



Histories and Futures of Climate Change

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| Module Coordinator | Dr Katja Bruisch (primary), Dr Tim Stott (secondary) |
| What will you learn from this Elective? | <p>What is the role of the humanities in the climate emergency? Climate change exposes the limitations of modern approaches to producing and categorizing knowledge, calling us to think beyond our disciplines. This module uses Environmental History and Environmental History of Art and Architecture to explore the intellectual and epistemological challenges of climate change. It introduces students to the Environmental Humanities, a multidisciplinary formation that brings the visual and plastic arts, design, literature, theatre, history, music, languages, philosophy, politics, law, film, media/cultural studies, anthropology, and cultural geography in dialogue with the natural sciences to understand and address current and future challenges posed by the climate emergency. Complementing STEM-based climate change conversations, this module focuses on how History/History of Art and Architecture have responded to the climate emergency and how these disciplines now contribute to the project of the Environmental Humanities by rewriting histories and reimagining futures. It will familiarize students with concepts and approaches such as climate justice, circular design, degrowth, ecocriticism, and sustainable cities, and will critically appraise terms that feature prominently in public and academic debates about the climate crisis, including Sustainable Development, the Anthropocene, Planetary Boundaries, and the Green Transition.</p> |
| Student Workload | <p>11 lectures and 4 tutorials (face to face)</p> <p>Apart from attending lectures and tutorials, students will work in groups to complete the group work component and study independently to complete their final research essay.</p> |
| Assessment Components | <p>End of term assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 2.500 words research essay – 70%- Story map (group work) – 30%- 5-7 min presentation of the group work – not graded |

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| Indicative Reading List | <p>Dipesh Chakrabarty, <i>The Climate of History in a Planetary Age</i> (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2021).</p> <p>Amitav Gosh, <i>The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable</i> (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press 2016).</p> <p>Joshua P. Howe, ed., <i>Making Climate Change History: Primary Sources from Global Warming's Past</i> (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2017).</p> <p>Julia A. Thomas, Mark Williams and Jan Zalasiewicz, <i>The Anthropocene: A Multidisciplinary Approach</i> (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2020).</p> |
| Learning Outcomes | <p>On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognize climate change as a complex social, political, and cultural challenge that defies one-size-fits-all approaches and calls for critical analysis informed by the humanities. 2. Critically engage with and interrogate key concepts in current debates about climate change. 3. Research, analyse and synthesize evidence relating to the social, cultural, and political aspects of climate change using the methods and approaches of the Environmental Humanities. 4. Construct and communicate (orally and in writing) an independent, historically- and theoretically-informed argument about the histories and futures of climate change |