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## Dancing With Disaster Environmental Histories Nar

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Climate Change, Ecological Catastrophe, and the Contemporary Postcolonial Novel

Dancing with Disaster

US Environmental History

Dancing with Disaster

Provisional Cities

Disaster and Human History

Towards a Just and Ecologically Sustainable Peace

Introduction to the Environmental Humanities

A Mist Connection

Book Review: Kate Rigby. *Dancing with Disaster. Environmental Histories, Narratives, and Ethics for Perilous Times*. Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia Press, 2015, 225 Pp

German Ecocriticism in the Anthropocene

Ecofictions, Ecorealities, and Slow Violence in Latin America and the Latinx World

Environmental Humanities

Readings in the Anthropocene

British Romanticism, Climate Change, and the Anthropocene

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### MYLA WALLS

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*Climate Change, Ecological Catastrophe, and the Contemporary Postcolonial Novel* Routledge  
 In the summer of 1783, an unusual dry fog descended upon large parts of the northern hemisphere. The fog brought with it bloodred sunsets, a foul sulfuric odor, and a host of other peculiar weather events. Inspired by the Enlightenment, many naturalists attempted to find reasonable explanations for these occurrences. Between 8 June 1783 and 7 February 1784, a 27-kilometer-long fissure volcano erupted in the Icelandic highlands. It produced the largest volume of lava released by any volcanic eruption on planet Earth in the last millennium. In Iceland, the eruption led to the death of one-fifth of the population. The jetstream carried its volcanic gases further afield to Europe and beyond, where they settled as a fog, the origin of which puzzled naturalists and laypersons. "A Mist Connection" is an environmental history that documents the Laki eruption and its consequences for Iceland and the wider world. The book combines methods of

historical disaster research, climate history, global history, history of science, and geology in an interdisciplinary approach. Icelandic flood lava eruptions of this scale have a statistical recurrence period of 200 to 500 years; it is crucial to understand their nature so that we can prepare for the next one. An eruption of this magnitude would surely be disastrous for our modern, globalized, and interconnected world.

[Dancing with Disaster](#) Cambridge University Press

"Whilst the earliest environmental criticism took its inspiration from the Romantic poets and their immersion in the natural world, today the 'romanticizing' of nature has come to be viewed with suspicion. A rediscovery of the importance of the European Romantic tradition to the ways that writers and critics engage with the environment in the Anthropocene era, this book rereads the work of such poets as Wordsworth, Keats, Blake and Clare in relation to postcolonial challenges and environmental peril to offer a collaborative artistic practice for an era of human-nonhuman cohabitation and kinship."--Page [4] of cover.

*US Environmental History* Routledge

When hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires, and other disasters strike, we count our losses, search for causes, commiserate with victims, and initiate relief efforts. Amply illustrated and expansively researched, *Inventing Disaster* explains the origins and development of this predictable, even ritualized, culture of calamity over three centuries, exploring its roots in the revolutions in science, information, and emotion that were part of the Age of Enlightenment in Europe and America. Beginning with the collapse of the early seventeenth-century Jamestown colony, ending with the deadly Johnstown flood of 1889, and highlighting fires, epidemics, earthquakes, and exploding steamboats along the way, Cynthia A. Kierner tells horrific stories of culturally significant calamities and their victims and charts efforts to explain, prevent, and relieve disaster-related losses. Although how we interpret and respond to disasters has changed in some ways since the nineteenth century, Kierner demonstrates that, for better or worse, the intellectual, economic, and political environments of earlier eras forged our own twenty-first-century approach to disaster, shaping the stories we tell, the precautions we ponder, and the remedies we prescribe for disaster-ravaged communities.

**Dancing with Disaster** Routledge

Global seawater levels are rising and the low-lying coasts of the North Sea basin are amongst the most vulnerable in Europe. In our current moment of environmental crisis, the North Sea coasts are literary arenas in which the challenges and concerns of the Anthropocene are being played out. This book shows how the fragile landscapes around the North Sea have served as bellwethers for environmental concern both now and in the recent past. It looks at literary sources drawn from the countries around the North Sea (Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, and England) from the mid-nineteenth century onwards, taking them out of their established national and cultural contexts and reframing them in the light of human concern with fast-changing and hazardous environments. The six chapters serve as literary case studies that highlight memories of flood disaster and recovery, attempts to engineer the landscape into submission, perceptions of the landscape as both local and global, and the imagination of the future of our planet. This approach, which combines environmental history and ecocriticism, shows the importance of cultural artefacts in understandings of, and responses to, environmental change, and advocates for the importance of literary studies in the environmental humanities. This book will be of great interest to students and scholars of the Environmental Humanities, including Eco-criticism and Environmental History, as well as anyone studying literature from the Germanic philologies.

[Provisional Cities](#) LSU Press

"This book examines the relationship between mankind and the natural environment through the lens of natural disasters, where the interaction between humanity and its environment comes into sharpest focus. The text achieves this goal through the examination of 22 case studies spanning the last 150 years"--Provided by publisher.

[Disaster and Human History](#) Bloomsbury Publishing

Natural disasters repeatedly beset the Dutch Republic during the eighteenth century and coincided with environmental, political, economic, and social changes many characterized as decline. This book explores the connections between disasters and Dutch decline and uncovers lessons these eighteenth-century experiences offer for the present.

**Towards a Just and Ecologically Sustainable Peace** Bloomsbury Publishing USA

Hurricanes, floods, oil spills, disease, and disappearing wetlands are some of the many environmental disasters that impact the Gulf South. The contributors to *Environmental Disaster in the Gulf South* explore the threat, frequency, and management of this region's disasters from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. Scholars from the fields of history, sociology, and anthropology examine the underlying causes of vulnerability to natural hazards in the coastal states while also suggesting ways to increase resilience. Greg O'Brien considers the New Orleans flood of 1849; Andy Horowitz, the Galveston storm of 1900; and Christopher M. Church, the 1928 hurricane in Florida and the Caribbean. Urmi Engineer Willoughby delves into the turn-of-the-century yellow fever outbreaks in New Orleans and local attempts to eradicate them, while Abraham H. Gibson and Cindy Ermus discuss the human introduction of invasive species and their long-term impact on the region's ecosystem. Roberto E. Barrios looks at political-ecological susceptibility in New Orleans's Lower Ninth Ward, and Kevin Fox Gotham treats storm- and flood-defense infrastructures. In his afterword, Ted Steinberg ponders what the future holds when the capitalist state supports an unwinnable battle between land developers and nature. These case studies offer new ways of understanding humans' interactions with the unique, and at times unforgiving, environment of the Gulf South. These lessons are particularly important as we cope with the effects of climate change and seek to build resilience and reduce vulnerability through enhanced awareness, adequate preparation, and efficient planning.

[Introduction to the Environmental Humanities](#) Stanford University Press

Readings in the Anthropocene brings together scholars from German Studies and beyond to interpret the German tradition of the last two hundred years from a perspective that is mindful of the challenge posed by the concept of the Anthropocene. This new age of man, unofficially pronounced in 2000, holds that humans are becoming a geological force in shaping the Earth's future. Among the biggest challenges facing our future are climate change, accelerated species loss, and a radical transformation of land use. What are the historical, philosophical, cultural, literary, and artistic responses to this new concept? The essays in this volume bring German culture to bear on what it means to live in the Anthropocene from a historical, ethical, and aesthetic perspective.

**A Mist Connection** Cambridge University Press

Postcolonial Disaster studies literary fiction about crises of epic proportions in contemporary South

Asia and Southern Africa: the oceanic disaster in Sri Lanka, the economic disaster in Zimbabwe, the medical disaster in South Africa and Botswana, and the geopolitical disaster in India and Pakistan. Pallavi Rastogi argues that postcolonial fiction about catastrophe is underpinned by a Disaster Unconscious, a buried but mobile agenda that forces disastrous events to narrate themselves. She writes that in disaster fiction, a literary Story and its real-life Event are in constant dialectic tension. In recent disasters, Story and Event are tied together as the urgency to circulate information and rebuild in the aftermath of the disaster dictates the flow of the narrative. As the Story acquires temporal distance from the Event, such as the seventy-three years since the partition of India in 1947, it plays more with form and theme, to expand beyond a tale about an all-consuming tragedy. Story and Event are in a constant dance with each other, and the Disaster Unconscious plays the tune to which they move. Rastogi creates a narratology for postcolonial disaster fiction and brings concepts from Disaster Studies into the realm of literary analysis.

**Book Review: Kate Rigby. Dancing with Disaster. Environmental Histories, Narratives, and Ethics for Perilous Times. Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia Press, 2015, 225 Pp** Springer

Climate Change, Ecological Catastrophe, and the Contemporary Novel responds to the critical need for transdisciplinary research on the relationship between colonialism and catastrophe. It represents the first sustained analysis of the connection between colonial legacy and present-day ecological catastrophe in postcolonial fiction. Analyzing contemporary South Asian and South Pacific novels that grapple with climate change and catastrophe, environmental exploitation and instability, and human-nonhuman relationships in degraded environments, it offers a much-needed corrective to dominant narratives about climate, crisis, and the everyday. Highlighting the contributions of literary fiction from the postcolonial South to the growing field of the environmental humanities, this book reconsiders the novel's relationship with climate change and the contemporary environmental imaginary. Counter to dominant current theoretical discourses, it demonstrates that the novel form is ideally suited to literary and imaginative engagements with climate change and ecological catastrophe. The six case studies it examines connect contemporary ecological vulnerability to colonial legacies, reveal the critical role animals and the environment play in literary imaginations of post-catastrophe recovery, and together constellate a decolonial perspective on ecological catastrophe in the era of climate change. Drawing on the work of Indigenous authors and scholars who write about and against the Anthropocene, this book displaces conventional ways of thinking about the relationship between the mundane and the catastrophic and promotes greater dialogue between the largely siloed fields of postcolonial, Indigenous, and disaster studies.

[German Ecocriticism in the Anthropocene](#) Springer

Bringing together new writing by some of the field's most compelling voices from the United States and Europe, this is the first book to examine Italy--as a territory of both matter and imagination--through the lens of the environmental humanities. The contributors offer a wide spectrum of approaches--including ecocriticism, film studies, environmental history and sociology, eco-art, and animal and landscape studies--to move past cliché and reimagine Italy as a hybrid, plural, eloquent place. Among the topics investigated are post-seismic rubble and the stratifying geosocial layers of the Anthropocene, the landscape connections in the work of writers such as Calvino and Buzzati, the contaminated fields of the ecomafia's trafficking, Slow Food's gastronomy of liberation, poetic birds and historic forests, resident parasites, and nonhuman creatures. At a time when the tension between the local and the global requires that we reconsider our multiple roots and porous place-identities, Italy and the Environmental Humanities builds a creative critical discourse and offers a series of new voices that will enrich not just nationally oriented discussions, but the entire debate on environmental culture. Contributors: Marco Armiero, Royal Institute of Technology at Stockholm \* Franco Arminio, Writer, poet, and filmmaker \* Patrick Barron, University of Massachusetts \* Damiano Benvegnù, Dartmouth College and the Oxford Center for Animal Ethics \* Viktor Berberi, University of Minnesota, Morris \* Rosi Braidotti, Utrecht University \* Luca Bugnone, University of Turin \* Enrico Cesaretti, University of Virginia \*Almo Farina, University of Urbino \* Sophia Maxine Farmer, University of Wisconsin-Madison \* Serena Ferrando, Colby College \* Tiziano Fratus, Writer, poet, and tree-seeker \* Matteo Gilebbi, Duke University \* Andrea Hajek, University of Warwick \* Marcus Hall, University of Zurich \* Serenella Iovino, University of Turin \* Andrea Lerda, freelance curator \* Roberto Marchesini, Study Center of Posthuman Philosophy in Bologna \* Marco Moro, Editor-in-Chief of Edizioni Ambiente, Milan \* Elena Past, Wayne State University \* Carlo Petrini, Founder of International Slow Food Movement \* Ilaria Tabusso Marcyan, Miami University (Ohio)\*

Monica Seger, College of William and Mary \* Pasquale Verdicchio, University of California, San Diego

**Ecofictions, Ecorealities, and Slow Violence in Latin America and the Latinx World** Routledge

For more than 40 years Eastern European culture came under the sway of Soviet rule. What is the legacy of this period for cultural attitudes to the environment and the contemporary battle to confront climate change? This is the first in-depth study of the legacy of the Soviet era on attitudes to the environment in countries such as Poland, Hungary and Ukraine. Exploring responses in literature, culture and film to political projects such as the collectivisation of agricultural land, the expansion of the mining industry and disasters such as the Chernobyl explosion, Anna Barcz opens up new understandings of local political traditions and examines how they might be harnessed in the cause of contemporary environmental activism. The book covers works by writers such as Christa Wolf, the Nobel Prize winner Svetlana Alexievich and film-makers such as Béla Tarr, Andrzej Wajda and Wladyslaw Pasikowski.

[Environmental Humanities](#) Oxford University Press

This book considers the provisional nature of cities in relation to the Anthropocene - the proposed geological epoch of human-induced changes to the Earth system. It charts an environmental history of curfews, admonitions and alarms about dwelling on Earth. 'Provisional cities' are explored as exemplary sites for thinking about living in this unsettled time. Each chapter focuses on cities, settlements or proxy urbanisations, including past disaster zones, remote outposts in the present and future urban fossils. The book explores the dynamic, changing and contradictory relationship between architecture and the global environmental crisis and looks at how to re-position architectural and urban practice in relation to wider intellectual, environmental, political and cultural shifts. The book argues that these rounder and richer accounts can better equip humanity to think through questions of vulnerability, responsibility and opportunity that are presented by immense processes of planetary change. These are cautionary tales for the Anthropocene. Central to this project is the proposition that living with uncertainty requires that architecture is reframed as a provisional practice. This book would be beneficial to students and academics working in architecture, geography, planning and environmental humanities as well as professionals working to shape the future of cities.

**Readings in the Anthropocene** McFarland

This edited volume critically engages with ecofeminist scholarship. It tracks the ongoing dialogue between women's issues and environmental change by republishing the work of pioneering scholars and activists in the field. Together with new essays by contemporary ecofeminist scholars, the book uncovers the dialectical relationship between environmental and feminist causes, the relational identities of feminists and ecofeminists, and the concept of ecofeminism as a rallying point for environmental feminism. The volume defines ecofeminism as a multidisciplinary project and will appeal to readers working within the field of Environmental Humanities.

[British Romanticism, Climate Change, and the Anthropocene](#) Routledge

This electronic version has been made available under a Creative Commons (BY-NC-ND) open access license. How might literary scholarship engage with the sustainability debate? Aimed at research scholars and advanced students in literary and environmental studies, this collection brings together twelve essays by leading and up-coming scholars on the theme of literature and sustainability. In today's sociopolitical world, sustainability has become a ubiquitous term, yet one potentially driven to near meaninglessness by the extent of its usage. While much has been written on sustainability in various domains, this volume sets out to foreground the contributions literary scholarship might make to notions of sustainability, both as an idea with a particular history and as an attempt to reconceptualise the way we live. Essays in this volume take a range of approaches, using the tools of literary analysis to interrogate sustainability's various paradoxes and to examine how literature in its various forms might envisage notions of sustainability.

[Music and the Environment in Dystopian Narrative](#) Routledge

This book is the first major ecocritical study of the relationship between British Romanticism and climate change. It analyses a wide range of texts - by authors including Lord Byron, William Cobbett, Sir Stamford Raffles, Mary Shelley, and Percy Shelley - in relation to the global crisis produced by the eruption of Mount Tambora in 1815. By connecting these texts to current debates in the environmental humanities, it reveals the value of a historicized approach to the Anthropocene. *British Romanticism, Climate Change, and the Anthropocene* examines how Romantic texts affirm the human capacity to shape and make sense of a world with which we are

profoundly entangled and at the same time represent our humiliation by powerful elemental forces that we do not fully comprehend. It will appeal not only to scholars of British Romanticism, but to anyone interested in the relationship between culture and climate change.

*Literature and sustainability* John Wiley & Sons

Music and the Environment in Dystopian Narrative: Sounding the Disaster investigates the active role of music in film and fiction portraying climate crisis. From contemporary science fiction and environmental film to "Anthropocene opera," the most arresting eco-narratives draw less on background music than on the power of sound to move fictional action and those who receive it. Beginning with a reflection on a Mozart recording on the 1970s' Voyager Golden Record, this book explores links between music and violence in Lidia Yuknavitch's 2017 novel *The Book of Joan*, songless speech in the opera *Persephone* in the Late Anthropocene, interrupted lyricism in the eco-documentary *Expedition to the End of the World*, and dread-inducing hurricane music in the Brecht-Weill opera *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*. In all of these works, music allows for a state of critical vulnerability in its hearers, communicating planetary crisis in an embodied way.

*Environmental Disaster in the Gulf South* Routledge

*Packing Death in Australian Literature: Ecocides and Eco-Sides* addresses Australian Literature from ecocritical, animal studies, plant studies, indigenous studies, and posthumanist critical perspectives. The book's main purpose is twofold: to bring more sustained attention to environmental, vegetal, and animal rights issues, past and present, and to do that from within the

discipline of literary studies. Literary studies in Australia continue to reflect disinterest or not enough interest in critical engagements with the subjects of Australia's oldest extant environments and other beings beside humans. *Packing Death in Australian Literature: Ecocides and Eco-Sides* foregrounds the vegetal and nonhuman animal populations and contours of Australian Literature. Critical studies relied on in *Packing Death in Australian Literature: Ecocides and Eco-Sides* include books by CA. Cranston and Robert Zeller, Simon C. Estok, Bill Gammage, Timothy Morton, Bruce Pascoe, Val Plumwood, Kate Rigby, John Ryan, Wendy Wheeler, and Cary Wolfe. The selected literary texts include work by Merlinda Bobis, Eric Yoshiaki Dando, Nugi Garimara, Francesca Rendle-Short, Patrick White, and Evie Wyld.

*The Cambridge Companion to Environmental Humanities* University of Virginia Press

*Natural Disasters in a Global Environment* is a transnational, global and environmental history of natural and man-made disasters. Detailed case studies of past and present events are presented in a historical narrative, making use of the most recent scholarship. Examines a range of disasters including volcanoes, earthquakes, floods, landslides, hurricanes, famines, and more. Highlights the role of science in studying natural disasters and describes the mechanisms responsible for them. Features a range of case studies which can be used in conjunction with one another or as standalone examples. Covers scientific material in a lucid and accessible style suited to undergraduate students or those outside of scientific disciplines. Traces the transition of our

understanding of disasters, from religious and superstitious explanations to contemporary scientific accounts.

*Perils of Progress* Berghahn Books

In an era of climate change, deforestation, melting ice caps, poisoned environments, and species loss, many people are turning to the power of the arts and humanities for sustainable solutions to global ecological problems. *Introduction to the Environmental Humanities* offers a practical and accessible guide to this dynamic and interdisciplinary field. This book provides an overview of the Environmental Humanities' evolution from the activist movements of the early and mid-twentieth century to more recent debates over climate change, sustainability, energy policy, and habitat degradation in the Anthropocene era. The text introduces readers to seminal writings, artworks, campaigns, and movements while demystifying important terms such as the Anthropocene, environmental justice, nature, ecosystem, ecology, posthuman, and non-human. Emerging theoretical areas such as critical animal and plant studies, gender and queer studies, Indigenous studies, and energy studies are also presented. Organized by discipline, the book explores the role that the arts and humanities play in the future of the planet. Including case studies, discussion questions, annotated bibliographies, and links to online resources, this book offers a comprehensive and engaging overview of the Environmental Humanities for introductory readers. For more advanced readers, it serves as a foundation for future study, projects, or professional development.

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