

The Material Turn

Autumn 2017

5 credits

Responsible teacher: Dr Adam Wickberg Månsson, Literature

adam.wickberg-mansson@littvet.su.se

Course co-ordinator: Dr Alison Klevnäs, Archaeology

alison.klevnas@ark.su.se

The Material Turn is the first course under the SU Humanities Faculty research school theme *Materiality and the Human* and gives an up-to-date overview of current critical interdisciplinary research on materiality. The course is intended for PhD students who want to orientate themselves within the field of materiality and its current research forms. As well as new materialism, posthumanism and material media studies, it will also critically discuss the growing research field around the concept of the Anthropocene.

The course will begin with an introductory day including an open lecture from a guest researcher. There follows a period for reading and preparation before the main course sessions. The teaching is focused around four themes, each of which will be explored through a text-based seminar followed by a lecture presenting ongoing research within the field. In the seminars students will present texts in pairs or small groups; this literature will be assigned at the start of the course. The course will be examined through the collaborative seminar presentations plus an individual written assignment.

Introduction Day

Wednesday 18th October

10:00-12:00 Guest lecture

Hosting fragments of the lives of others

Professor Apostolos Lampropoulos, University of Bordeaux Montaigne

Department of Culture and Aesthetics (IKE), room 509, 5th floor, enter from Frescativägen 26

15:00-17:00 Introductory seminar

Department of Culture and Aesthetics (IKE), room 328, main entrance, 3rd floor (up one staircase and then to the left)

Seminars and lectures

1) Thursday 30th November, Seminar 09:00-12:00, Lecture 13:00-15:00

Department of Archaeology and Classical Studies, Seminar Room Floor 3 (entrance floor)

Posthumanism: Critical thinking for the 21st century?

Lecturer: Dr Lisa Käll, Associate Professor, Gender Studies

Sara Ahmed, "Orientations Matter" in Coole & Frost *New Materialisms* (Duke university press 2010) (24 pgs)

Karen Barad, "Posthumanist Performativity: Toward an Understanding of How Matter Comes to Matter" (30 pgs)

Rosi Braidotti, *The Posthuman* (Polity Press 2013), Chap. 4 "Posthuman humanities: Life Beyond Theory" (43 pgs)

Luna Dolezal, (2017) "Representing Posthuman Embodiment: Considering Disability and the Case of Aimee Mullins", *Women's Studies* 46: 1, pp 60-75 (15 pgs)

Donna Haraway, Ch. 1 "Playing string figures with companion species" in *Staying with the Trouble* (Duke University Press 2016) (21 pgs)

David Roden, (2015) *Posthuman Life: Philosophy at the Edge of the Human*. (Routledge 2015), Chapter 1 (26 pgs)

Margrit Shildrick, (2013) "Re-imagining Embodiment: Prostheses, Supplements and Boundaries", *Somatechnics* 3: 2, pp 270-286. (16 pgs)

(Total 175 pages)

2) Friday 1st December, Seminar 09:00-12:00, Lecture 14:00-16:00

Seminar - Musikvetenskapens bibliotek, Department of Culture and Aesthetics.

Lecture – Högbomssalen, Geovetenskapens hus, Building U, floor 3.

Optional lunch at Fakultetsklubben at own cost (115kr). Please let Adam Wickberg Månsson know by 23rd Nov if you wish to attend.

New Materialism: How matter comes to matter

Lecture: *Practices of New Materialist Citation* by Dr Iris van den Tuin, Associate Professor, Liberal Arts & Sciences, Utrecht University.

New Materialism: Interviews and Cartographies, ed. van der Tuin & Dolphijn, (London: Open Humanities Press 2012), chapters, "Introduction: What may I hope for?", "1. Interview with Rosi Braidotti", "3. Interview with Karen Barad", "II Cartographies, Introduction: A new tradition in Thought", "5. The transversality of New Materialism" (77 pgs)

New Materialisms: Ontology, Agency, and Politics (Duke University Press 2010), ed. Diane Coole & Samantha Frost, Coole & Frost, Chapters "Introducing the New Materialisms", Jane Bennett, "A Vitalist Stopover on the Way to a New Materialism", (70 pgs)

Object Oriented Feminism, ed. Behar (University of Minnesota Press 2016), Behar, "An introduction OOF" (38 pgs)

Vera Bühlmann, Felicity Colman, Iris van der Tuin (2017) 'Introduction to New Materialist Genealogies: New Materialisms, Novel Mentalities, Quantum Literacy', in *Minnesota Review*, Issue 88, pp. 47-58

Iris van der Tuin, (2017) 'Signals Falling: Reading Woolf and Guattari Diffractively for a New Materialist Epistemology', in *Minnesota Review*, Issue 88, pp. 112-115

Sari Irni (2013). 'The Politics of Materiality: Affective Encounters in a Transdisciplinary Debate', in *European Journal of Women's Studies*, Issue 20(4), pp. 347-360.

Karen Barad (2014). 'Diffracting Diffractions: Cutting Together-Apart', in *Parallax* 20(3), pp. 168-187. Special Issue on 'Diffracting Worlds, Diffractive Readings – Onto-Epistemologies and the Critical Humanities', edited by Kathrin Thiele and Brigit Kaiser.

(Total 230 pages)

3) Thursday 7th December, Seminar 09:00-12:00, Lecture 13:00-15:00

Department of Archaeology and Classical Studies, Seminar Room Floor 3 (entrance floor)

Materiality of communication: Media as infrastructures of being

Lecturer: Professor Thomas Götselius, Literature

Lisa Gitelman, *Paper Knowledge* (Duke university press 2014), "Introduction" (20 pgs)

Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht, *Production of presence: What meaning cannot convey*, (Stanford University Press, 2004). "Metaphysics: A Brief Prehistory of What is Now Changing" (28 pgs.)

Friedrich Kittler, "The Alphabeth of the Greeks: On the Archeology of Writing", i *The Truth of the Technological World: Essays on the Genealogy of Presence* (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press 2013), s. 267-274. (7 pgs.)

Jussi Parikka, *A Geology of Media* (University of Minnesota Press 2015), "1. Materiality: Grounds of Media and Culture" (28 pgs.)

John Durham Peters, *Marvelous Clouds: Toward a Philosophy of Elemental Media* (University of Chicago Press 2015), "In Medias Res", "Understanding Media", (50 pgs)

Bernhard Siegert, *Grids, Filters, Doors and Other Articulations of the Real* (Fordham University Press 2015), "Cultural techniques or the end of the intellectual postwar in German media theory" (19 pgs)

Cornelia Vismann, *Files: Law and Media Technology* (Stanford university press 2008) "Law's writing lessons" (39 pgs)

(Total 210 pages)

4) Friday 8th December, Seminar 09:00-12:00, Lecture 13:00-15:00

Department of Archaeology and Classical Studies, Seminar Room Floor 3 (entrance floor)

Deep time: Naturecultures

Lecturer: Dr Christina Fredengren, Researcher, Archaeology

Dipesh Chakrabarty, "The Climate of History: Four Theses", *Critical Inquiry* 2009:2, vol. 35. (25 pgs)

Dipesh Chakrabarty, "The future of the human sciences in the age of humans: A note" *European Journal of Social Theory*, 2017, Vol. 20(1), 39-43.

Bruno Latour,, *Facing Gaia: Eight Lectures on the New Climatic Regime* London: Polity Press 2017 "Fourth lecture: The Anthropocene and the destruction of the (image of) the Globe" (35 pgs)

Donna Haraway,, *Staying With the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chtulucene* Durham: Duke University Press 2016, "Tentacular thinking" (20 pgs)

Jussi Parikka, "Deep Times of Planetary Trouble", *Cultural Politics*, "Mediated Geologies", 2016:3 (10 pgs)

Rosi Braidotti, – "The Critical Posthumanities: or is medianatures to naturecultures as Zoe is to Bios?", *Cultural Politics*, "Mediated Geologies", 2016:3 (7 pgs)

Stacy Alaimo, *Exposed: Environmental Politics and Pleasures in Posthuman Times* (University of Minnesota Press 2016), "5. Oceanic Originis, Plastic Activism and New Materialism at Sea" (35 pgs)

Peter Sloterdijk, "The Anthropocene: A Process-state at the Edge of Geohistory?", *Art in the Anthropocene*, ed. Davies & Turpin (Open Humanities Press, 2015) (13 pgs)

Jane Bennet,, *Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things* (Durham: Duke University Press 2010) "The Force of Things" (20 pgs).

Jeffrey Jerome Cohen,, *Stone: Ecology of the Inhuman*, Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press 2015, "Stories of Stone" (19 pgs)

Oil Culture (University of Minnesota Press 2014) Stephanie Lemenager "16. Fossil, Fuel: Manifesto for the Post-Oil Museum" (19 pages)

Jason Moore, *Capitalism in the Web of Life: Ecology and the Accumulation of Capital* (London: Verso books 2015), "The double internality: History as if Nature matters" (30 pgs).

Isabell Stengers, *In Catastrophic Times: Resisting the Coming Barbarism* (Open Humanities Press 2015), "Between two histories" (10 pgs.)

Barad, K. 2012. Quantum Entanglements and Hauntological Relations of Inheritance: Dis/continuities, Space Time Enfoldings, and Justice-to-Come. *Derrida Today* 3:2. Pp. 240-268.

Bird Rose, D. 2012. Multispecies Knots of Ethical Time. *Environmental Philosophy* 9 (1),127-40.

Anthropocene Volume 41, pp. 1-7, 101-15 (December 2013) Erlandson & Braje, "Archaeology and the Anthropocene", Lightfoot et al. "European Colonialism and the Anthropocene: A view from the Pacific Coast of North America" (20 pgs)

Fredengren, C. 2016. Unexpected encounters with Deep Time enchantment. Bog bodies, crannogs and 'other worldly' sites, the materializing powers of disjuncture's in time. *Archaeology and Environmental Ethics. World Archaeology* 48:4.

(Total 320 pages)

(900 pages assigned reading)

Examination

The course is examined through the collaborative seminar presentations and an individual research-focused final assignment.

Final assignment

Please submit a paper of c. 3000 words placing your own research project in the expanded field of the material turn as it has been discussed during the course. Use relevant parts of the course literature to demonstrate how your research is informed by and contributes to ongoing debate in the area.

Although the main course language is English, the assignment does not have to be written in English. We suggest you submit your assignment in the language in which you are writing your thesis. Please check with us if that is not a Scandinavian language or English.

Submission is via Mondo under 'Uppgifter/Assignments'.

Full literature list, including optional suggestions for further reading

- Anthropocene* Volume 4, ss. 1-7 och 101-15 (December 2013) Special issue: "When Humans Dominated the Earth: Archaeological Perspectives on the Anthropocene", red. Jon M. Erlandson och Todd J. Braje. Erlandson & Braje, "Archaeology and the Anthropocene" och Lightfoot et al. "European Colonialism and the Anthropocene: A view from the Pacific Coast of North America"
- Barad, Karen, "Posthumanist Performativity: Toward an Understanding of How Matter Comes to Matter" *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 2003, vol. 28, no. 3
- Barad, Karen (*Meeting the Universe Halfway: Quantum Physics and the Entanglement of Matter and Meaning* (Duke University Press 2007).
- Barad, Karen, 2012. Quantum Entanglements and Hauntological Relations of Inheritance: Dis/continuities, Space Time Enfoldings, and Justice-to-Come. *Derrida Today* 3:2. Pp. 240-268.
- Bird Rose, D. 2012. Multispecies Knots of Ethical Time. *Environmental Philosophy* 9 (1), 127-40.
- Braidotti, Rosi, *The Posthuman* (Polity Press 2013), kap. 4 "Posthuman humanities: Life Beyond Theory"
- Braidotti, Rosi – "The Critical Posthumanities: or is medianatures to naturecultures as Zoe is to Bios?", *Cultural Politics*, "Mediated Geologies", 2016:3
- Bennet, Jane, *Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things* Durham: Duke University Press 2010 (utdrag ca 30 s)
- Bonneuil, Christophe and Jean-Baptiste Fressoz, *The Shock of the Anthropocene: The Earth, History and Us*, (London: Verso Books 2016), (utdrag ca 30 s.)
- Chakrabarty, Dipesh, "The Climate of History: Four Theses", *Critical Inquiry* 2009:2, vol. 35.
- Chakrabarty, D. 2017. The future of the human sciences in the age of humans: A note. *European Journal of Social Theory*. Vol. 20(1), 39-43.
- Cohen, Jeffrey Jerome, *Stone: Ecology of the Inhuman*, Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press 2015, (Utdrag ca 30 s.)
- Dolezal, Luna (2017) "Representing Posthuman Embodiment: Considering Disability and the Case of Aimee Mullins", *Women's Studies* 46: 1, pp 60-75
- Fredengren, C. 2016. Unexpected encounters with Deep Time enchantment. Bog bodies, crannogs and 'other worldly' sites, the materializing powers of disjuncture's in time. *Archaeology and Environmental Ethics*. *World Archaeology* 48:4.
- General Ecology* (Bloomsberg Academic Press 2017), red. Erich Hörl, Hörl, "Introduction to General Ecology: The ecologization of thinking", s. 1-74.
- Gitelman, Lisa *Paper Knowledge* (Duke university press 2014), "Introduction"
- Gumbrecht, Hans Ulrich *Production of presence: What meaning cannot convey*, (Stanford University Press, 2004).
- Gruisin, Richard (ed.), *The Nonhuman Turn* (University of Minnesota Press 2015), Rebekah Sheldon "Form/ Matter/ Chora: Object-Oriented and Feminist New Materialism" och Jane Bennett, "Systems and Things: On Vital Materialism and Object-Oriented Philosophy".
- Descola, Philippe *Beyond Nature and Culture* (University of Chicago Press 2013), (utdrag ca 30 s.)
- Gumbrecht, Hans Ulrich, *Production of presence: What meaning cannot convey* (Stanford university press 2004)
- Haraway, Donna, *Staying With the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chtulucene* Durham: Duke University Press 2016 (Utdrag ca 30 s.)
- Harman, Graham, *Prince of Networks: Bruno Latour and Metaphysics* (Re:press 2009)
- Latour, Bruno, *Facing Gaia: Eight Lectures on the New Climatic Regime* London: Polity Press 2017 (utdrag ca 30 s.)

- Kittler, Friedrich, "The Alphabeth of the Greeks: On the Archeology of Writing", i *The Truth of the Technological World: Essays on the Genealogy of Presence* (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press 2013), s. 267-274.
- Malm, Andreas *Fossil Capital: The Rise of Steam Power and the Roots of Global Warming* (London: Verso books 2015), (utdrag ca 30 s.)
- Material Feminisms*, ed. Stacy Alaimo &
- Morton, Timothy, *Realist Magic: Objects, Ontology, Causality* (Open Humanities Press 2013)
- Morton, Timothy, *Humankind* (Verso books 2017)
- Moore, Jason *Capitalism in the Web of Life: Ecology and the Accumulation of Capital* (London: Verso books 2015), (utdrag ca 30 s.)
- New Materialism: Interviews and Cartographies*, red. Rick Dolphijn och Iris van der Tuin, (London: Open Humanities Press 2012), "Introduction: What may I hope for?", "1. Interview with Rosi Braidotti", "3. Interview with Karen Barad", "II Cartographies, Introduction: A new tradition in Thought"
- New Materialisms: Ontology, Agency, and Politics* (Duke University Press 2010), red. Diane Coole & Samantha Frost, Coole & Frost, "Introducing the New Materialisms", Jane Bennett, "A Vitalist Stopover on the Way to a New Materialism", Sara Ahmed, "Orientations Matter"
- O' Gorman, Marcel, *Necromedia* (University of Minnesota Press 2016)
- Object Oriented Feminism*, red. Katherine Behar (University of Minnesota Press 2016), Behar, "An introduction OOF"
- Parikka, Jussi, *A Geology of Media* (University of Minnesota Press 2015), (Utdrag ca 30 s.)
- Parikka, Jussi, "Deep Times of Planetary Trouble", *Cultural Politics*, "Mediated Geologies", 2016:3
- Peters, John Durham, *Marvelous Clouds: Toward a Philosophy of Elemental Media* (University of Chicago Press 2015), (Utdrag ca 30 s.)
- Serres, Michel, *The Parasite* (University of Minnesota Press 2007)
- Shildrick, Margrit (2013) "Re-imagining Embodiment: Prostheses, Supplements and Boundaries", *Somatechnics* 3: 2, pp 270-286.
- Siebert, Bernhard, *Grids, Filters, Doors and Other Articulations of the Real* (Fordham University Press 2015), (Utdrag ca 30 s.)
- Sloterdijk, Peter, "The Anthropocene: A Process-state at the Edge of Geohistory?", *Art in the Anthropocene*, ed. Heather Davies and Etienne Turpin (London: Open Humanities Press, 2015)
- Shavero, Steven *The Universe of Things: On Speculative Realism* (University of Minnesota Press 2014)
- Stengers, Isabell *In Catastrophic Times: Resisting the Coming Barbarism* (Open Humanities Press 2015), (utdrag ca 30 s.)
- Stengers, Isabelle *Cosmopolitics I & II* (University of Minnesota Press 2010, 2011), (Utdrag ca 30 + 30 s.)
- Witmore, Christoph "Archaeology and the New Materialisms", *Journal of contemporary archaeology*, vol. 1, NO 2 (2014)
- Wickberg Månsson, Adam, *Pellucid Paper: Poetry and Bureaucratic Media in Early Modern Spain* (Open Humanities Press 2017), "Introduction: Paper Fever (1.1-1.4)
- What if Culture was Nature all Along?* ed. Vicki Kirby (Edinburgh University Press 2017), Vicki Kirby, "Matter out of Place: New Materialism in Review" och Peta Hinton, "A Sociality of Death: Towards a New Materialist Politics and Ethics of Life Itself"

Practical information

Mondo

Please make sure that you can access the course site on SU online platform Mondo. All course documents will be available there and we will use Mondo several times during the course including for assignment submission. If you have any difficulties, contact alison.klevnas@ark.su.se.

Locations

Sessions will be held at the Department of Culture and Aesthetics and at the Department of Archaeology and Classical Studies.

The Department of Culture and Aesthetics/IKE is on the main Stockholm University campus. It's also known as Humanistvillan and is the brick building beyond some grassy areas to your left as you exit the tube: <http://www.su.se/ike/english/about-us>.

The Department of Archaeology and Classical Studies is a 15 minute walk from the main campus. Here are a map and directions:



When you exit the *Universitetet* tube station, turn immediately left around the corner of Pressbyrån, follow the sidewalk under the highway. You will pass some allotment gardens on your left and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences on your right. Proceed over the bridge that crosses the railway, then turn right up the hill, past a big greenhouse and the Department of Botany. The Department is in a building called *Wallenberglaboratoriet* at the end of the small road, with a turning circle in front of it.

NB There are no cafés or restaurants close to the Archaeology department. However, there is a large student kitchen on Floor 3 (entrance floor) where you can eat sandwiches or warm food in microwaves.