



LITERATURE AND CLIMATE

A Short History and Reconsideration of Contemporary Climate Fiction

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ABSTRACT

This talk presents a short history of climate fiction, contextualising it within the rise of climate action as well as climate criticism in literary studies. It moves from the emerging awareness of global warming of the last century to debates around the concept of the Anthropocene today. In doing so, it raises several questions about the definition and form of climate fiction, especially the ways in which fictional narrative has adapted to accommodate the topic of climate change. This leads to a final speculation of whether the urgency and unprecedentedness of climate crisis make climate fiction not just an innovative literary form but, indeed, a boundary case for literature. This has direct implications for the classroom and discussions of the political, aesthetic, and didactic functions of literature in a time of climate crisis..

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