

NATURE+ CULTURE PUBLICATION THEMES:

THEME 1: Cultural Reactions and Conceptions of Nature

THEME 2: Degradation and Restoration of the Environment

THEME 3: Ecological Time and Futures

THEME 4: Political and Socioeconomic Arrangements of Landscapes

THEME 1: CULTURAL REACTIONS AND CONCEPTIONS OF NATURE

As the ecological crisis deepens during the current era, studies have been devoted, for example, to the following areas: a) gauging the public's awareness of the environmental threats, b) assessing the various mobilizing strategies to raise awareness, c) studying the new social movements that have the potential to arrest the environmental decline, d) assessing the role and potential of the public sphere, e) understanding the social, political, and economic aspects of conserving resources and issues of sustainability, and f) analyzing the crisis areas in terms of diminishing resources, etc. There is no doubt that these studies/publications provide details and colors to the ecological crisis tapestry, and will continue to contribute to our understanding and provide the basis for historical actions. *Nature and Culture's* initiative in this rubric is to pursue this thematic along a different tack. Of interest, for example, is the issue of the denial on the part of contemporary human communities to the ecological crisis, on structural reasons why do (some) human communities make disastrous decisions leading to ecological crisis and degradation, and on the postmodern attempt, even on the part of environmental historians, to reconceptualize what is Nature, and thus the issue of ecological *mentalités* over time and space. Clearly, these concerns need to be deliberated with inputs from the various disciplines such as archaeology, anthropology, history, sociology, geography, political science, and others for the possible explanations to these questions that are historical, comparative, spatial, and ideological.

THEME 2: DEGRADATION AND RESTORATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT: FOCUS ON WATER AS LIFE

Besides global warming and the impending scarcity of fossil fuel, the increasing global water crisis needs more attention. The global governance of water rights beyond regional and local governance in light of the globalization of manufacturing and food production is an issue for consideration. Water as a global public good warrants a discussion along social, economic

and ethical dimensions. The crisis of water availability in some regions of the world, and the socioeconomic and political implications for these regions by their importation of agricultural food products (virtual water) to meet their needs require more inter and transdisciplinary research.

THEME 3: ECOLOGICAL TIME AND FUTURES: FOCUS ON ENERGY TRANSITIONS

With the impending projected energy scarcities in the area of fossil fuel, much research has been undertaken and published in the area of alternate energy sources such as solar, wind, hydrogen, natural gas, etc. There are other alternative energy sources that have received less attention that might have potential in future world energy transitions. In this area, the Journal invites contributions on alternative energy sources such as geothermal and tidal. We are interested in contributions that deal with the potential of utilizing these sources and the assessments of the consequences of their utilization to the natural and social environments. Other issues such as the socioeconomic and political conditions that engender energy transitions over world history, the socioeconomics and politics of adoption of energy systems, lessons learned from the use of geothermal and tidal energy systems, and the geography and the geology of geothermal and tidal energy sources are all welcomed.

THEME 4: POLITICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS OF LANDSCAPES

For this new theme, we are interested in exploring the *Ecological Dynamics of Deurbanization Processes* in different geographical areas ranging from “classical” processes of population decline (e.g., based on de-industrialization processes and subsequent out-migration) to more recent trends due to low birth rates.

The deurbanization process or the process of shrinkage especially in late modern societies has consequences for our overall conception of the paradigm of growth that pervades the thinking in the humanities and social sciences. Theoretical conceptualizations of shrinkage processes as an alternative to that of growth has not been deliberated nor even accepted.

Articles dealing with this new thematic will, we believe, facilitate empirical studies to address issues such as the consequences of shrinkage and its ecological effects and outcomes. With the impending projected natural resource scarcities, anticipated population decline (projected by the United Nations Population Fund), climate warming, pollution, etc.; is the shrinkage process a structural panacea to these debilitating deurbanizing trending processes or will

unsustainable resource needs and demands continue even with the ongoing shrinkage process? What are the ecological effects and outcomes of the deurbanizing process in terms of space, urban planning, architecture, aesthetics, and other functionalities? Are there unforeseen positive outcomes and opportunities that will ameliorate an already congregated and crowded urban landscape?

Other articles addressing this new theme that do not fall within the ambit of deurbanization processes are also welcomed.

The Editors continue to invite articles that do not focus on the above identified specific themes or focuses as long as they fit within the Journal's overall mission, i.e., to publish research and perspectives that interpolate theory, methodology, criticism, and concrete observations of historical and contemporary relations between culture and the natural environment.