

ANTHROPOCENE ENCOUNTERS: NEW DIRECTIONS IN GREEN POLITICAL THINKING

Coined barely two decades ago, the Anthropocene has become one of the most influential and controversial terms in environmental science and policy. Yet it remains an ambivalent and contested formulation, giving rise to a multitude of unexpected, and often uncomfortable, conversations. This book traces in detail a broad variety of such “Anthropocene encounters”: in science, philosophy, and literary fiction. It asks what it means to “think green” at a time when nature no longer offers a stable backdrop to political analysis. Do familiar political categories and concepts, such as democracy, justice, power, and time, hold when confronted with a world radically transformed by humans? The book responds by inviting more radical political thought, plural forms of engagement, and extended ethical commitments, making it a fascinating and timely volume for graduate students and researchers working in earth system governance, environmental politics, and studies of the Anthropocene.

FRANK BIERMANN is Research Professor of Global Sustainability Governance with the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University, the Netherlands. He is the founding chair of the Earth System Governance Project, a global transdisciplinary research network launched in 2009, and editor-in-chief of the new peer-reviewed journal *Earth System Governance*. In April 2018, he won a European Research Council Advanced Grant for a research program on the steering effects of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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Edited by Frank Biermann, Eva Lövbrand

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The **Earth System Governance Project** was established in 2009 as a core project of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change. Since then, the Project has evolved into the largest social science research network in the area of sustainability and governance. The Earth System Governance Project explores political solutions and novel, more effective governance mechanisms to cope with the current transitions in the socio-ecological systems of our planet. The normative context of this research is sustainable development; earth system governance is not only a question of institutional effectiveness, but also of political legitimacy and social justice.

The **Earth System Governance series** with Cambridge University Press publishes the main research findings and synthesis volumes from the Project's first ten years of operation.

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New Directions in Green Political Thinking

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The book is, in the end, just a snapshot on the state of debate on the Anthropocene and its manifold implications – including for the field of green political thinking. Undoubtedly, the debate will continue, and more research and reflection is urgently needed. Our network will hence continue. The Earth System Governance Project is currently in the process of reinventing itself, after ten years of operation, and developing a new strategic science and implementation plan for the 2019–2028 period. We are confident that reflections on the Anthropocene and its implications for green political thinking will remain a key topic for debate also in the new phase of earth system governance research, and we hope that the contributions to this volume will help to drive the debate further.