

the great derangement

The Great Derangement: Understanding a Complex Historical and Cultural Phenomenon

the great derangement is a phrase that resonates across different contexts, from history to literature and environmental discourse. At its core, it refers to moments of profound upheaval, dislocation, or collective confusion that have shaped societies and cultures in lasting ways. Whether you encounter the term in relation to Canadian history, climate change discussions, or literary critiques, the great derangement carries an underlying theme of disruption and transformation. Let's delve into the many facets of this compelling concept, exploring its origins, implications, and the lessons it holds for us today.

The Historical Roots of the Great Derangement

When many people hear "the great derangement," they often think of a specific historical event known as the Acadian Expulsion or Le Grand Dérangement. This tragic episode took place in the 18th century, during which the British forcibly removed thousands of Acadians—French-speaking settlers—from what is now Eastern Canada. This forced migration dramatically altered the demographic and cultural landscape of the region.

Understanding the Acadian Expulsion

The Acadians had settled in areas like Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, living relatively peacefully under French colonial rule. However, with the shifting tides of imperial power during the Seven Years' War, the British viewed the Acadians as a threat due to their French allegiance. Between 1755 and 1764, over 11,000 Acadians were uprooted, many facing hardship, displacement, and death.

This event is more than just a historical footnote; it symbolizes the devastating impact of colonial policies and the human cost of geopolitical conflicts. The cultural erasure and scattering of Acadian communities have had lasting effects, influencing Canadian identity and memory.

The Cultural Legacy of the Acadians

Despite this painful past, Acadian culture endured. Their descendants maintain vibrant traditions, language, and music that celebrate resilience and survival. The great derangement, in this sense, highlights how communities can persevere and reclaim identity despite forced upheaval.

The Great Derangement in Contemporary Environmental Thought

Beyond history, the phrase “the great derangement” has found new life in environmental and climate change discussions. Renowned writer Amitav Ghosh popularized this usage in his book **The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable**, where he critiques how modern literature and society have failed to adequately grapple with the reality of climate change.

Why Climate Change Is a “Great Derangement”

Ghosh argues that climate change represents a fundamental challenge to our way of understanding the world—a disruption so vast that it deranges conventional narratives, politics, and economies. We find ourselves in a paradoxical situation: despite overwhelming scientific evidence, many people, institutions, and cultural products struggle to acknowledge or confront the crisis effectively.

This “derangement” is not just about misinformation or denial; it’s about the scale of the problem overwhelming traditional frameworks of storytelling and governance. Climate change forces us to rethink concepts of time, responsibility, and the human relationship with nature.

The Role of Literature and Art

Literature, according to Ghosh, has largely failed to incorporate the complexities of climate change. Most novels and films focus on individual dramas or political intrigue, rarely addressing the slow, systemic transformations wrought by environmental collapse. Recognizing this gap is crucial—stories shape public consciousness, and without narratives that reflect climate realities, collective action remains elusive.

How the Great Derangement Affects Society Today

Whether as a historical event or a metaphor for contemporary crises, the great derangement challenges us to confront discomforting truths. It reminds us that societies can undergo profound disruptions that unsettle identities, economies, and ecosystems.

Social and Psychological Impacts

Experiencing or witnessing a derangement—be it forced displacement or environmental instability—can lead to trauma, loss, and a sense of alienation. Communities may struggle

with rebuilding cohesion or finding meaning after such upheavals. On a personal level, individuals might feel powerless or disconnected from the larger forces shaping their lives.

Lessons in Resilience and Adaptation

Yet, history and current events also teach us about resilience. The Acadians' cultural survival and the emerging narratives around climate change demonstrate human capacity to adapt and find hope amid chaos. Embracing this resilience involves acknowledging the derangement rather than ignoring it.

Exploring Related Concepts: Derangement in Psychology and Ecology

The term “derangement” appears in other fields too, adding layers to our understanding. In psychology, derangement can refer to mental disorganization or distress, while in ecology, it might describe ecosystems thrown out of balance.

Psychological Derangement and Collective Trauma

When societies face events like war, displacement, or environmental disaster, psychological derangement can manifest as collective trauma. This impacts not only individuals but entire communities, influencing behavior, cultural expression, and intergenerational memory.

Ecological Derangement: Disrupted Natural Systems

Environmental scientists use derangement to describe ecosystems disrupted by human activity—loss of biodiversity, habitat destruction, or climate change-induced shifts. Recognizing ecological derangement helps underline the urgency of conservation and sustainable practices.

How We Can Address the Great Derangement Today

Understanding the great derangement in its various forms encourages us to think critically about how to respond to disruptions in society and the environment.

- **Promote Awareness and Education:** Learning about historical events like the

Acadian Expulsion or the realities of climate change builds empathy and informed activism.

- **Support Cultural Preservation:** Valuing and uplifting marginalized cultures affected by derangement fosters healing and diversity.
- **Encourage New Narratives:** Writers, artists, and media creators can develop stories that reflect the complexities of current global challenges.
- **Engage in Sustainable Practices:** Individual and collective efforts to reduce ecological impact help restore balance in deranged ecosystems.
- **Foster Community Resilience:** Building strong social networks and support systems aids recovery from trauma and displacement.

These approaches remind us that while derangement may disrupt, it also opens pathways for renewal and transformation.

Every mention of the great derangement invites reflection on how humans experience and respond to profound change. Whether through the lens of history, literature, or environmental science, it's a powerful concept that challenges complacency and urges deeper engagement with the forces shaping our world. The stories behind it are not just about loss but also about the enduring spirit of adaptation and the possibility of forging new futures amid uncertainty.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'The Great Derangement' by Amitav Ghosh about?

'The Great Derangement' by Amitav Ghosh is a book that explores the failure of contemporary literature and culture to adequately address the issue of climate change, arguing that the crisis challenges traditional narratives and demands new forms of storytelling.

Why does Amitav Ghosh call climate change 'The Great Derangement'?

Amitav Ghosh uses the term 'The Great Derangement' to describe society's collective denial and inability to confront the climate crisis, reflecting a disconnect between human imagination and the scale of environmental challenges.

How does 'The Great Derangement' critique modern

literature?

The book critiques modern literature for largely ignoring or inadequately representing climate change, suggesting that the genre of realism struggles to incorporate the extraordinary realities of environmental catastrophe.

What solutions or approaches does 'The Great Derangement' suggest for addressing climate change?

While primarily diagnostic, 'The Great Derangement' advocates for new narrative forms and greater cultural engagement that can grapple with the complexities of climate change, encouraging artists, writers, and societies to rethink their stories and responsibilities.

How has 'The Great Derangement' influenced discussions on climate change and culture?

'The Great Derangement' has sparked important conversations about the role of art, literature, and culture in responding to climate change, influencing academics, activists, and creatives to reconsider how environmental crises are represented and understood.

Additional Resources

The Great Derangement: Unraveling the Complexities of Climate Crisis and Cultural Response

the great derangement stands as a profound concept capturing humanity's collective failure to adequately address the escalating climate crisis. Coined and popularized by author Amitav Ghosh in his pivotal work, "The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable," the term explores the disconnect between the realities of environmental catastrophe and the cultural, political, and social narratives that surround it. This article delves into the layered meanings of the great derangement, analyzing its implications in literature, politics, and global environmental discourse while highlighting why this phenomenon presents a critical challenge to modern civilization.

Understanding The Great Derangement: Origins and Context

The phrase "the great derangement" refers broadly to the profound disorientation and denial surrounding climate change. Amitav Ghosh's interpretation highlights how contemporary literature and popular culture have largely failed to grapple with the scale and urgency of climate issues. According to Ghosh, this "derangement" is not just a failure of imagination but a systemic cultural amnesia, where the environmental crisis remains marginalized in mainstream narratives despite its existential threat.

From a broader analytical perspective, the great derangement encompasses societal, political, and psychological dimensions. It reflects a collective inability to internalize and act upon the scientific consensus about global warming, biodiversity loss, and ecosystem collapse. This failure is compounded by political inertia, economic interests, and media fragmentation, which together foster a culture of complacency or outright denial.

The Literary Void: Climate Change and Cultural Imagination

One of the most striking aspects of the great derangement is the underrepresentation of climate change in fiction and artistic expression. Ghosh argues that the modern novel, with its focus on individual psychology and social realism, struggles to incorporate environmental catastrophe, which is often perceived as too vast or abstract for traditional storytelling. This literary gap signals a deeper cultural crisis: the inability of societies to conceptualize and emotionally engage with the slow-moving, diffuse nature of climate change.

Several studies have corroborated this observation, showing that climate fiction—or "cli-fi"—remains a niche genre rather than mainstream. This has implications for public awareness, as literature and media play crucial roles in shaping perceptions and motivating action. Without compelling narratives that bridge human experience and environmental reality, the urgency of the climate crisis may remain abstract and distant for many.

Political Paralysis and The Great Derangement

Beyond culture, the great derangement manifests starkly in the political arena. Despite overwhelming evidence from scientific bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), many governments have been slow or unwilling to enact transformative policies. This paralysis often stems from competing interests, including fossil fuel dependence, economic growth priorities, and geopolitical considerations.

The political dimension of the great derangement is characterized by:

- **Short-termism:** Elected officials focus on immediate electoral cycles rather than long-term environmental sustainability.
- **Lobbying and Influence:** Powerful industries exert pressure to dilute or block climate legislation.
- **Polarization:** Climate change has become a partisan issue in many countries, undermining consensus and coordinated action.

These factors contribute to a scenario where climate policies are often reactive,

fragmented, or symbolic rather than systemic and ambitious. The result is a widening gap between scientific warnings and political responses, deepening the great derangement.

Psychological Dimensions: Denial, Anxiety, and Disengagement

Psychologically, the great derangement reveals the human mind's struggle to process and confront environmental collapse. Climate change challenges fundamental worldviews, inducing feelings of helplessness, anxiety, and denial. Social scientists have documented phenomena such as "climate denialism" and "eco-anxiety," which affect individuals' willingness to engage with climate issues.

This mental dissonance can lead to disengagement or avoidance, reinforcing the cycle of inaction. Moreover, the scale and complexity of ecological crises can overwhelm traditional coping mechanisms, making sustained collective action difficult.

Global Implications and the Way Forward

The great derangement is not confined to a single nation or culture; it is a global phenomenon with uneven impacts and responses. Developing countries often face the harshest consequences of climate change, such as extreme weather events, food insecurity, and displacement, yet they frequently have the least resources to adapt or mitigate.

International efforts like the Paris Agreement represent attempts to overcome the great derangement by fostering cooperation and commitment. However, progress remains fragile, with many countries falling short of their climate pledges.

Addressing the great derangement requires multifaceted strategies:

1. **Enhancing Climate Education:** Integrating climate science and environmental ethics in educational curricula to build awareness and agency.
2. **Reimagining Cultural Narratives:** Encouraging artists, writers, and media creators to explore climate themes in ways that resonate emotionally and intellectually.
3. **Political Accountability:** Strengthening democratic institutions and transparency to reduce corporate influence and promote climate-friendly policies.
4. **Psychological Support:** Providing mental health resources and community support to help individuals cope with climate-related stress and foster resilience.

Such approaches aim to bridge the gap between knowledge and action, counteracting the

cultural and political inertia embedded in the great derangement.

Technological and Economic Considerations

While the great derangement highlights cultural and political barriers, technological innovation and economic transformation are also critical fronts. Renewable energy adoption, carbon capture technologies, and sustainable agriculture offer pathways to mitigate emissions and adapt to changing environments.

However, reliance on technological fixes alone risks perpetuating complacency. Without corresponding shifts in consumption patterns, equity, and governance, technological solutions may fall short of addressing the systemic nature of the crisis.

Economically, transitioning to a green economy involves both opportunities and challenges. Investments in clean energy can drive job creation and innovation, yet the shift also threatens industries and communities dependent on fossil fuels. Managing this transition equitably is essential to overcoming resistance and building broad-based support.

The great derangement thus serves as a reminder that climate change is not merely a scientific or technical problem but a deeply embedded societal challenge requiring holistic responses.

The discourse around the great derangement invites critical reflection on how humanity perceives and responds to existential threats. It underscores the urgency of reconfiguring cultural narratives, political institutions, and individual mindsets to meet the unprecedented challenges of the 21st century. In this light, overcoming the great derangement is not only a matter of policy or technology but a profound cultural and psychological endeavor essential for the future of the planet.

The Great Derangement

the great derangement: *The Great Derangement* Amitav Ghosh, 2018-01-16 Are we deranged? One of India's greatest writers, Amitav Ghosh, argues that future generations may well think so. How else can we explain our imaginative failure in the face of global warming? In this groundbreaking return to non-fiction, Ghosh examines our inability at the level of literature, history and politics to grasp the scale and violence of climate change. The extreme nature of today's climate events makes them peculiarly resistant to the contemporary imagination. In fiction, hundred-year storms and freakish tornadoes simply feel too improbable for the novel and are automatically consigned to other genres. In the writing of history, too, the climate crisis has sometimes led to gross simplifications. Ghosh suggests that politics, much like literature, has become a matter of personal moral reckoning rather than an arena of collective action. But to limit culture and politics to individual moral adventure comes at a great cost. The climate crisis asks us to imagine other forms of human existence a task to which fiction, Ghosh argues, is the best suited of all forms. The Great Derangement serves as a brilliant writer's summons to confront the most urgent task of our time.

the great derangement: The Great Derangement Matt Taibbi, 2008-05-06 A REVELATORY AND DARKLY COMIC ADVENTURE THROUGH A NATION ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN—FROM THE HALLS OF CONGRESS TO THE BASES OF BAGHDAD TO THE APOCALYPTIC CHURCHES OF THE HEARTLAND Rolling Stone's Matt Taibbi set out to describe the nature of George Bush's America in the post-9/11 era and ended up vomiting demons in an evangelical church in Texas, riding the streets of Baghdad in an American convoy to nowhere, searching for phantom fighter jets in Congress, and falling into the rabbit hole of the 9/11 Truth Movement. Matt discovered in his travels across the country that the resilient blue state/red state narrative of American politics had become irrelevant. A large and growing chunk of the American population was so turned off—or radicalized—by electoral chicanery, a spineless news media, and the increasingly blatant lies from our leaders ("they hate us for our freedom") that they abandoned the political mainstream altogether. They joined what he calls The Great Derangement. Taibbi tells the story of this new American madness by inserting himself into four defining American subcultures: The Military, where he finds himself mired in the grotesque black comedy of the American occupation of Iraq; The System, where he follows the money-slicked path of legislation in Congress; The Resistance, where he doubles as chief public antagonist and undercover member of the passionately bonkers 9/11 Truth Movement; and The Church, where he infiltrates a politically influential apocalyptic mega-ministry in Texas and enters the lives of its desperate congregants. Together these four interwoven adventures paint a portrait of a nation dangerously out of touch with reality and desperately searching for answers in all the wrong places. Funny, smart, and a little bit heartbreaking, The Great Derangement is an audaciously reported, sobering, and illuminating portrait of America at the end of the Bush era.

the great derangement: The Great Derangement Amitav Ghosh, 2016

the great derangement: Postcolonial Literatures of Climate Change, 2022-07-04
Postcolonial Literatures of Climate Change investigates the evolving nature of postcolonial literary criticism in response to global, regional, and local environmental transformations brought about by climate change. It builds upon, and extends, previous studies in postcolonial ecocriticism to demonstrate how the growing awareness of human-caused global warming has begun to permeate literary consciousness, praxis and analysis. The breadth of the volume's coverage – the diversity of its focal locations, cultures, genres and texts – serves as a salient reminder that, while climate change is global, its impacts vary, effecting peoples from place to place unequally, and often in accordance with their particular historical experience of colonialism and neo-colonialism, as well as their ongoing marginalisations. "Demonstrating the urgency of invoking novel epistemological approaches combining the scientific and the imaginative, this book is a "must read" for those concerned about the present and potential impacts of climate change on formerly colonised areas of the world. The comprehensive and illuminating Introduction offers a crucial history and current state of postcolonial ecocriticism as it has been and is addressing climate crises." - Helen Tiffin, University of Wollongong "The broad focus on the polar regions, the Pacific and the Caribbean – with added essays on environmental justice/activism in India and Egypt – opens up rich terrain for examination under the rubric of postcolonial and ecocritical analysis, not only expanding recent studies in this field but also enabling new comparisons and conceptual linkages." - Helen Gilbert, Royal Holloway, University of London "The subject is topical and vital and will become even more so as the problem of how to reconcile the demands of climate change with the effects on regions and individual nations already damaged by the economic effects of colonisation and the subsequent inequalities resulting from neo-colonialism continues to grow." - Gareth Griffiths, Em. Prof. University of Western Australia

the great derangement: Das lateinische Lehrgedicht der Frühen Neuzeit im Angesicht der Moderne Ramunė Markevičiūtė, 2025-06-02 Spätestens seit der Renaissance ist die Lehrdichtung poetologisch immer wieder als Problemgattung verhandelt worden, bis sie im 20. Jahrhundert sogar für tot erklärt wurde. Wie war das möglich, hatte das lateinische Lehrgedicht im Zeitalter der wissenschaftlichen Revolution doch eine wahre Blüte erfahren? Die vorliegende Arbeit

versucht auf diese Frage vor dem Hintergrund der Modernetheorie Bruno Latours zu antworten. Als Hybrid zwischen Poesie und Wissenschaft, Vergangenheit und Neuzeit, Menschen- und Naturdingen läuft das Lehrgedicht der von Latour für die Moderne postulierten „Großen Trennung von Natur und Kultur zuwider und wirkt auf ein modernes Publikum wie das verstaubte Artefakt eines vergangenen Wissenssystems. Was aber im Rahmen einer modernen Weltbeschreibung ein Nachteil war, entfaltet aus der Perspektive der Latourschen Philosophie und Akteur-Netzwerk-Theorie kritisches Potenzial. Anhand ausgewählter Textbeispiele wird gezeigt, dass die frühneuzeitliche lateinische Lehrdichtung gerade im Hinblick auf die Herausforderungen des Anthropozäns die Möglichkeit bietet, die menschliche Beziehung zur Welt und die gesellschaftliche Bedeutung wissenschaftlicher Naturdichtung zu überdenken.

the great derangement: This Sacred Life Norman Wirzba, 2021-10-14 In a time of climate change, environmental degradation, and social injustice, the question of the value and purpose of human life has become urgent. What are the grounds for hope in a wounded world? This Sacred Life gives a deep philosophical and religious articulation of humanity's identity and vocation by rooting people in a symbiotic, meshwork world that is saturated with sacred gifts. The benefits of artificial intelligence and genetic enhancement notwithstanding, Norman Wirzba shows how an account of humans as interdependent and vulnerable creatures orients people to be a creative, healing presence in a world punctuated by wounds. He argues that the commodification of places and creatures needs to be resisted so that all life can be cherished and celebrated. Humanity's fundamental vocation is to bear witness to God's love for creaturely life, and to commit to the construction of a hospitable and beautiful world.

the great derangement: Insane Clown President Matt Taibbi, 2017-01-17 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Dispatches from the 2016 election that provide an eerily prescient take on our democracy's uncertain future, by the country's most perceptive and fearless political journalist. In twenty-five pieces from Rolling Stone—plus two original essays—Matt Taibbi tells the story of Western civilization's very own train wreck, from its tragicomic beginnings to its apocalyptic conclusion. Years before the clown car of candidates was fully loaded, Taibbi grasped the essential themes of the story: the power of spectacle over substance, or even truth; the absence of a shared reality; the nihilistic rebellion of the white working class; the death of the political establishment; and the emergence of a new, explicit form of white nationalism that would destroy what was left of the Kingian dream of a successful pluralistic society. Taibbi captures, with dead-on, real-time analysis, the failures of the right and the left, from the thwarted Bernie Sanders insurgency to the flawed and aimless Hillary Clinton campaign; the rise of the “dangerously bright” alt-right with its wall-loving identity politics and its rapturous view of the “Racial Holy War” to come; and the giant fail of a flailing, reactive political media that fed a ravenous news cycle not with reporting on political ideology, but with undigested propaganda served straight from the campaign bubble. At the center of it all stands Donald J. Trump, leading a historic revolt against his own party, “bloviating and farting his way” through the campaign, “saying outrageous things, acting like Hitler one minute and Andrew Dice Clay the next.” For Taibbi, the stunning rise of Trump marks the apotheosis of the new postfactual movement. Taibbi frames the reporting with original essays that explore the seismic shift in how we perceive our national institutions, the democratic process, and the future of the country. *Insane Clown President* is not just a postmortem on the collapse and failure of American democracy. It offers the riveting, surreal, unique, and essential experience of seeing the future in hindsight. “Scathing . . . What keeps the pages turning in this so freshly familiar story line is the vivid observation and original turns of phrase.”—San Francisco Chronicle

the great derangement: The Saving Grace of America's Green Jeremiad John Gatta, 2022-04-01 American nature writing characteristically embodies an appreciative, lyrical evocation of the natural world. But often, too, green-disposed authors have been moved to dramatize diverse, anthropogenic perils to environmental health. John Gatta freshly reveals how this dark yet graced and hopeful strain of environmental literature enlarges upon a jeremiad tradition of prophecy inherited from Puritan New England. Across successive historical periods, such expression has

assumed a rich variety of American form—as creative nonfiction, poetry, fiction, or film documentary. In the spirit of ancient Hebrew prophecy, jeremiads—unlike diatribes—reach beyond effusions of doom and gloom toward the prospect of change through a conversion of heart. Accordingly, the new climate fiction and much other writing steeped in what Gatta terms this “Green Jeremiad” tradition not only warn of material threats to life’s flourishing, but may also look to stir spiritual understanding and renewal.

the great derangement: *Narratives of Scale in the Anthropocene* Gabriele Dürbeck, Philip Hüpkes, 2021-07-27 The Anthropocene concept draws attention to the various forms of entanglement of social, political, ecological, biological and geological processes at multiple spatial and temporal scales. The ensuing complexity and ambiguity create manifold challenges to widely established theories, methodologies, epistemologies and ontologies. The contributions to this volume engage with conceptual issues of scale in the Anthropocene with a focus on mediated representation and narrative. They are centered around the themes of scale and time, scale and the nonhuman and scale and space. The volume presents an interdisciplinary dialogue between sociology, geography, political sciences, history and literary, cultural and media studies. Together, they contribute to current debates on the (re-)imagining of forms of human responsibility that meet the challenges created by humanity entering an age of scalar complexity.

the great derangement: *Global Healing* Karen Laura Thornber, 2020-03-02 Read an interview with Karen Thornber. In *Global Healing: Literature, Advocacy, Care*, Karen Laura Thornber analyzes how narratives from diverse communities globally engage with a broad variety of diseases and other serious health conditions and advocate for empathic, compassionate, and respectful care that facilitates healing and enables wellbeing. The three parts of this book discuss writings from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Oceania that implore societies to shatter the devastating social stigmas which prevent billions from accessing effective care; to increase the availability of quality person-focused healthcare; and to prioritize partnerships that facilitate healing and enable wellbeing for both patients and loved ones. Thornber’s *Global Healing* remaps the contours of comparative literature, world literature, the medical humanities, and the health humanities. Watch a video interview with Thornber by the Mahindra Humanities Center, part of their conversations on Covid-19. Read an interview with Thornber on Brill’s Humanities Matter blog.

the great derangement: *The Routledge Companion to Art in the Public Realm* Cameron Cartiere, Leon Tan, 2020-10-19 This multidisciplinary companion offers a comprehensive overview of the global arena of public art. It is organised around four distinct topics: activation, social justice, memory and identity, and ecology, with a final chapter mapping significant works of public and social practice art around the world between 2008 and 2018. The thematic approach brings into view similarities and differences in the recent globalisation of public art practices, while the multidisciplinary emphasis allows for a consideration of the complex outcomes and consequences of such practices, as they engage different disciplines and communities and affect a diversity of audiences beyond the existing ‘art world’. The book will highlight an international selection of artist projects that illustrate the themes. This book will be of interest to scholars in contemporary art, art history, urban studies, and museum studies.

the great derangement: *Milieu* Elisha Jane Cohn, 2025-04-15 In this creaturely theory of the novel, Elisha Cohn rethinks the status of animals in recent global fiction, arguing that literary representation of animals should matter to any reader invested in the novel as a form, and showing how literary style makes knowable our imperiled multispecies worlds. Cohn argues that the animal lives of contemporary fiction move beyond allegories of globalization’s fracture of subjectivity by emphasizing the creaturely dimensions of narrative. This shift in focus registers through recent fiction’s fascination with milieus: environments made perceptible through sentience that humans share with other creatures. Showing how theories of milieu—from Jacob von Uexküll, George Canguilhem, and Sylvia Wynter to recent studies in comparative cognition—converge with and are conceptually indebted to Indigenous and Black ontologies, Cohn argues that the milieu not only explains the centrality of animals to contemporary fiction, but also promotes dialogue across

disciplines invested in anti-hierarchic accounts of embodied life. Each chapter foregrounds formal resonances in texts from the mid-1990s through the present, including work by Téa Obreht, Yoko Tawada, NoViolet Bulawayo, Sigrid Nunez, Jesmyn Ward, Linda Hogan, Lucy Ellmann, Amitav Ghosh, and Aminatta Forna. Throughout, Cohn compellingly argues for the centrality of narrative voice in avoiding, deferring, or complicating modes of figuration and critical interpretation that confirm human privilege.

the great derangement: *Fiction and the Sixth Mass Extinction* Jonathan Elmore, 2020-04-01 *Fiction and the Sixth Mass Extinction* is one of the first works to focus specifically on fiction's engagements with human driven extinction. Drawing together a diverse group of scholars and approaches, this volume pairs established voices in the field with emerging scholars and traditionally recognized climate fiction ('cli-fi') with texts and media typically not associated with Anthropocene fictions. The result is a volume that both engages with and furthers existing work on Anthropocene fiction as well as laying groundwork for the budding subfield of extinction fiction. This volume takes up the collective insistence on the centrality of story to extinction studies. In various and disparate ways, each chapter engages with the stories we tell about extinction, about the extinction of animal and plant life, and about the extinction of human life itself. Answering the call to action of extinction studies, these chapters explore what kinds of humanity caused this event and what kinds may live through it; what cultural assumptions and values led to this event and which ones could lead out of it; what relationships between human life and this planet allowed the sixth mass extinction and what alternative relationships could be possible.

the great derangement: *Lyric In Its Times* John Wilkinson, 2019-06-27 In this important new intervention, leading poet and critic John Wilkinson explores the material life of the lyric poem. How does the lyric – considered as an object, as an event – grapple with permanence and impermanence, the rhythms of change and the passing of time? Drawing on new insights from contemporary philosophy and object-oriented ontology, psychoanalysis and the visual arts, *The Lyric in Its Times* includes innovative and insightful new readings of work by a wide range of lyric poets, from Shakespeare, Blake and Shelley to Charles Baudelaire, Frank O'Hara and J.H. Prynne.

the great derangement: *Caryl Phillips's Genealogies* , 2023-11-27 Thematically and structurally, the work of the Kittitian-British writer Caryl Phillips reimagines the notion of genealogy. Phillips's fiction, drama, and non-fiction foreground broken filiations and forever-deferred promises of new affiliations in the aftermath of slavery and colonization. His texts are also in dialogue with multiple historical figures and literary influences, imagining around the life of the African American comedian Bert Williams and the Caribbean writer Jean Rhys, or retelling the story of Othello. Additionally, Phillips's work resonates with that of other writers and visual artists, such as Derek Walcott, Toni Morrison, or Isaac Julien. Written to honor the career of renown Phillipsian scholar Bénédicte Ledent, the contributions to this volume, including one by Phillips himself, explore the multiple ramifications of genealogy, across and beyond Phillips's work.

the great derangement: *Children and Childhood in the Works of Stephen King* Debbie Olson, 2020-10-06 This unique and timely collection examines childhood and the child character throughout Stephen King's works, from his early novels and short stories, through film adaptations, to his most recent publications. King's use of child characters within the framework of horror (or of horrific childhood) raises questions about adult expectations of children, childhood, the American family, child agency, and the nature of fear and terror for (or by) children. The ways in which King presents, complicates, challenges, or terrorizes children and notions of childhood provide a unique lens through which to examine American culture, including both adult and social anxieties about children and childhood across the decades of King's works.

the great derangement: *The Ethos of the Climate Event* Kellan Anfinson, 2020-12-30 This book develops a politico-ethical response to climate change that accounts for the novelty and uncertainty that it entails. This volume explores the ethical dimensions of climate change and posits that one must view it as a social construction intimately tied to political issues in order to understand and overcome this environmental challenge. To show how this ethos builds upon the need for new forms

of responsiveness, Anfinson analyzes it in terms of four features: commitment, worldly sensitivity, political disposition, and practice. Each of these features is developed by putting four thinkers – Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Schmitt, and Foucault respectively – in conversation with the literature on climate change. In doing so, this book shows how social habits and norms can be transformed through subjective thought and behavior in the context of a global environmental crisis. Presenting a multidisciplinary engagement with the politics, philosophy, and science of climate change, this book will be of great interest to students and scholars of climate change, environmental politics, environmental philosophy and environmental humanities.

the great derangement: *The Oxford Handbook of Global Realisms* Vaysman, 2025-11-04 Realism is an artistic practice that aims to faithfully represent reality. Historically, it has been practiced across different media, from early pictorial art and epic oral narratives, through literature and visual arts, to film, music, and digital media. However, an understanding of what it means to faithfully represent reality is not universal; rather, it varies from culture to culture. The Oxford Handbook of Global Realisms approaches realism as a transnational, transhistorical, and intermedial global phenomenon. It brings the diversity of global realisms to the fore, showcasing previously underrepresented and marginalized theories, practices, forms, and media of realist cultural production.

the great derangement: *The Routledge Companion to Narrative Theory* Paul Dawson, Maria Mäkelä, 2022-07-18 The Routledge Companion to Narrative Theory brings together top scholars in the field to explore the significance of narrative to pressing social, cultural, and theoretical issues. How does narrative both inform and limit the way we think today? From conspiracy theories and social media movements to racial politics and climate change future scenarios, the reach is broad. This volume is distinctive for addressing the complicated relations between the interdisciplinary narrative turn in the academy and the contemporary boom of instrumental storytelling in the public sphere. The scholars collected here explore new theories of causality, experientiality, and fictionality; challenge normative modes of storytelling; and offer polemical accounts of narrative fiction, nonfiction, and video games. Drawing upon the latest research in areas from cognitive sciences to complexity theory, the volume provides an accessible entry point for those new to the myriad applications of narrative theory and a point of departure for new scholarship.

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