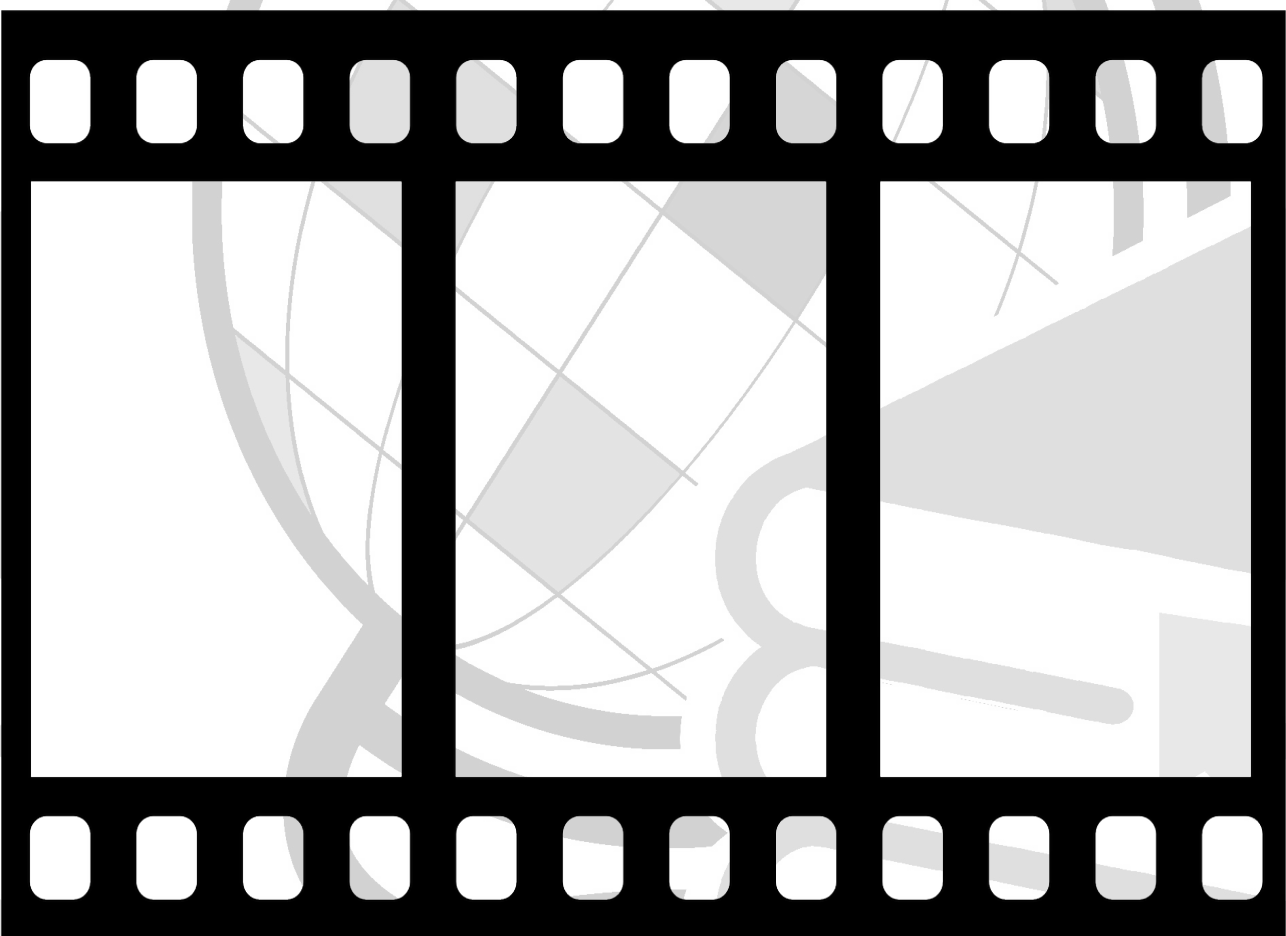


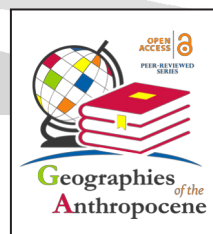
CINEMA, DISASTERS AND THE ANTHROPOCENE

Enrico Nicosia, Lucrezia Lopez (Editors)



Foreword by David McEntire

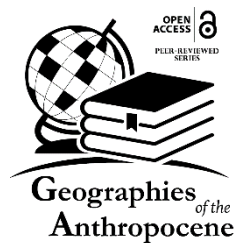
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Editors



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The book series “Geographies of the Anthropocene” edited by the International Scientific Publisher “Il Sileno” (Il Sileno Edizioni) will discuss

the new processes of the Anthropocene epoch through the various worldviews of geoscientists and humanists, intersecting disciplines of Geosciences, Geography, Geoethics, Philosophy, Socio-Anthropology, Sociology of Environment and Territory, Psychology, Economics, Environmental Humanities and cognate disciplines.

Geoethics focuses on how scientists (natural and social), arts and humanities scholars working in tandem can become more aware of their ethical responsibilities to guide society on matters related to public safety in the face of natural hazards, sustainable use of resources, climate change and protection of the environment. Furthermore, the integrated and multiple perspectives of the Environmental Humanities, can help to more fully understand the cultures of, and the cultures which frame the Anthropocene. Indeed, the focus of Geoethics and Environmental Humanities research, that is, the analysis of the way humans think and act for the purpose of advising and suggesting appropriate behaviors where human activities interact with the geosphere, is dialectically linked to the complex concept of Anthropocene.

The book series “Geographies of the Anthropocene” publishes online volumes, both collective volumes and monographs, which are set in the perspective of providing reflections, work materials and experimentation in the fields of research and education about the new geographies of the Anthropocene.

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The choice of digital Open Access format is coherent with the flexible structure of the series, in order to facilitate the direct accessibility and usability by both authors and readers.

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Foreword

David McEntire¹

Over two decades ago, I was hired and appointed as the Coordinator of the Emergency Administration and Planning Program at the University of North Texas. While serving in this capacity, the faculty and I wanted to do everything we could to strengthen the curriculum and expand our degree offerings. One of the many ideas we implemented was the creation of a new course entitled “Images of Disasters in Film and Media.” The class examined common myths about mass emergencies and engaged the research literature about the realities of human attitudes and behavior in crisis situations. From our perspective, the new course was the result of both selfish and selfless objectives: increase the number of students in our program and ensure our graduates had the requisite knowledge to improve emergency management. Because of the use of well-known “disaster flicks,” the class was an instant success and I believe it helped students to think differently about the profession they wanted to enter.

To be sure, there are even more important and lofty ambitions today and one of them is to understand and alter human perspectives and actions in relation to the natural environment. Interestingly, film and media will continue to help us in this regard. This is the central message of *Cinema, Disasters and the Anthropocene*.

Enrico Nicosia and Lucrezia Lopez have done a masterful job in underscoring the vital role of documentaries and cinema in helping us to think differently about the role of humans in our physical world. These editors and the respected authors that have contributed to the book have produced a fantastic contribution that will be instrumental in promoting ways to promote positive change. One of the greatest strengths of this specific volume of the series *Geographies of the Anthropocene* is that it covers a wide variety of topics from many different contexts and perspectives.

¹ Utah Valley University, U.S.; e-mail: david.mcentire@uvu.edu.

For instance, the book examines how documentaries and films interpret and sound the alarm on how people jeopardize the environment through the overuse and misuse of natural resources, deforestation, desertification, the emission of pollutants, careless development and urbanization, the construction of dams, reliance on technology, etc. The volume is also broad in the sense that it incorporates perspectives from developed and developing nations, and includes case studies related to China, Jamaica, India, Italy, Nigeria, the United States, and former USSR. The discussions of past or current decisions and actions illustrate significant impact on communities, indigenous populations, displaced persons, and the environment in the form of climate change, floods, nuclear plant accidents, diseases, and other types of disasters and catastrophes.

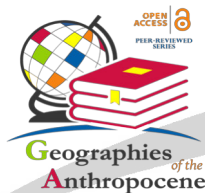
Overall, *Cinema, Disasters and the Anthropocene* helps us to reflect more fully on our understanding of the impact humans have on the environment and the potential errors associated with our current application of science and technology. The chapters are well-researched and written, and provide important concepts and suggestions that are worthy of consideration and application. The content includes numerous facts and examples, which allow for internal deliberation and critical analysis.

The lessons of this book are applicable to scholars in many academic disciplines including anthropology, environmental science, geography, political science, psychology, and sociology among others. The editors and authors make it clear that cartoons, books, music, photography, cartography and other works of art and science should not be discounted in the degree to which they will promote a more sustainable environment for the future.

The Anthropocene concept identifies a geological era in which human action leads to changes on a planetary scale with long-term irreversible effects. This volume collects insights into geographical research, with a specific look at the challenges of the future, and the potential of visual communication offered by cinema, documentaries and television series. In fact, fiction could represent the appropriate medium to examine the notions of the Anthropocene, being a language of global diffusion and highly evocative since it uses the engagement of narration and entertainment to convey messages of vital importance, arousing emotions in the viewer, shared awareness and, finally, responsibility. In the Anthropocene era, the challenge of climate change is not a problem of science but a failure of politics. And politics fails because the Great Acceleration has led to the good life and certainly a better life for people everywhere. Who is willing to give up the great stuff of the Great Acceleration? What would that new life look like? What kind of challenges does the future propose? Some of these questions, among others, are raised in the chapters of the present volume. The different geographical contexts and approaches, here collected, can play an important clarifying function, to reduce the complexity of (today's) social, economic, political, and technological reality, presenting a much deeper vision of reality than it appears to us, and at the same time offering us the means to navigate it. Thus, the volume deals with these issues in three sections, moving from narrative methods to the representation of ecological disasters and finally analysing a more specific topic.

***Enrico Nicosia** is a Full Professor in Geography at the Department of Cognitive Science, Psychology, Education and Cultural Studies at University of Messina (southern Italy). The scientific activity is documented by numerous publications in various fields of geography. The main research topics focus on sustainable land development policies and the role of the social-economic components on urban regeneration strategies, related to the organization of large events. His recent studies are directed at: the urban redevelopment, the transformation of the spaces of consumption, and Film induced tourism.*

***Lucrezia Lopez** Lucrezia Lopez is Lecturer of Geography at the Department of Geography of the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC) and secretary of the CETUR (Centro de Estudios Turísticos). She is academic coordinator in the USC of the International Master's Degree in City Challenges, and secretary of its international academic commission. Her research lines concern the Camino de Santiago, studied by a plurality of geographic, cultural and touristic approaches. She also deals with cultural and Mediterranean studies, tourism geography, heritage and heritage management, and geohumanities.*



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