

Society-Nature Forum

Perspectives on the Anthropocene

Organizers: Jed Kaplan and Joëlle Salomon Cavin

Date: 13 November 2013

Location: Géopolis - Room 2130

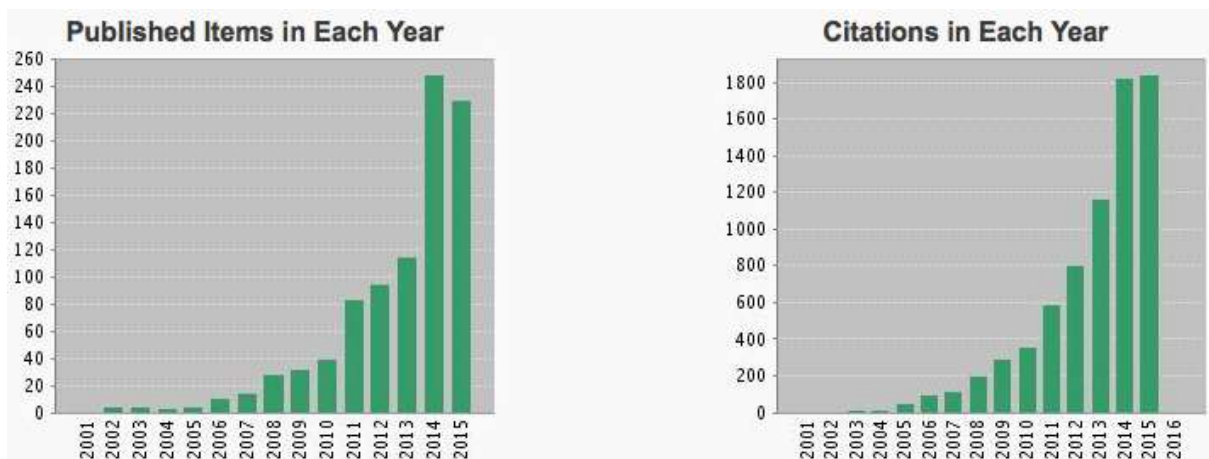
Working language: English

Summary:

What is the “anthropocene”? The concept of a geologic epoch in which human activities have an influence on the Earth that is larger than any other force of nature has been hotly debated since the introduction of the term more than 15 years ago. Each of us, from philosophers to geochemists, may have a different opinion on whether or not the anthropocene exists, when it may have begun, and even on the overall utility of the concept. Our collective “perspectives on the anthropocene” are the subject of this forum.

We asked three internationally renowned researchers: a historian, an ecologist, and a geochemist to give us their opinion on how the anthropocene concept relates to their area of expertise. We further invited speakers from each of our institutes to reflect on how the anthropocene concept has influenced research priorities and perspectives in their domains. Through a series of presentations and discussion, this forum will provide an opportunity for all of us in the GSE Faculty to better understand each other’s background and perspectives and to consider research themes that touch on all of us.

This special event on the anthropocene is organized within the frame of the Society-Nature Forum which purpose is to simulate inter-institute dialogue around the subject of the different approaches to the concept of “Nature” within the Faculty.



Publications on the topic of the anthropocene and citations to these papers (source ISI)

Program for Friday 13 November 2015

8:30-9:00	Coffee and croissants
9:00-9:15	<i>Welcome and objectives</i> Dr. Joëlle Salomon Cavin Institute of Geography and Sustainability, UNIL
9:15-10:40	Session 1: Ecology, Ethics, Paleontology. Chair: Jed Kaplan
9:15-10:00	<i>The Ecology of the Anthropocene</i> Prof. Erle C. Ellis Department of Geography and Environmental Systems, University of Maryland, USA
10:00-10:20	<i>Environmental Ethics and the Anthropocene</i> Alexander Federau Institute of Geography and Sustainability, UNIL
10:20-10:40	<i>Stratigraphy and Paleontology of the Anthropocene</i> Dr. Thierry Adatte Institute of Earth Sciences, UNIL
10:40-11:10	Coffee break
11:10-12:35	Session 2: History, Geochemistry, Politics. Chair: Alex Federau
11:10-11:55	<i>Historicizing the Anthropocene</i> Dr. Jean-Baptiste Fressoz Centre Alexandre Koyré for the History of Science and Technology, CNRS, Paris, France
11:15-12:15	<i>The Geochemistry of the Anthropocene</i> Prof. Torsten Venneman Institute of Earth Surface Dynamics, UNIL
12:15-12:35	<i>Is the Anthropocene Useful for Political Ecology?</i> Prof. Christian Kull Institute of Geography and Sustainability, UNIL
12:35-13:35	Standing lunch
13:35-15:30	Session 3: Geophysics, Environmental History, Climatology. Chair: Torsten Venneman
13:35-13:55	<i>Geophysics in Anthropocene</i> Prof. Niklas Linde Institute of Earth Sciences, UNIL
13:55-14:15	<i>When did the Anthropocene Begin?</i> Prof. Jed O. Kaplan Institute of Earth Surface Dynamics, UNIL
14:15-14:45	Coffee break
14:45-15:30	<i>Paleoclimatology: Putting the Anthropocene into Perspective</i> Prof. Jessica Tierney Department of Geosciences, University of Arizona, USA
15:30-16:15	Session 4: Discussion and conclusions
15:30-16:00	Reflection from the invited speakers and discussion
16:00-16:15	Summary and final remarks
16:15-18:00	Apero

