

POPULAR SUMMARY

The project *After Climate Crisis. Non-Scalable Survival Strategies in Speculative Fabulations of the Last Two Decades* is devoted to extensive transdisciplinary study of speculative accounts of survival in the face of climate change in works of literary and cinematic fiction, performative arts, documentary and mockumentary genres, computer games and social media. The fundamental assumption of the present project is that speculative fabulations, which typically connect insights from a variety of disciplines, have the potential to problematize the goals and outcomes of strategies of survival proposed today as countermeasures to the deepening climate crisis. From this point of view, speculative fabulations in this project are treated as those crucial cultural narratives endowed with the potential to produce futures alternative to scenarios of civilizational demise. The present project is also a response to the general mobilization of humanities in the face of climate change, with strong emphasis on the crucial role of imaginary and fictional scenarios in creating cultural values and shaping future communities in local environments.

The project takes up this challenge, is based on the assumption, voiced by a number of scholars in the environmental humanities and social sciences that the forms and possibilities of future survival should be regarded primarily as a cultural issue in distinction to those approaches which put the greatest emphasis on global technoscientific solutions and top-down legal measures. Thus, by framing climate change as a cultural issue the present project has as its scientific aim the investigation of cultural functions fulfilled by speculative fabulations across a wide gamut of genres and media, in the face of the recent predictions of the nearest future of climate change and their economic, social and political corollaries as well as their scientific underpinnings. This approach is tightly connected with dominant views of climate sciences that future survival will be conditioned by adaptation and connectivity in local communities. In this respect the project adopts the assumption that the work towards a livable future is crucially dependent on the individual and collective power of imagining not only the probable outcomes of current events, but also possible alternatives, not necessarily linked to the dominant ideologies and policies sanctioned by science and experimentation.

The main hypothesis of the project is that the signs of budding futures can be found in three interconnected imaginaries that have a crucial impact on the speculative fabulations written today: a) the microbiotic symbioses, b) the planetary biotic, abiotic and technological assemblages deriving from the hypothesis of Gaia, c) the colonization of space and the search for habitable outer worlds. All three of these imaginaries are rooted in the paradigmatic changes initiated in the alternative cultures of the 1960s, but nowadays, in the face of climate change, regain visibility and acquire a renewed cultural significance. According to this hypothesis, the project focuses on the examination of how transformations of these imaginaries were reflected in the survival strategies explored in speculative fabulations of the first two decades of the 21st century. Significantly, by investigating different scales, from micro, through planetary to cosmic, the project introduces the notion of non-scalable survival strategies to stress their inherently contingent and emergent character and their restricted applicability in local contexts.