

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO LITERATURE AND CLIMATE

Investigating the relationship between literature and climate, this *Companion* offers a genealogy of climate representations in literature while showing how literature can help us make sense of climate change. It argues that any discussion of literature and climate cannot help but be shaped by our current – and inescapable – vantage point from an era of climate change, and uncovers a longer literary history of climate that might inform our contemporary climate crisis. Essays explore the conceptualisation of climate in a range of literary and creative modes; they represent a diversity of cultural and historical perspectives, and a wide spectrum of voices and views across the categories of race, gender, and class. Key issues in climate criticism and literary studies are introduced and explained, while new and emerging concepts are discussed and debated in a final section that puts expert analyses in conversation with each other.

Adeline Johns-Putra is Professor of Literature at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University. She is a past president of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, UK and Ireland (ASLE-UKI). Her books include *Climate Change and the Contemporary Novel* (2019) and *The History of the Epic* (2006), and the edited volumes *Climate and Literature* (2019) and *Cli-Fi: A Companion* (2018).

Kelly Sultzbach is a Professor at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, and was a Fulbright Scholar with the University of Liverpool in 2019. She is the author of *Ecocriticism in the Modernist Imagination: Forster, Woolf, and Auden* (2016). Recent work also includes articles in *Modernist Cultures*, the ASLE-UKI journal *Green Letters* (2019) and a chapter in *Understanding Merleau-Ponty, Understanding Modernism* (2018).

Cambridge University Press
978-1-316-51216-6 — The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Climate
Edited by Adeline Johns-Putra , Kelly Sultzbach
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

Cambridge University Press
978-1-316-51216-6 — The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Climate
Edited by Adeline Johns-Putra , Kelly Sultzbach
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
LITERATURE AND CLIMATE

EDITED BY
ADELINE JOHNS-PUTRA
Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University
KELLY SULTZBACH
University of Wisconsin, La Crosse



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-1-316-51216-6 — The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Climate
 Edited by Adeline Johns-Putra, Kelly Sultzbach
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
 New Delhi – 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
 It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
 education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781316512166
 DOI: 10.1017/9781009057868

© Cambridge University Press 2022

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
 and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
 no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
 permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Johns-Putra, Adeline, 1973– editor. | Sultzbach, Kelly, 1972– editor.
 TITLE: The Cambridge companion to literature and climate / edited by Adeline Johns-
 Putra, Kelly Sultzbach.
 DESCRIPTION: Cambridge ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, 2022. | Includes
 bibliographical references and index.
 IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2021041368 (print) | LCCN 2021041369 (ebook) | ISBN
 9781316512166 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009057868 (ebook)
 SUBJECTS: LCSH: Climatic changes in literature. | Climatology in literature. |
 Environmental literature – History and criticism. | Ecocriticism.
 CLASSIFICATION: LCC PN56.C612 C36 2022 (print) | LCC PN56.C612 (ebook) | DDC 809/
 .9336–dc23/eng/20211222
 LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021041368>
 LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2021041369>

ISBN 978-1-316-51216-6 Hardback
 ISBN 978-1-009-06081-3 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of
 URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication
 and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain,
 accurate or appropriate.

CONTENTS

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>Notes on Contributors</i>	ix
Introduction	I
ADELINE JOHNS-PUTRA AND KELLY SULTZBACH	
PART I HISTORICAL SHIFTS IN CLIMATE CONSCIOUSNESS	
I Seasonal Processions	27
SARAH DIMICK	
2 Literal and Literary Atmospheres	40
THOMAS H. FORD	
3 Weathers of Body and World: Reading Difference in Literary Atmospheres before Climate Change	55
JENNIFER MAE HAMILTON	
PART II CURRENT ISSUES IN CLIMATE CHANGE CRITICISM	
4 Scales: Climate versus Embodiment	71
DEREK WOODS	
5 Capitalist Cultures: The Taste of Oil	87
ELIZABETH MAZZOLINI	
6 Animals and Extinction	100
FIONA PROBYN-RAPSEY	
7 Climate Justice and Literatures of the Global South	114
CHITRA SANKARAN	
	v

Contents

PART III WAYS OF TELLING CLIMATE STORIES

- 8 Climate Theatre: Enacting Possible Futures 131
 THERESA J. MAY
- 9 Digital Cli-Fi: Human Stories of Climate in Online and Social Media 146
 JOHN PARHAM
- 10 Climate on Screen: From Doom and Disaster to Ecotopian Visions 162
 ALEXA WEIK VON MOSSNER

PART IV DIALOGIC PERSPECTIVES ON EMERGING QUESTIONS

SCIENCE FICTION AND FUTURE FANTASIES

- 11 Ice-Sheet Collapse and the Consensus Apocalypse in the Science Fiction
 of Kim Stanley Robinson 179
 GERRY CANAVAN
- 12 Solarpunk 191
 GREGORY LYNALL

COLLECTIVE CLIMATE ACTION

- 13 Indigenous and Black Feminist Knowledge-Production, Speculative
 Science Stories, and Climate Change Literature 203
 SHELLEY STREEBY
- 14 More-than-Human Collectives in Richard Powers' *The Overstory*
 and Vandana Singh's 'Entanglement' 214
 KELLY SULTZBACH

LOVE LETTERS TO THE PLANET

- 15 Meteorology of Form 229
 THOMAS BRISTOW
- 16 Perspective-Taking, Empathy, and Virtuality in Jorie Graham's *Fast* 244
 ISABEL GALLEYMORE

DIVERSE INDIGENOUS VOICES ON CLIMATE

- 17 Climate Change and Indigenous Sovereignty in Pacific Islanders' Writing 257
 HSINYA HUANG

Contents

18	Literary Responses to Indigenous Climate Justice and the Canadian Settler-State	269
	JENNY KERBER AND CHERYL LOUSLEY	
REDEFINING 'THE REAL'		
19	Transtextual Realism for the Climatological Collective	283
	ADELINE JOHNS-PUTRA	
20	Critical Climate Irrealism	296
	SAM SOLNICK	
	<i>Selected Bibliography</i>	307
	<i>Index</i>	332

FIGURES

1	Darwin motel	<i>page</i> 230
2	Sydney protest footprint	231
3	State of emergency	235
4	Violence of the climate	235
5	Chinooks leave North Queensland for bushfires in Victoria	240
6	Average maximum temperature in Australia, week ending 1 January 2020, Bureau of Meteorology	241

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

THOMAS BRISTOW is an editor, researcher, and writer. Editor-in-chief of the journal *PAN: Philosophy Activism Nature*, and environmental humanities series editor for Routledge's 'Literature, Media and Communication', Bristow authored *The Anthropocene Lyric* (2014) and co-edited *The Cultural History of Climate Change* (with Thomas H. Ford, 2016). He is currently an honorary fellow at the University of Western Australia and Roderick Research Fellow at James Cook University. Forthcoming work from Bristow will include a chapter on the perceptual space of Australian fiction in *The Cambridge Companion to the Australian Novel* (2021) and a chapter on ecopoetics for *The Cambridge History of Australian Poetry* (2022).

GERRY CANAVAN is Associate Professor of Twentieth- and Twenty-First-Century Literature in the Department of English at Marquette University, Wisconsin, USA, and the author of *Octavia E. Butler* (2016). He is the co-editor of *Green Planets: Ecology and Science Fiction* (2014), *The Cambridge Companion to American Science Fiction* (2015), and *The Cambridge History of Science Fiction* (2018), and also serves as an editor at two academic journals focused on science fiction studies: *Extrapolation* and *Science Fiction Film and Television*.

SARAH DIMICK is Assistant Professor of English at Harvard University, USA. She received her PhD in English Literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and spent two years as the Andrew Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Environmental Humanities at Northwestern University. Her research focuses on environmental writing of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, concentrating on literary representations of climate change and environmental justice.

THOMAS H. FORD is Lecturer of English at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia. His *How to Read a Poem: Seven Steps* (2021) and *Wordsworth and the Poetics of Air* (2018) won the British Association for Romantic Studies First Book Prize for 2017–19. His other publications include *A Cultural History of Climate Change* (2016), co-edited with Tom Bristow, and a translation from the German of *The Communist Postscript* by Boris Groys (2010).

Notes on Contributors

ISABEL GALLEYMORE is Lecturer in Creative Writing at the University of Birmingham, UK. Her monograph, *Teaching Environmental Writing: Ecocritical Pedagogy and Poetics*, was published by Bloomsbury Academic in 2020 and her poetry collection, *Significant Other* (2019), won the John Pollard Foundation International Poetry Prize in 2020.

JENNIFER MAE HAMILTON is Lecturer in English on unceded Anaiwan lands at the University of New England, Australia, co-founder of the 'Composting Feminisms and Environmental Humanities' group, and author of *This Contentious Storm: An Ecocritical and Performance History of King Lear* (2017).

HSINYA HUANG is Distinguished Professor of American and Comparative Literature, National Sun Yat-Sen University (NSYSU), Taiwan. She is former Dean of Arts and Humanities and Provost of Academic Affairs and Faculty Advancement, NSYSU. She served as Director General of International Cooperation and Science Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, Taiwan, 2018–19. She is the author or editor of books and articles on Native American and Indigenous literatures, ecocriticism, and transnational studies, including *(De)Colonizing the Body: Disease, Empire, and (Alter)Native Medicine in Contemporary Native American Women's Writings* (2004) and *Native North American Literatures: Reflections on Multiculturalism* (2009), *Aspects of Transnational and Indigenous Cultures* (2014), *Ocean and Ecology in the Trans-Pacific Context* (2016), and *Chinese Railroad Workers: Recovery and Representation* (2017). She serves on the advisory board of *The Journal of Transnational American Studies* and Routledge series on Transnational Indigenous Perspectives and on the editorial board of *Transmotion: A Journal of Vizenorian Indigenous Studies*. Her current research project investigates the Anthropocene in trans-Pacific Indigenous and Arctic Writing.

ADELINE JOHNS-PUTRA is Professor of Literature at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China. She was President of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment UK and Ireland (ASLE-UKI) from 2011 to 2015. She is the author of *Heroes and Housewives: Women's Epic Poetry and Domestic Ideology in the Romantic Age* (2001), *The History of the Epic* (2006), and *Climate Change and the Contemporary Novel* (2019). She is the editor of *Climate and Literature* (2019) and co-editor of *Process: Landscape and Text* (2010), *Literature and Sustainability: Concept, Text, and Culture* (2017), and *Cli-Fi: A Companion* (2018).

JENNY KERBER is Associate Professor in the Department of English and Film Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, the lands of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, and Neutral Peoples and part of the Haldimand Tract of 1784. She teaches Canadian literature, Indigenous literatures, border studies, and the literature of sport, and is the author of *Writing in Dust: Reading*

Notes on Contributors

the Prairie Environmentally (2010), as well as articles in *Canadian Literature*, *Studies in Canadian Literature*, *ISLE*, and *Western American Literature*, among other venues.

CHERYL LOUSLEY is Research Chair in Environmental Humanities and Associate Professor, English and Interdisciplinary Studies, Lakehead University Orillia, Canada, with a focus on contemporary Canadian, Indigenous, and postcolonial environmental justice writing and cultural studies. She lives, learns, and teaches among Anishinaabe and Métis neighbours, students, and elders on lands and waters unjustly appropriated for settler cultures to benefit. She is past president of the Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada, and the founding series editor for the Environmental Humanities book series published by Wilfrid Laurier University Press since 2007.

GREGORY LYNALL is Professor and King Alfred Chair in English Literature, and co-director of the Literature and Science Hub Research Centre at the University of Liverpool, UK. His publications include *Swift and Science: The Satire, Politics, and Theology of Natural Knowledge, 1690–1730* (2012) and *Imagining Solar Energy: The Power of the Sun in English Literature, Science and Culture* (2020).

THERESA J. MAY is a director, playwright, and Professor of Theatre at the University of Oregon, USA. She is a leading voice in ecological and community-based theatre, and the praxis of ecodramaturgy. She is author of *Earth Matters on Stage: Ecology, Environment and American Theater* (2021) and *Salmon Is Everything: Community-Based Theatre in the Klamath Watershed* (2019); co-editor of *Readings in Performance and Ecology* (2012); and co-author of *Greening Up Our Houses* (1994), the first book on sustainable theatre management. She is the co-founder and executive director of the EMOS Ecodrama Festival.

ELIZABETH MAZZOLINI is Associate Professor of English at the University at Buffalo, SUNY, USA. She is the author of *The Everest Effect: Nature, Culture, Ideology* (2015), and articles appearing in *The Minnesota Review*, *The Goose*, and *Cultural Critique*. She is co-editor of the collection *Histories of the Dustheap: Waste, Material Cultures, Social Justice* (2012). She directs the Academic and Professional Writing Program at the University at Buffalo.

JOHN PARHAM is Professor of Environmental Humanities at the University of Worcester, UK. He has authored or edited six books, including *Green Media and Popular Culture* (2016) and the *Cambridge Companion to Literature and the Anthropocene* (2021). He was until recently co-editor of the journal *Green Letters: Studies in Ecocriticism*. John has published widely on 'Victorian ecology', contemporary literature, and 'green' media and popular culture. He is currently examining the cultural imagination of photosynthesis in the context of climate change and the Anthropocene.

Notes on Contributors

FIONA PROBYN-RAPSEY is Professor in the School of Humanities and Social Inquiry at the University of Wollongong, Australia. Probyn-Rapsey's research connects feminist critical race studies and animal studies, examining where, when and how gender, race and species intersect. She is the author of *Made to Matter: White Fathers, Stolen Generations* (2013), and co-editor of three books, *Animal Death* (2013), *Animals in the Anthropocene: Critical Perspectives on Non-Human Futures* (2015), and *Animaladies: Gender, Species, Madness* (2018) with Lori Gruen. She is also Series Editor (with Melissa Boyde and Yvette Watt) of the Animal Publics book series through Sydney University Press.

CHITRA SANKARAN is Chair of Literature in the Department of English at the National University of Singapore. Her research interests are South and Southeast Asian fiction, feminist and postcolonial theories, and ecocriticism. Her publications include three monographs, ten edited volumes on Asian literatures, chapters in books and articles in journals including *ISLE, Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, *ARIEL*, and *Theatre Research International*. Her recent monograph, *Women, Subalterns and Ecologies in South and Southeast Asian Women's Fiction* was published in 2021. She is the founding and current president of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment in ASEAN (ASLE-ASEAN) and the Chief-Editor for the *Journal of Southeast Asian Ecocriticism*.

SAM SOLNICK is Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the University of Liverpool, UK, where he co-leads the Literature and Science Hub and the Environmental Humanities research theme. He has published widely on aspects of environment and ecology in poetry, fiction, visual culture and performance. His first monograph, *Poetry and the Anthropocene*, was published in 2016.

SHELLEY STREEBY is Professor of Ethnic Studies and Literature at the University of California, San Diego, USA. Her book *Imagining the Future of Climate Change: World-Making through Science Fiction and Activism* was published by the University of California Press in the American Studies Now! Series in 2018. She is also author of *Radical Sensations: World Movements, Violence, and Visual Culture* (2013) and *American Sensations: Class, Empire, and the Production of Popular Culture* (2002), which received the ASA's Lora Romero Prize. She is co-editor (with Jesse Alemán) of *Empire and the Literature of Sensation: An Anthology of Nineteenth-Century Popular Fiction* (2007) and, with Ramzi Fawaz and Deborah Whaley, of the forthcoming *Keywords for Comics Studies*. Since 2010 she has directed the Clarion Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers' Workshop. She is currently working on a new book, *Speculative Archives: Hidden Histories and Ecologies of Science Fiction World-Making*.

KELLY SULTZBACH is a Professor at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, USA, and was a Fulbright Scholar with the University of Liverpool, UK, in 2019. She is

Notes on Contributors

author of *Ecocriticism in the Modernist Imagination: Forster, Woolf, and Auden* (2016). Recent work also includes articles in *Modernist Cultures* (forthcoming), the ASLE-UKI journal *Green Letters* (2019), and a chapter in *Understanding Merleau-Ponty, Understanding Modernism* (2018). Her current monograph project is *Green Thinking: Imagining a Collective Environmental Consciousness in 20th Century Literature and Beyond*.

ALEXA WEIK VON MOSSNER is Associate Professor of American Studies at the University of Klagenfurt in Austria. Her research explores contemporary environmental culture from a cognitive ecocritical perspective. She is the author of *Cosmopolitan Minds: Literature, Emotion, and the Transnational Imagination* (2014) and *Affective Ecologies: Empathy, Emotion, and Environmental Narrative* (2017), the editor of *Moving Environments: Affect, Emotion, Ecology, and Film* (2014), and the co-editor of *The Anticipation of Catastrophe: Environmental Risk in North American Literature and Culture* (with Sylvia Mayer, Winter, 2014).

DEREK WOODS is Assistant Professor of English at the University of British Columbia, Canada. He is writing a book about ‘ecotechnology’ in the context of ecological sciences and science fiction. His articles look at topics such as the philosophy and aesthetics of scale, biopolitics, and modern Anglophone literature. He recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Society of Fellows at Dartmouth College. His future work will continue to address questions of scale and be devoted to (the mediation of) fungi and lichens.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-316-51216-6 — The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Climate
Edited by Adeline Johns-Putra , Kelly Sultzbach
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)
