

The Black Anthropocene

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Abstract

The Black Anthropocene, plenary session by Axelle Karera Moderated by Jyoti Mistry on November 17th, 2021 as a part of the PARSE 4th biennial research conference on Violence.

It is indeed the case that Anthropos' imprints on what we might provisionally call "nature" is undeniable. And the degree to which "man's power" over the earth beckoned massive regimes of techno-ideologies of survival is equally irrefutable. Though discourses of the Anthropocene neither contest geology's pronouncements nor invest in assessing the politics of its scientific nomenclature, the grounds on which the term continues to carve its discursive trajectories remains tenuous. Here, the accusations range from charges of obscurantism to calling the term a misnomer of catastrophic magnitude – a misnomer that merely revived the hegemonies of brute empiricisms at the expense of a vast range of critical work. These accusations are certainly not far-fetched; and critique's "alleged" paranoia cannot overstate the punctual resurgence of a scientific rationality pruned for Anthropocenean anxieties. By assessing how and why Anthropocene discourses continue to uncritically endorse a seemingly salvific scientific logic, this talk turns to the figure of blackness in the Anthropocene in order to discern how renewed positivist sensibilities are effectively exculpating a range of violent actors while simultaneously incriminating the most vulnerable communities in our current ecological demise. More than only suggesting that blackness redirects our inquiries into the intimate complicities between destructive ecological violence and the imaginative arts of Anthropocene's various caregivers, the talks shows that blackness' ordinary experience of dispossession necessarily complicates matters at hand.—

With an introduction by Jyoti Mistry.

Introduction

Axelle Karera reflects on the ethics of relationality in new materialist ontology, mutual dependency and species entanglements. With a focus on racial ecocide, *The Black Anthropocene* intervenes into Western hegemonic discourse to relate to the category of "human" and the anthropocene. Her theoretical intervention in Western philosophical thought provides an urgently needed and revised way in which to reconsider the conditions under which race emerges as a category of human existence in the context of geo-ecological definitions.

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