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## **Ecology or barbarity?**

13-15 march 2020 : Political Ecology Days, First Edition

### **Calls for proposals**

## **Summary**

The *Political Ecology Days* wish to bring together stakeholders and thinkers of the field of political ecology, from Belgium and Europe, on a biennial basis for the next ten years. This first edition is therefore the opening chapter of a much longer story. It aims at: participating to the developments of this specific school of thought that is political ecology, at updating its founding principles, and at creating a new narrative that cuts through in practice and in people's minds. The event is organised by Etopia, a Belgian political ecology think-tank, and will be a mix of debates, seminars as well as more celebratory and participatory activities. The event will be co-produced through the dissemination of a call for papers, which involves half of the seminars.

## **Announcement**

13-15 March 2020: the inaugural *Political Ecology Days*

# Pitch

This call for papers is for academics, stakeholders and activists working in the field of political ecology. By political ecology, we mean a system of thinking that marries the principles of justice and solidarity with those of the living world and future generations.

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# Introduction

First emerging as a political force some forty years ago, political ecology is a vast and vibrant school of thought rooted in more than a century of ideas and practices. But political ecology is also a living and constantly evolving theory that is always in connection with its era. Although still informed by the work of pioneers such as Gorz, Carson, Bookchin, Jonas, d'Eaubonne, Morin, Illich, Castoriadis and Serres, we believe the time is right to bring this theory up to date through a process that is open with a long-term view. All the more so given the colossal challenges that we face this century.

The context is changing. The selfish side of individualism is growing. Populist barbarity threatens. Modernism increasingly seems like an unfinished project that must transcend the dichotomies within, like the separation between nature and culture. Lastly, the consequences of globalisation are leading us to rethink the concept of territoriality by articulating the local and the global differently.

And yet... With the Anthropocene now well underway, we are discovering just how vulnerable we have become. The enormity of the environmental crisis means that we now walk an ever more damaged Earth. We no longer have any choice but to recognise our interdependencies and build common futures, threatened as we are by the spectrum of national populism and extractivism's relentless pushing of limits.

But who do we live with? How do we leave room for the rest of the living world? How do we prevent an upsurge in barbarism? These are questions that concerns us, as they do many others. And these are questions that we want to address through the prism of our activist tradition and intellectual heritage: political ecology.

To try and answer these questions, we are inviting you to write, organise seminars and/or speak about three analytical lines:

- Line 1: (Co)inhabiting Earth differently
- Line 2: Becoming resilient
- Line 3: Reinventing democracy

The inaugural *Political Ecology Days* will therefore be an opportunity for posing questions and putting forward innovative solutions, narratives, models and practices. And for academics, civil society organisations and citizens from across Europe to debate them.

## Programme

In addition to the five debates and nine seminars already scheduled by Etopia and based around three main lines, we wish to let you present your own questions and analyses, to compare them and build on the ambitions and theoretical underpinnings of the school of thought that is political ecology.

To do so, eight seminars (spread over Friday and Saturday) will be set aside for your contributions on the three chosen lines. We encourage the coordinators of these seminars to suggest several speakers and use dynamic and original approaches to those discussions and debates. We would also like to stress the importance of building bridges between theory and practice, as well as of gender parity on these panels.

The call for papers welcomes suggestions for themed seminars as well as proposals for papers exploring the three main lines of analyses:

1. (Co)inhabiting Earth differently. We have inherited modernity's many cleavages (culture/nature, human/non-human, spiritual/material, reason/emotion, etc.). These prevent us from thinking as environmentalists and sustainably (co)inhabiting the Earth with the rest of the living world. This line invites us to explore – the many ways that we can embody “green thinking” and live on Earth differently
2. Becoming resilient. Our communities are not ready for the energy descent, nor for the climate and biodiversity shocks that we beginning to experience. This line invites us to imagine the paths

that will bring environmental and social resilience to our societies at a time of ecological emergency, accelerating resource depletion and future degrowth(s).

3. Reinventing democracy. The ecological emergency calls for a transformation in the way we do politics and, more specifically, for ecologists to reinvent democracy. It requires that we ask crucial questions: which territorial levels should play which roles? Which methods should be envisaged for guiding and broadening political decision-making processes? Which systems should be used for cooperation and regulation of social violence?

## Submission procedure

### 3.1. Submission procedure for paper proposals

By “paper” we mean an article which addresses one of the three lines mentioned above, and which will appear in an issue of the Etopia journal entitled “Ecology or Barbarism? A manifesto for a return to earthliness”, to be published at the beginning of 2020. It will therefore be available at the conference in March.

Proposals for papers will be submitted to Etopia's editorial board, which will meet in December 2019 to decide on whether to accept these and informing authors of its decision. Papers will be commented on and be subject to amendments before their publication. They can be individual or collective and submitted in English or French. The length of a **proposal** must not exceed **300 words (2000 characters, including spaces)**. The length of a **paper** must not exceed **30,000 characters**, including spaces.

Candidates will be informed of the composition of the editorial board when they submit their proposals.

**Deadline for submission of paper proposals: 15 November 2019.**

### 3.2. Submission procedure for thematic seminar proposals

A seminar proposal must indicate the name of the seminar coordinator, the title of the seminar, the speakers and outline how the theme will be developed in a one-page note. The seminar coordinator will be responsible for contacting speakers, leading the seminar and moderating discussion. It is important that seminar panels be inclusive and, if possible, gender balanced. Seminars will last two hours and allow attendees to speak. They will be held in English or French. Interpreters will be provided when necessary

**Deadline for submission of seminar proposals: 15 November 2019.**

### **3.3. Submission procedure for an eight-minute speech (Green Talks)**

The Green Talk is a series of eight-minutes' speeches given from the stage in a 450-seats venue over a two-hour period. This format of short speeches is inspired by the Three Minutes' Thesis competition, only with eight-minute long speeches.

A Green Talk speech proposal must indicate the name of the speaker, the title of the speech and outline how the theme will be developed in a half-page note. We encourage you to treat your speech as an opportunity for a dynamic and interactive presentation that breaks with purely academic conventions.

When choosing speeches, we will be careful to ensure that there is an overall gender balance.

### **3.4. Unsuccessful proposals**

Unsuccessful proposals may instead be used at Etopia's other similar events or in different formats (seminars throughout the year, online publications, etc). They may also be used for the following edition (March 2022).

### **3.5. Submission of proposals**

Proposals should be submitted to Delphine Masset at the following email address: [delphine.masset@etopia.be](mailto:delphine.masset@etopia.be)

## **Scientific board**

### **Six members from the scientific community:**

- Philippe Baret, professor at the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, UCLouvain
- Charlotte Luyckx, PhD and visiting lecturer at the Faculty of Philosophy, Arts and Letters, UCLouvain
- Marek Hudon, professor at the Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management, Université Libre de Bruxelles.
- Chloé Deligne, lecturer and FNRS senior research associate at Faculty of Philosophy and Social Science (Department of History, Arts and Archaeology), Université Libre de Bruxelles
- Olivier de Schutter, Professor of International Law at the Centre for

Philosophy of Law, UCLouvain

- Nathalie Grandjean, PhD, researcher in Science & Technology Studies at CRIDS, University of Namur

### **Three members from the environmentalist community:**

- Laurent Standaert, Editor-in-Chief of the Green European Journal
- Delphine Masset, Prospective Advisor at Etopia
- Boris Libois, PhD from Université Libre de Bruxelles

## **Information**

### **4. Funding**

Participants who are unable to obtain grants for their expenses should contact Etopia.

#### **4.1. Contact details for the Political Ecology Conference**

- Conference coordinator: Delphine Masset  
[delphine.masset@etopia.be](mailto:delphine.masset@etopia.be)
- Address : Etopia, 52 Avenue de Marlagne, 5000 Namur, Belgium
- Email address for the Political Ecology Days: [info@etopia.be](mailto:info@etopia.be)
- Website: [www.etopia.be/rep](http://www.etopia.be/rep)
- The Political Ecology Days will be held in Belgium at Tour & Taxis, Avenue du Port 86c/3002, 1000 Brussels

#### Subjects

- [Modern](#) (Main subject)
- [Periods](#) > [Modern](#) > [Prospective](#)

#### Places

- Avenue du Port 86c/3002, Brussels, Belgium (1000)

#### Date(s)

- Friday, November 15, 2019

## Attached files

- [Invitation et programme REP.pdf](#)

## Keywords

- political ecology, society, democracy, energy

## Contact(s)

- Delphine Masset  
*email* : delphine [dot] masset [at] etopia [dot] be

## Reference Urls

- [Etopia](#)

## Information source

- Delphine Masset  
*email* : delphine [dot] masset [at] etopia [dot] be

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