

CALL FOR PAPERS

We are inviting applications for the following workshop:

Preventing “the Age of Loneliness”: Conservation, Ecological Restoration, Adaptation and the Nonhuman

As part of the Manchester Centre for Political Theory (MANCEPT) Workshops 2018 at the University of Manchester, **10-12 September 2018**.

Convenors: Anna Wienhues (University of Manchester) & Linnea Luuppala (University of Helsinki)

Workshop information:

In light of current sixth mass extinction crisis it has become apparent that if humanity does not drastically change its current path we will enter ‘the age of loneliness’ as recently stated by naturalist and biologist Edward O. Wilson (2016). For this workshop we invite environmental philosophers and environmental political theorists to discuss how such a dystopian future could be prevented by ecological *restoration*, biological *conservation* or *adaptation* to a world of global warming, large monocultures and degraded habitats.

For this workshop we envisage a critical exchange between different philosophical perspectives such as anthropocentric versus non-anthropocentric conceptualisations of ‘nature’ in the face of the ‘age of loneliness’. What type of environmental ethic – and environmental political theory – do we need in light of the current environmental urgency? This is just one of the underlying questions that we aim to discuss during the workshop to consider how far we should go in our attempts to mitigate biodiversity loss.

Topics for potential presentations include (but are not limited to):

- How should the concepts of ‘nature’, ‘wilderness’ or ‘biodiversity’ be understood?
 - E.g. is wilderness an outdated concept? What is humanity’s relationship with ‘nature’? Does biodiversity loss really matter?
- What role should the nonhuman living beings play in our attempts to mitigate environmental crises?
- Drawing on philosophical frameworks such as accounts of justice, care or virtue ethics, are practices of ecological restoration, rewilding or biological conservation adequate measures to prevent the ‘age of loneliness’ and if yes, at what cost?
 - E.g. ethical analysis of practices such as re-introduction of species, culling of invasive species, simulation of ‘natural’ processes in ecosystems such as the use of fire or de-extinction
- Ethical analysis of different proposals of adaptation to biodiversity loss and changing ecosystems
 - E.g. the artificial creation of fully new ‘environments’, newly introducing species into ecosystems, gene banks or genetic modification
- Issues of risk and the local impact of any of these methods mentioned above

- E.g. experimental approaches and their high stakes; the voices of local residents: heard or silenced?
- Global problems, global solutions? The broader institutional context
 - E.g. what is the needed (global) institutional framework and/or political/economic system in which such practices to prevent the ‘age of loneliness’ ought to be embedded?
- Should we understand the origins of this environmental collapse and will it help elucidate the solutions for its prevention?
 - E.g. The question of responsibility; are there any normative and practical insights that could be learned from indigenous cultures about more harmonious coexistence with the non-human world?

Format:

We envisage four sessions (with three presenters each) during which participants can present their papers (including Q and A). Each session lasts three and a half hours.

The MANCEPT workshops is a conference during which several workshops run simultaneously. Delegates are expected to attend all sessions of the workshop they are attached to but are free to attend any workshop they like during the sessions when their own workshop is not meeting. Please consult the conference schedule for more information: <http://www.mancept.com/mancept-workshops/mancept-workshops-2018-3/1740-2/>

How to apply:

Please send your abstract (200-400 words) to either linnea.luuppala@helsinki.fi or anna.wienhues@manchester.ac.uk

Deadline: 03 June 2018

We will notify applicants about whether their abstract has been accepted by the 6th of June at the latest.

Please do not hesitate to contact us, if you have any questions.

This call for papers can also be found here: <http://www.mancept.com/mancept-workshops/mancept-workshops-2018-3/panels-f-p/preventing-the-age-of-loneliness/>

Further relevant information:

This year’s fees for attending the MANCEPT workshops are £230.00 for academics and £135.00 for graduate students and retirees.

A few bursaries are available for graduate students/early-career researchers and retirees. Applications for bursaries have to be made to the MANCEPT workshop organisers and can only be made by people accepted to present on a panel. The deadline for bursary applications will be the 23rd June, and successful applicants will be informed by the 25th June.