

9 – William Golding, Gaia, and the Crisis Ecology of Lord of the Flies

écrit par Theo Manton

A case study in the aesthetic genealogy of the now widely debated Gaia hypothesis, this article charts out a critical position for the environmental humanities within such a paradigm. Beginning with a historical assessment of William Golding's major role in the development of a Gaian aesthetics, I then turn to his 1954 novel *Lord of the Flies* to explore its articulation between literature, ecology, and politics. Revealing the critical potential of Simon's character, I develop a new way of approaching Golding's canonical work by emphasizing its eventual and experimental nature. Although Simon's character has been approached as the tragic victim of an irredeemable human nature, I use a Deleuzian approach that grants him an immanent position and offers perspectives for the contemporary critical moment, at a time when critique is attacked on every front.

4-Vivid Entanglements: Materializing Climate Crisis in Mainstream Poetry

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How does contemporary mainstream Anglophone poetry represent climate crisis? Taking this simple question as starting point to critical exploration, this article contends that mainstream poets, often dismissed as conventionally realist (and, as a result, very seldom taken as objects of ecocritical study) as opposed to the experimental avant-garde, use innovative poetics in order to figure a crisis defeating both imagination and representation, as well as metapoetically interrogate their own modes of representing nature. Through the study of a recent anthology dedicated to the climate crisis, Kate Simpson's *Out of Time, Poetry from the Climate Emergency* (2021), we will see how mainstream poets experiment with form and language, focusing attention on the visuality, iconicity, materiality and plasticity of the poem, rather than the "hyperobject" (Morton) they purportedly represent. Troubling mimetic representation in order to open up the poem into a more problematic site of meaning, these poems grope with issues of scale, space and voice, pushing the reader to actively engage with the recalcitrant text and, potentially, experience their entanglement in the world through poetic artifice.