The Material Turn
Autumn 2017
5 credits

Responsible teacher: Dr Adam Wickberg Månsson, Literature
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Course co-ordinator: Dr Alison Klevnäs, Archaeology
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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 Bourdeaux 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

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


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


(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


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

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)
Oil Culture (University of Minnesota Press 2014) Stephanie Lemenager “16. Fossil, Fuel: Manifesto for the Post-Oil Museum” (19 pages)
Isabell Stengers, In Catastrophic Times: Resisting the Coming Barbarism (Open Humanities Press 2015), ”Between two histories” (10 pgs.)

(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


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


Desccola, Philippe *Beyond Nature and Culture* (University of Chicago Press 2013), (utdrag ca 30 s.)


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.)


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)


Siegert, Bernhard, Grids, Filters, Doors and Other Articulations of the Real (Fordham University Press 2015), (Utdrag ca 30 s.)


Shaviro, 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.)


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](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:

![Map of Stockholm University](image)

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.