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## **The Environmental Rhetoric and Lethargy of the Anthropocene.**

### **Philosophical analysis of discourses**

#### **Description for the general public**

The risk of climate catastrophe is one of the most important political and existential challenges for the XXI century (cf. IPCC 2014; *Encyclical Letter Laudato Si'* 2015). Philosophy of science, struggling with the problem of the civilizational role of technology and science can no longer avoid the debate on climate destabilization. The fundamental aim of my project is a philosophical analysis of the environmental rhetoric of the Anthropocene. The term "Anthropocene" (the age of Man) was introduced to describe the contemporary geological era. Scientists decided that the time has come to expose the enormous human impact on the planet Earth. Have we lost Nature?

I claim that the notion of the Anthropocene embodies tensions of an unstable century in which we live. We are observing a process of dismantling the illusions of anthropocentrism. A deep transformation of the Western thinking about the civilizational role of technological interventions is taking place before our very eyes.

I would like to address the epistemological, notional and normative challenges connected to such phenomena as climate catastrophe, weather modification, geoengineering and climatic corrections of capitalism. What are their philosophical implications? What kind of ideas, metaphors, silent philosophical assumptions and notions have dominated the contemporary space of environmental thinking?

Numerous economists, sociologists and philosophers, such as N. Stern, T. Jackson, G. Speth, A. Giddens, S. Yearley, R. Irwin or V. Plumwood fiercely argue that climatic corrections of our categories and discourses are unavoidable. "Disappointment" and "helplessness" are the words that aptly sum up specialists' diagnoses of the current state of affairs within politics. This is why the metaphor of lethargy appears in the title of my project. Greek 'marasmós' (lethargy) refers to the state of stagnation and apathy.

My project's aim is to stimulate and facilitate dialogue between various areas of environmental research, such as philosophy of technology, environmental philosophy, environmental history, the climatic transformations of capitalism, sociology of risk. My research is planned as a way of realization of the postulate to create critical domain of STSE – Environmental Science and Technology Studies.

The project is transdisciplinary, qualitative and interpretative in its nature. The most important method will be a discursive analysis of the existing literature and archived, source documents. Various discourses will be localized and analyzed in this context: the discourses of the loss of Nature, of unknown and uncertain futures, of the compensations and transgenerational fairness, of "solid plan B" and engineering the climate.

The project consists of modelling of the surprising vocabulary of the Anthropocene. The preliminary research suggest that it contains such terms as: "politics of nature", "anthropoppression", "postnaturalism" "climatic debt", "climate refugees", "the new class conflict", "climatic apartheid", "weather modification", "geoengineering", "global terrarium", "Capitalocene" or "intended migrations of endangered species".

My discursive analysis will aim at creating a transdisciplinary, theoretically consistent glossary that will hopefully integrate the discussion on environmental challenges of the Anthropocene. In addition to providing the necessary set of definitions, I will also discuss the validity of the theoretical and axiological decisions underlying this discussion.

Through modelling of a new vocabulary emerging in the Anthropocene I hope to localize and discuss the most painful deficits of environmentalism of the XXI century. My basic hypothesis claims that it will be possible to reveal the conceptual relations between the lethargy of the contemporary environmental politics and the philosophical framework of the Anthropocene.