

## Voices of Eco(poet(h)ics: Non-Human Narrators

The lecture is set within the context of my research at the Käte Hamburger Centre CURE, an Institute for Advances Study which explores how cultural practices – narration, poetry, film, music, theatre, and so on – respond to irreparable injuries and how these practices, regarding and reflecting the irreversibility of the damages, can envision a future. Such injuries and damages include, among others, the consequences of climate change. These are part of a lifeworld in which the position of humans in relation to nature must be redefined, including within literary texts. In my lecture, I will engage with “voices of eco(poet(h)ics)” in contemporary literature and examine how literary texts reposition humans at the intersection of eco-poetic and ethical perspectives.

I am particularly interested in literary techniques that disrupt classical narrative strategies, whereby the decentring of the human occurs specifically through the narrative voice. This is achieved, on the one hand, by the multiplication of voices and, on the other, through the emergence of non-human voices. These include not only animals but also objects, artworks, or viruses. Regarding viruses and animals, I aim to build a bridge to my research project on the poetics of epidemic experience, which focuses on the individual and collective experience of epidemics. This project examines dynamics of contagion and their implications for human communities. Using selected examples from contemporary novels, particularly from France and Francophone Africa, I aim to engage seminar participants in a discussion about the voices of eco(poet(h)ics and to bring my topic into dialogue with the questions posed by the project “Paradoxical Humanism and Environmentalism.”