



Narratives in the Anthropocene era

Charles Travis, Vittorio Valentino (Eds.)

Healing the Earth, transforming the mind: how the COVID-19 pandemic generates new insights through the Econarrative writing workshop

Angela Biancofiore¹

Abstract

In this chapter we will analyse how we can initiate a process of transformation in our ways of perceiving the relationships with living ecosystems in the context of the global health crisis unfolding in the Anthropocene era. More specifically, we will examine the narratives produced by the students at Paul Valéry University in Montpellier, France, in the frame of an international project of writing workshops (ECONARRATIVE) centered on the pandemic and ecology, held from January to March 2021, with the support of the MSH-SUD (Maison des Sciences de l'Homme) in Montpellier.

Keywords: Pandemic, Narrative, Ecocriticism, Transformative learning, Eco-anxiety

Works cited

Abram, D., 2020, "In the Ground of Our Unknowing", *Emergence Magazine*, 7 April 2020, viewed 23 april 2021, <<https://emergencemagazine.org/essay/in-the-ground-of-our-unknowing>>.

Ameisen, J. C., 2018, *Les chants mêlés de la Terre et de l'Humanité*, N. Truong (ed.), éditions de l'Aube, La Tour d'Aigues.

Biancofiore, A., 2020, "Care et éducation: pour une transformation de l'esprit", *Notos. Espaces de la création: arts, écritures, utopies*, n. 5, viewed 24 mai 2021, <<https://notos.numerev.com/articles/revue-5/1495-care-et-education-pour-une-transformation-de-l-esprit>>.

Biancofiore, A., 2021, Etica della cura e vita affettiva: un percorso di trasformazione attraverso la piena consapevolezza. In: L. Mortari and F. Valbusa (Eds.), *Il sentire che noi siamo*, Carocci, Roma, 37-60.

Biancofiore, A., Brami, C., 2020, "Le dehors au dedans : méditation de pleine conscience et souffle à l'ère du Covid-19", viewed 23 april 2021, <<https://theconversation.com/le-dehors-au-dedans-meditation-de-pleine-conscience-et-souffle-a-lere-du-covid-19-134605>>.

Carson, R., 1987, *The sense of wonder*, Harpercollins, New York.

Courchamp, F., "Les virus sont une des forces majeures qui façonnent la biosphère", *Le Journal du CNRS*, viewed 23 april 2021, <<https://lejournal.cnrs.fr/articles/les-virus-sont-une-des-forces-majeures-qui-faconnent-la-biosphere>>.

Darwin, C., [1872] 2012, *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals*, John Murray, London, viewed 23 april 2021, <<http://darwin-online.org.uk/content/frameset?pageseq=1&itemID=F1142&viewtype=text>>.

Daszak P., 2020, "We are entering an era of pandemics – it will end only when we protect the rainforest", *The Guardian*, 28 Jul 2020, viewed 23 april 2021,

¹ Professor, Paul-Valéry University, Montpellier, e-mail : angela.biancofiore@yahoo.fr.



Narratives in the Anthropocene era

Charles Travis, Vittorio Valentino (Eds.)

<<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jul/28/pandemic-era-rainforest-deforestation-exploitation-wildlife-disease>>.

De Luca, E., 2020a, “Perché la natura ci soffoca. Il contrappasso ambientale”, *La Repubblica*, 18 march 2020, viewed 23 april 2021, <https://rep.repubblica.it/pwa/commento/2020/03/17/news/perche_la_natura_ci_soffoca-251569264>.

De Luca, E., 2020b, “Pour Erri De Luca, la pandémie fut un moment d'unité en Italie”, *Le Figaro*, 10 may 2020, viewed 23 april 2021, <<https://www.lefigaro.fr/culture/pour-erri-de-luca-la-pandemie-fut-un-moment-d-unite-en-italie-20200510>>.

Di Paolo, P., 2020, “Caro diario, mi isolo. Il romanzo globale della quarantena”, *La Repubblica*, 30 may 2020, viewed 23 april 2021, <<https://ricerca.repubblica.it/repubblica/archivio/repubblica/2020/05/30/caro-diario-mi-isolo-il-romanzo-globale-della-quarantena21.html>>.

Egger, M. M., 2020, *Se libérer du consumérisme. Un enjeu majeur pour l'humanité et la Terre*, éditions Jouvence, Geneva.

Foucault, M., 2005, *The Hermeneutics of the Subject : Lectures at the Collège de France 1981–1982*, translated by G. Burchell, Palgrave MacMillan, New York.

Gugg, G., 2020, “Riti della pandemia”, *Dialoghi Mediterranei*, viewed 23 april 2021, <<http://www.istitutoeuroarabo.it/DM/i-riti-della-pandemia>>.

Gunnell, D., Appleby, L., Arensman, E., Hawton, K., John, A., Kapur, N., Khan M., O'Connor, R., Pirkis, J., 2020, “Suicide risk and prevention during the COVID-19 pandemic”, *Lancet Psychiatry* 2020 Jun; 7(6):468-471, doi: 10.1016/S2215-0366(20)30171-1.

Halifax J., 2021, “Are we in a global rite of passage ?”, viewed 23 april 2021, <<https://www.lionsroar.com/are-we-in-a-global-rite-of-passage>>.

Heidegger, M., 1996, *Being and Time. A Translation of “Sein und Zeit”*, translated by J. Stambaugh, SUNY Press, Albany, New York.

IPBES, 2020, “Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Pandemics Report: Escaping the ‘Era of Pandemics’”, <<https://ipbes.net/pandemics>>.

Le Grain de sable dans la machine, dir. Alain de Halleux, Zorn Production International, INS, RTBF, ARTE, Pictanovo, 2020, film.

Morizot, M., 2020, *Manières d'être vivant*, Actes Sud, Arles.

Piff, P. K., Dietze, P., Feinberg, M., Stancato, D. M., & Keltner, D. (2015). “Awe, the small self, and prosocial behavior”, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 108(6), 883–899, <https://doi.org/10.1037/pspi0000018>.

Ricard, M., 2019, *Émerveillement*, Éd. de la Martinière, Paris.

Roy, A., 2020, “The pandemic is a portal”, *Financial Times*, 3 April 2020, viewed 23 april 2021, <<https://www.ft.com/content/10d8f5e8-74eb-11ea-95fe-fcd274e920ca>>.

Van Gennep, A., 1909, *Les rites de passage*, Emile Nourry, Paris.

Worms, F., 2020, *Sidération et résistance. Face à l'évènement (2015-2020)*, Desclée de Brouwer, Paris.