

CALL FOR PAPERS

ENVIRONMENTAL IMAGINARIES:

BEYOND TEXT
BEYOND OBSERVATION

As part of the **Online** Conference **Vienna Anthropology days 2020, Sept 28-Oct 1**, we look forward to receiving papers and/or multimedia contributions to the panel, **Environmental Imaginaries: Beyond Text, Beyond Observation**.

This Exhibition Style panel seeks to bring the audience into an intermedial space. We, therefore, welcome multimedia contributions (photo, video, audio, object, text) accompanied by max. 15 min talk. In addition, we particularly welcome applications with a focus on the “elemental”: water; its presence, absence and violation. In your submission, describe the format of the presentation, formulate one tough-nut-to-crack you are dealing with, and one powerful proposition you wish to make during the panel.



ABSTRACT

Exploring the zeitgeist with reference to resources and power, political ecology employs the concept of “environmental imaginaries” as the constellation of ideas that groups of humans develop about a given environment (Davis 2012). Intersecting imaginaries exist in every context and are developed by every society. Employed by hegemonic actors, taking a form of “environmental orientalism”, they however frequently fuel imperial and colonial projects.

Our panel takes a cue from Sherry Ortner’s “good anthropology” (2016) and collaboratively investigate social initiatives into, what we tentatively call, “restorative imaginaries”. Our critical question is two-fold: “what makes, or could make, restorative imaginaries socio-culturally impactful in the given context?”, and “how shall we, as social anthropologists and other practitioners, creatively and constructively work with such imaginaries to provoke new approaches to the ecological crisis?”.

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DEADLINE: July 1, 2020

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REFERENCES

- Davis, Diana K. *Environmental Imaginaries of the Middle East and North Africa*. Ohio University Press, 2013.
- Ortner, Sherry B. “Dark Anthropology and Its Others.” *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, vol. 6, no. 1, 2016, pp. 47–73.