



Interdisciplinary Research Project "Non-Anthropocentric Cultural Subjectivity" Coordinator: Prof. Paweł Piszczatowski

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Call for Papers

Thematic focus of the issue: Eco-Religiosity

Mutual relations between the world of nature and the religious imagination go back to the archaic sources of human culture and are among the basic anthropological determinants. While this statement does not seem to be too problematic, in a critical ecological approach, the entanglement of nature in the discourses of supernatural religious doctrine and practice is often perceived as one of the causes of the instrumentalization of the natural world for the purposes of anthropocentric hegemony over divine creation. According to Lynn White's influential 1967 article "The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis," the main source of the current ecological catastrophe is the grounding of Western thinking in traditional Judeo-Christian values. White's hugely influential thesis has been cited thousands of times in a variety of disciplines, including but not limited to religious studies, environmental ethics, history, ecological science, philosophy, psychology, and anthropology (LeVasseur, Petersen 2017). On the other hand, a certain "environmental turn" can be observed in the theological discourses of various religions. A significant representative of such "eco-theology" is Seyyed Hossein Nasr, who is considered a key thinker on the environment, particularly in terms of Islamic environmentalism and the resacralization of nature. Similar tendencies can also be seen within other monotheistic theologies arising from the Abrahamic trunk. The perception of the relationship between the human and the more-than-human world in the Dharmic religions of the East undoubtedly deserves a separate treatment in the historical and cultural perspective, also in the context of the impact of these forms of spirituality on contemporary Western culture, both on the intellectual and popular level.

Yet another area worthy of critical consideration is the attempt to restitute archaic forms of spirituality in the materialistic discourses of posthumanism. When Timothy Morton creates the concept of "ecognosis" (Morton, 2018), he refers directly to the religious concepts of ancient Gnosticism. The links between Morton's "dark ecology" and Gnostic eschatology merit critical reflection in the context of post-secular concepts of late modernity and their relation to the category of the Anthropocene.

Lastly, Donna Haraway in her concept of the Chthulucene refers to the source forms of religiosity in the form of "experimental animism": "Materialist, experimental animism is not a New Age wish nor a neocolonial fantasy, but a powerful proposition for rethinking relationality, perspective, process, and reality without the dubious comforts of the oppositional categories of modern/traditional or religious/secular" (Haraway 2016). Haraway thus introduces a key aspect of postcolonial criticism, referring to spiritualism preserved in the proto-religious imaginary of Indigenous peoples which seems to be a very valuable perspective.

When planning this thematic issue of our journal, we invite you to submit abstracts focused around the above-mentioned issues and creatively referring to the wide-ranging interweaving between religion, theology, spirituality, New Materialism, post-colonialism and perspectives of looking at the world that take into account not-only-human subjectivity. **Proposals** comprising a 250-word abstract in English or German and a brief biographical note should be sent to: <u>transpositiones@uw.edu.pl</u> by **Mai 31**, **2023**.

A decision will be made regarding the final selection by **June 10**. **Deadline** for submitting completed manuscripts: **October 1, 2023**. The issue is expected to be published in spring 2024. **Publication language**: English and German.

TRANSPOSITIONES is a new interdisciplinary biannual peer-reviewed journal correlated with the topics of the project "Non-Anthropocentric Cultural Subjectivity" realized as part of the Research Excellence Initiative at the University of Warsaw primarily oriented towards interdisciplinary publications addressing issues of posthumanist theories of the late anthropocene. It is published by the German publishing house Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht (imprint of BRILL Deutschland GmbH).

More information: <u>https://transpositiones.uw.edu.pl/en</u>