

# Worlds Zones Atmospheres



Seismographies of  
the Anthropocene

Online  
27.9.-1.10.2021

**DGSKA** Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozial- und Kulturanthropologie e.V. c/o Institut für Ethnologie und  
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Information on Plenaries  
(in English)

## **Vorstand**

Prof. Dr. Dorle Dracklé (Vorsitzende)  
Prof. Dr. Michi Knecht (stellv. Vorsitzende)  
Dr. Frank Müller (Schatzmeister)

## **Beirat**

Dr. Martin Gruber (Schriftführer)  
Dr. Cordula Weißköppel (Pressereferat)  
Dr. Jan Oberg (Arbeitsgruppen-Koordination)

## **Geschäftsstelle**

Dr. Julia Zenker

## **WORLDS, ZONES, ATMOSPHERES: SEISMOGRAPHIES OF THE ANTHROPOCENE**

Welcome to the DGSKA (GAA) conference at the virtual University of Bremen. We will be discussing the seismographies of the Anthropocene, the newly proclaimed geological epoch. What can anthropology contribute to the debates about climate change, environmental justice and more-than-human entanglements, and how does an anthropological take on worlds-coming-into-being, critical zones and fragile atmospheres look like? Five panels and more than fifty workshops, labs and roundtables, including an ethnographic film programme invite the participants to engage in critical debates.

The conference opens with a **keynote** by Kim Fortun on **Updating Late Industrial Ethnography**. She will reflect on environmental hazards, vulnerabilities and injustices and how they are produced by a tight coupling of historically sedimented socio-technical, political-economic, eco-atmospheric, cultural and discursive systems.

**Our five plenaries are oriented along aspects of the general conference topic:**

1. **The Anthropocene in Social and Cultural Anthropology:** This plenary explores the analytical and empirical potential of the Anthropocene as a concept for contemporary anthropological research. What are the risks of joining a highly interdisciplinary discourse dominated by natural and geo-scientists, and where is the place of anthropology and environmental humanities in this formation? Speakers are Mona Bhan, Gísli Pálsson, Werner Krauß and Christoph Antweiler.
2. **Worlding / Welten. Anthropology and more-than-human worldmaking:** The discussion about NaturesCultures has shifted attention to the relationships between humans and non-human actors, including the multi-faceted entanglements with microbiological organisms, technologies and infrastructures. The focus of this plenary is on worlding, care and affective relations. Speakers are Ursula Münster, Daniel Münster, Uli Beisel, Eben Kirksey and Heather Swanson.
3. **The Anthropocene and the postcolonial:** In this plenary, we want to draw attention to the historical dimensions of the Anthropocene. In order to explore the (dis)continuities between the colonial era and current ecological, economic and political regimes and concepts, the task is to unravel and to trace these often-times hidden connections. Speakers are Ariella Aisha Azoulay, Tebogo George Mahashe, Amade M'charek and Helen Verran.

4. **The seismographic qualities of ethnography in times of crisis:** Based on close and long-term relationships with marginalized groups and people, anthropologists have privileged access to forms of local knowledge and practices. In this plenary, we ask to what extent anthropologists can contribute to processes of socio-ecological rupture and to the co-development of alternative futures in times of change. Speakers are Alexandra D'Onofrio, Simone Pfeifer, Ziga Podgornik-Jakil, Samuli Schielke and Johannes Sjöberg to find out more.
5. **Zones of extractivism: capitalism, territorial fragmentation and the normalization of (soft) authoritarian rule:** What happens when the Anthropos in the Anthropocene is defined in terms of critical race studies, and when the human impact is defined in terms of extractivism? The framing of this new geological epoch as Capitalocene offers new insights into territorial fragmentations, environmental justice and the emergence of new regimes of power. Speakers are Erdem Evren, Eliane Fernandes, Kristóf Szombati and Andrea Mühlebach.

Parallel to the predominantly English-speaking lectures, roundtables and workshops, current **ethnographic films** will be presented that address the central questions of the conference audiovisually.

Registration for the online conference is still open in order to get access to all digital events including film screenings. Interdisciplinary guests and students are welcome.

<https://www.dgska.de>

<https://pheedloop.com/dgska2021/site/home/>

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