY FAIR (New York, NY)  
»Anthropocene and Me – Images of a World on the Edge«

**20:00 Dinner**

Friday, September 13, 2019

*Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Konferenzraum 1*

**Panel 5: »Scale and Space I«**

*Moderation: CHRISTOPH SCHAUB (University of Vechta)*

09.15–10.00      EVA HORN (University of Vienna)  
                          »The Planetary. Scaling Space in the Anthropocene«

10.00–10.45      JOHN PARHAM (University of Worcester)  
                          »Are we »Dumb«? Silence, Space & Mediating the Anthropocene«

**10.45–11.15      Coffee Break**

**Panel 6: »Scale and Space II«**

*Moderation: PHILIP HÜPKES (University of Vechta)*

11.15–12.00      KATHRIN BARTHA (Goethe University, Frankfurt/Monash University, Melbourne)  
                          »Cosmology as Counter-Narrative to the Anthropocene: The Fractal  
                          Consciousness of Scale«

12.00–12.45      BIRGIT SCHNEIDER (Potsdam University)  
                          »Politics of the Zoom. Downscaling the Cosmograms of a Heating Planet?«

12.45-13:15      Concluding Discussion

**13:30              Lunch**