

SECOND CALL FOR CONFERENCE PAPERS: THE ANTI-LANDSCAPE MAY 9-10, 2011
CENTER FOR AMERICAN STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN DENMARK

SPONSORED BY A NORDFORSK GRANT TO THE
NORDIC NETWORK FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Anti-landscapes are spaces that do not sustain life. They may arise from natural causes but are often the unintended consequence of human action. This is a call for interdisciplinary papers that deal with either the emergence or the recovery/salvaging of such spaces. We are interested in work that draws upon history, literature, geography, and other disciplines in the humanities.

J. B. Jackson once defined landscape as "A composition of man-made or man-modified spaces to serve as infrastructure or background for our collective existence." These man-made spaces may suffer damage, for example due to mining, industrial pollution, or the excessive use of pesticides. In the worst cases, landscapes cease to support those who live within them and become anti-landscapes. Whether temporary or long term, an anti-landscape also suggests the post-human. This is not a new phenomenon. Archeologists have documented how peoples have abandoned regions after they were stripped of trees, overgrazed or too intensively irrigated and farmed. Often these processes occurred so slowly that it was difficult for one generation to grasp the long-term consequences of their actions. In contrast, highly technological societies create anti-landscapes quickly, for example through strip mining, nuclear accidents, or careless disposal of chemical waste. Some anti-landscapes are temporary, for example a town downwind of a toxic chemical fire. Others are intractable, notably in abandoned lead and arsenic mining areas. The concept of the anti-landscape provides a point of unity for work that deals with sustainability, dystopia, environmental degradation, resilience, "the tragedy of the commons," and the overuse of resources. It is specific enough to create a focused conversation but capacious enough to link with much current research.

Based on a *cv* and 1 page abstract, a limited number of papers will be accepted, with the expectation that they will form the basis for a volume of essays to be published by Rodopi in late 2012 in the series *Studies in the Environmental Humanities*. Those accepted will receive travel expenses and accommodation.

Applications from NIES members and affiliates will still be given full consideration for five days beyond the original deadline--i.e. JANUARY 20, 2011.

Contact either:

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SPEAKERS WILL ALSO INCLUDE:

Donald Worster, University of Kansas
Steven Hartman, Uppsala University
Mark Luccarelli, Oslo University

This is the first of four **Nordic Network for Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies** conferences. The second will be at Oslo University in 2012; the third at KTH: The Royal Technical University or Uppsala University in spring 2013 and the fourth at the University of Turku in fall 2013/winter 2014.