

Nature+Culture

The mission of the Journal is to move beyond specialized disciplinary enclaves and mindsets toward broader syntheses that encompass time, space, and structures in understanding the Nature-Culture relationship. The Journal furthermore provides an outlet for the identification and processing of knowledge gaps in our understanding of this relationship.

Current publication themes are:

Theme 1: Cultural Reactions and Conceptions of Nature

Theme 2: Degradation and Restoration of Ecosystems

Theme 3: Changing Ecologies and Contradictions

Theme 4: Ecological Futures

Theme 1 Cultural Reactions and Conceptions of Nature

As ecological crises deepen and continue during the current era, intensive and extensive studies have been devoted, for example, to the following areas: a) gauging the public's awareness of environmental change, b) assessing various mobilizing strategies, c) studying 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 have provided much detail and color to the ecological crisis tapestry, and have contributed to our publication thematic of understanding cultural reactions and conceptions of Nature.

To date, *Nature + Culture's* publications under this rubric have been varied as we have explored the relationships of Culture in Nature and Nature in Culture. For the later relations, we have encouraged submissions that treated Nature to be as paramount as Culture, thus with the intention of reducing the anthropocentrism that underlies the epistemological and ontological conditions that exist in the social and historical sciences. We have also published studies that explore the 'social construction of Nature' with its associated theoretical and practical implications for our understanding of Nature. Furthermore, it is delightful to receive varied submissions dealing with this thematic from disciplines ranging from archaeology, anthropology, history, sociology, political science, and geography to the environmental sciences. Much remains to be explored and studied.

Theme 2 Degradation and Restoration of Ecosystems

Restoration of ecosystems can have positive impacts and outcomes for human communities. We invite studies that examine and propose such restorative solutions. Attempts at conservation, preservation and restoration of the ecosystems will need

to be fostered. Performing CPR on planet Earth warrants a good discussion along social, economic and ethical dimensions, instead of the continued aimless calls for resiliency and sustainability. In this regard, there is need to consider the entanglements between humanistic and scientific fields of inquiry and recognize such developments as critical. Attentive to interdisciplinary entanglements, we welcome submissions that draw from the humanities that cover the ethical, historical, communicative dimensions of cultural life. For example, the subfield of ecocriticism provides opportunities for the critical interpretation of environmental meanings and values, and such critical discourse we discover also dovetails with current ongoing programs of sociocultural environmental analyses such as the Degrowth movement.

Theme 3 *Changing Ecologies and Contradictions*

Degradation of the environment has certain consequences for human health. Weather changes from excessive rainfall and droughts have impacts on ecosystems that can lead to the emergence of diseases, population losses, group conflicts, and social migrations. Historically, such changes have transformed the social landscape. We welcome studies that will critically examine these worlds in motion, identifying how Nature's natural and human induced rhythms can impact on Culture instead of focusing overwhelmingly on Culture causing the transformations. Clearly, beyond the individual impacts, environmental degradations also require policy discussions and deliberations on how they induced changes to public health.

We welcome submissions that link human health to changing ecologies that are attentive to environmental degradation and the built environment. Related to this, those that recognize the social production of environmental health risks, community responses to such threats and their links to environmental justice concerns. In particular, research on the social and physical environmental determinants that contribute to unequal health outcomes are of interest.

Theme 4 *Ecological Futures*

For this theme, we are interested in pursuing forward looking research dimensions dealing with digitalization and ecology, animals and society, future of life determined by virtual and augmented realities, ecological outcomes from human-cyborg interactions in our life-worlds, and the socioeconomic and political outcomes from epistemic and ideological foundations of ecological modeling and decision making to deal with environmental changes such as climate, energy and water.

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.