



KEYNOTE LECTURE

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Reflections on Post-Pandemic Ecoculture

This talk will unfold in two main stages. 1. Might there be reason to hope that the fortuitous environmental benefits arising from the constraints now imposed on human exploitation and consumption of earth's resources will provide new incentives and suggest new pathways for planetary stewardship after the coronavirus epidemic has been alleviated? 2. What further light does the historical relation between human and environmental disasters, and the relation between their respective fictive imaginaries, shed on the question of whether durable new modes of environmental culture, communication, and imagination are likely to emerge from the present crisis? In both parts, arguments will be articulated, nuanced, and tested by extensive reference to literature, film, environmental history, and cultural theory.