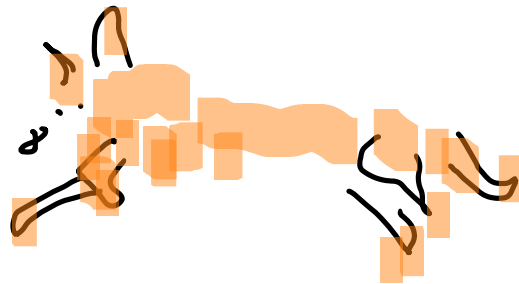


**PHD COURSE (10 CREDITS)
GENDER, NATURE, CULTURE:
FEMINIST POSTHUMANITIES IN
PRACTICE** contact: cecilia.asberg@liu.se



Course coordinator

Cecilia Åsberg, Prof Dr
Tema Genus, TEMA Deptender
studies
linköping university
Sweden

*Dear enrolled PhD-students,
Warmly welcome to this re-
invented PhD course of Tema
Genus and The Posthumanities
Hub!*

In the following You may find
our course description with
programmed classes and zoom
links, readings (both obligatory
and recommended/additional).
This document is subject to
change until we, together,
settle it on January 16, 2024.

This course aims to introduce the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of research at the intersection of gender, nature, culture by way of select practices of feminist posthumanities. Societal and environmental, but also ontological, epistemological and ethical underpinnings are presented, such as: theories of power, subjectivity and cyborg knowing, and involved interdisciplinary research fields are mapped out, like feminist studies, cultural studies and science and technology studies, and their post-disciplinary, even extra-academic connections. After this, doctoral students get to practice analytically within this methodological frame, based on their doctoral thesis and on collaborative workshops on feminist time and field philosophy, mineral arts and oceanic herbarium. The course builds on ancient as well as recent philosophies of environmental embodiment and embodied environments, on analytical concepts such as “trans-corporeality” and the cultural imaginary, and on advances in more-than-human humanities and the feminist, ecological-, technological- and biological arts of living with change and worldly transformation.

Readings and additional literature can be found here: [Reading materials \(Feminist posthumanism\) 2024 – Google Drive](#)

Hej dears,

With a view to our up-coming PhD course (10 hp/credits/ects) on theories and methodologies of **Gender, Nature, Culture: Feminist Posthumanities in Practice**, we will meet over zoom for lectures and to discuss the readings you will do in advance of each session (to the best of your ability). Reading in advance is of course extremely beneficial (even a requirement for the final essay where 60% of the obligatory course literature must be in the reference list). But, we are here and doing this course together *because we want to*, we want to learn feminist practices of posthumanities together. And as much as I want to share my treasure chest of literatures that has shaped my thought, there was apparently a limit to my bodily abilities after 2 months with Covid-19, flu type A and type B. Sorry! Yet, this is in fact a course building very much on our joint efforts, critical cooperation and creative collaboration. So we bring together our literatures and our research problems, and work with what we got. What this course will become in this experimental new edition, is very much up to us!

Dates and the times:

- Tuesday 16 January (10.15-15.00 hrs)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://liu-se.zoom.us/j/7402234640?omn=64909231531>
Session 1 (10.15-11.30 hrs) Introductions: we and our course
Session 2 (13.00-14.15 hrs) Lecture A “On Common Ground? Creating a Cartography of Moving Fields” Overviews of Science and Technology Studies, Cultural Studies, and Feminist Research Practices as forms of Cyborg Knowing (Cecilia Åsberg)
- Thursday 25 January Session (10:15-17.00 hrs)
Cecilia Åsberg (LiU) Posthumanities Hub is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://liu-se.zoom.us/j/7402234640?omn=69457655983>
Session 3 (10.15-11.50 hrs) Lecture B “(Getting ourselves up-dated on) Feminist theories of embodiment, knowledge and care” (Cecilia Åsberg)
Session 4 (13.15-14.30 hrs) Joint Discussion “Ways of Knowing, Subjectivity and Power (After Foucault)”
Session 5 (14.30-15.30 hrs) Lecture C “A Brief History of Science and You” (Cecilia Åsberg)
Session 6 (15.45-16.30 hrs) Lecture D “Classics up-close: Primate Visions (and Modest Witnessing When Species Meet) + Leviathan and the Air Pump” (Cecilia Åsberg)
- Thursday February 8 (10.15-11.50 + 13.15-17.00 hrs) – WE MEET IN LINKÖPING
Session 7 (10.15-11.50 hrs) “Feminist Environmental Humanities – An Overview + “Posthumanities at Sea: Field Philosophy in Time and Place ... or ‘I suppose we could think of this as field work, but how the hell do we get out of the field” (Cecilia Åsberg and Caroline Elgh) – online lecture, but also on location.
Session 8 (13.15-17:00 hrs) **Workshop on location at LiU** (Caroline Elgh) “The speculative seaweed herbarium”
- Friday March 8 (10.15-11.50 + 13.15-17.00) - WE MEET IN LINKÖPING
Session 9 (10.14-11.50 hrs) Feminist Time Philosophy, Waste Heritage and Deep, Dark Anthropocene (Christina Fredengren with Cecilia Åsberg) – online lecture.

Session 10 (13.15-17:00 hrs) **Mineral Workshop on location at LiU** (Petra Lilja)
“multimedial designs and materials taken for a walk” (prel title)

- Friday March 22 (13.15-15.00 hrs)
Session 11 (13.15-15.00 hrs) **Posthumanities to Practice** (Re-cap: What have we learned? Drafts and questions for how to put theory in action and action to theory. Collaboratory)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://liu-se.zoom.us/j/7402234640?omn=63064016975>
- Weeks for finishing course paper: *1 April is deadline* for submitting and circulating course paper amongst all course participants.
- Thursday April 4 (13.15-16.30 hrs)
Session 12 **Grande Finale** and presentations of your work (a methodology chapter, a new paper, a case study or a chapter overview of previous research) Please, read all participants papers in advance, and prepare comments as “critical friends” of each other)

Examination requirements:

- Active participation required in all sessions; well-read and well-prepared in advance of each session;
- Skills in collaborating between us in the team, taking responsibility for different readings, for finding, sharing and reporting back to the group on them.
- Final paper of about 6.000 words (including complete bibliography that consists of 60% course literature);
- Keep an active and running commentary as peer participant’s critical friend.
- Present your work in the Grande Finale. *And remember, for this course we do not study hard, we study joyfully and with care.*

LIST OF LITERATURE: Reading with care and discernment for each “SESSION”

Readings and additional literature can be found here: [Reading materials \(Feminist posthumanism\) 2024 – Google Drive](#)

In the following you find the *required readings* (marked *), and some additional literature. Some of these texts are absolute feminist classics, so some you need to read carefully, or simply devour whole, or merely selectively “brush up on”. (Nothing’s wrong with using the internet.) But then again, you can always save some readings as a delicious desert to savour after class, and sprinkle this reading list with your own shared literature suggestions. So more literature is to be added, by us.

In the end of this course, you will have a substantial treasure chest of feminist posthumanities to pull from, in your work ahead. Links to the readings are often provided below, and then we share generously between us the other texts upon availability and need to read. We always find the

literature and help each other out. *After all, we are researchers, right?* 😊

- Tuesday 16 January (10.15-15.00 hrs)

Session 1 (10.15-11.30 hrs) Introductions: we and our course

Session 2 (13.00-15.00 hrs) Lecture A “On Common Ground? Creating a Cartography of Moving Fields” Overviews of Science and Technology Studies, Cultural Studies, and Feminist Research Practices as forms of Cyborg Knowing (Cecilia Åsberg)

LITERATURE (13+5+21 pages mandatory, read the rest for fun)

***Alaimo, Stacey** (2016) “Ecology.” Chapter 4 in Sources, Perspectives, and Methodologies, primer volume of the Gender series, Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks, MacMillan Cengage, 2016: 41-54.

Lingis, Alphonso. "Bestiality." *symplekē* 6.1/2 (1998): 56-71.

Franklin, Sarah, Celia Lury, and Jackie Stacey (2000). *Global nature, global culture*. Sage, 2000. (Focus on Introduction, find the Google Book online)

Franklin, Sarah (2000) “[Life Itself: Global Nature and the Genetic Imaginary](#)” chapter 6 in *Global Nature, Global Culture*

Franklin, Sarah (2006) "The cyborg embryo: Our path to transbiology." *Theory, culture & society* 23.7-8 (2006): 167-187.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0263276406069230>

***Åsberg, Cecilia** (2024) “[Promises of Cyborgs](#): Feminist Practices of Posthumanities (Against the Nested Crises of the Anthropocene), *NORA - Nordic Journal of Feminist and Gender Research*, DOI: 10.1080/08038740.2023.2294194

Åsberg, Cecilia (2021) *Ecologies and Technologies of Feminist Posthumanities*, *Women's Studies*, 50:8, 857-862, DOI: 10.1080/00497878.2021.1981328. Open access: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00497878.2021.1981328>

- Thursday 25 January Session (10:15-17.00 hrs)
Cecilia Åsberg (LiU) Posthumanities Hub is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://liu-se.zoom.us/j/7402234640?omn=69457655983>

Session 3 (10.15-11.50 hrs) Lecture B + Discussion “Feminist theories of embodiment, knowledge and care: Creating our conceptual map” (Cecilia Åsberg) – Key concepts to map out: (who, when, why, what school of thought, what changed after, and so what?)

Situated Knowledges (vision, seeing and knowing), Politics of Location, Rooting and Shifting, Cyborg (and Cyborg Knowing), Nomadic Subject/Embodied Subject, Sexual Difference, Trans-corporeality, Technologies of Gender, Care, Feminist New Materialisms, feminist hermeneutics as lively toolbox, Posthuman/ Humanities

LITERATURE

“**situated knowledge**” (Donna J Haraway) – chapter in *Simians, Cyborgs and Women* (1991)

Stoetzler, M., & Yuval-Davis, N. (2002). Standpoint theory, situated knowledge and the situated imagination. *Feminist Theory*, 3(3), 315-333.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/146470002762492024>

Peta Hinton (2014) 'Situated Knowledges' and New Materialism(s): Rethinking a Politics of Location, *Women: a cultural review*, 25:1, 99-113, DOI: 10.1080/09574042.2014.901104

Simandan, D. (2019). Revisiting positionality and the thesis of situated knowledge. *Dialogues in Human Geography*, 9(2), 129-149.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/2043820619850013>

“politics of location” (Adrienne Rich)

Mary Eagleton (2000) “Adrienne Rich, Location and the Body”, *Journal of Gender Studies*, 9:3, 299-312, DOI: 10.1080/713678003

Code, Lorraine. *Ecological thinking: The politics of epistemic location*. Oxford University Press, 2006. (find and read relevant parts in the google book)

“rooting and shifting” (Nira Yuval Davis) – see Yuval Davis but also Cynthia Cockburn Pryse, Marjorie. "Trans/feminist methodology: bridges to interdisciplinary thinking." *NWSA journal* (2000): 105-118.

“cyborg” (Donna J Haraway)

Franklin, S. (2006). The Cyborg Embryo: Our Path to Transbiology. *Theory, Culture & Society*, 23(7-8), 167-187.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0263276406069230>

Gane, N. (2006). When We Have Never Been Human, What Is to Be Done?: Interview with Donna Haraway. *Theory, Culture & Society*, 23(7-8), 135-158.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0263276406069228>

Åsberg, C (2024) [“Promises of Cyborgs: Feminist Practices of Posthumanities \(Against the Nested Crises of the Anthropocene\)”](#), *NORA - Nordic Journal of Feminist and Gender Research*, DOI: 10.1080/08038740.2023.2294194

“nomadic subject” (Rosi Braidotti)

Braidotti R. “Embodiment, Sexual Difference, and the Nomadic Subject”. *Hypatia*. 1993;8(1):1-13. doi:10.1111/j.1527-2001.1993.tb00625.x

“trans-corporeality” (Stacy Alaimo)

Alaimo, S. (2018). Trans-corporeality. *Posthuman glossary*, 435-438.

Alaimo, (2014) “Thinking as the stuff of the world” o-zone

de la Bellacasa, M. P. (2012). ‘Nothing Comes Without Its World’: Thinking with Care. *The Sociological Review*, 60(2), 197-216. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-954X.2012.02070.x>

“worlding”

Franklin, Sarah, Celia Lury, and Jackie Stacey. Global nature, global culture. Sage, 2000. (find and read introduction and relevant parts in the book)

Bozalek, V., Zembylas, M. (2023). Response-Ability. In: Responsibility, privileged irresponsibility and response-ability. Palgrave Critical University Studies. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-34996-6_4

Tsing, Anna. "Unruly edges: mushrooms as companion species: for Donna Haraway." Environmental humanities 1.1 (2012): 141-154. OA

Tsing, Anna L. "More than human sociality." Anthropology and nature 14.1 (2013): 27-42. Online book chapter

Despret, V. (2004). The Body We Care for: Figures of Anthro-zoo-genesis. Body & Society, 10(2-3), 111-134. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1357034X04042938>

Session 4 (13.15-14.30 hrs) Joint Discussion “Ways of Knowing, Subjectivity and Power (After Foucault)”

LITERATURE

Foucault, M (1982) “The Subject and Power” Critical Inquiry, Vol. 8, No. 4 (Summer, 1982), pp. 777-795 Published by: The University of Chicago Press
Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1343197> .

Wilson, Elizabeth A. "Neurological entanglements: The case of paediatric depressions, SSRIs and suicidal ideation." Subjectivity 4 (2011): 277-297.

Einstein, Gillian, and Margrit Shildrick. "The postconventional body: Rethorising women's health." Social Science & Medicine 69.2 (2009): 293-300.

Session 5 (14.30-15.30 hrs) Lecture C “A Brief History of Science and You” (Cecilia Åsberg)

LITERATURE

Kirksey, Eben. (2022) “Welcome to the virosphere” e-flux, October 2022 <https://www.e-flux.com/journal/130/491400/editorial-welcome-to-the-virosphere/>

Martin, Emily (1991). "The egg and the sperm: How science has constructed a romance based on stereotypical male-female roles." Signs: journal of women in culture and society 16.3 (1991): 485-501.

Schiebinger, Londa. "Why mammals are called mammals: gender politics in eighteenth-century natural history." *The American Historical Review* 98.2 (1993): 382-411.

Åsberg, Cecilia, and Nina Lykke. "Feminist technoscience studies." *European Journal of Women's Studies* 17.4 (2010): 299-305.

Åsberg, Cecilia, and Lynda Birke. "Biology is a feminist issue: Interview with Lynda Birke." *European Journal of Women's Studies* 17.4 (2010): 413-423.

Cielemęcka, Olga, and Cecilia Åsberg. "Introduction: Toxic embodiment and feminist environmental humanities." *Environmental Humanities* 11.1 (2019): 101-107. (OA)

Åsberg, C., & Lum, J. (2010). Picturizing the scattered ontologies of Alzheimer's disease: Towards a materialist feminist approach to visual technoscience studies. *European Journal of Women's Studies*, 17(4), 323-345.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1350506810377695> (OR)

Åsberg, C., & Lum, J. (2009). PharmAD-ventures: A Feminist Analysis of the Pharmacological Imaginary of Alzheimer's Disease. *Body & Society*, 15(4), 95-117. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1357034X09347217>

Åsberg, Cecilia. "Looking at science, looking at you!: the feminist re-visions of nature (Brain and genes)." (2009): 95-121. In OA-book: *Teaching visual culture in interdisciplinary classrooms: feminist (re)interpretations of the field* / [ed] Elżbieta H. Oleksy, Dorota Golanska, Utrecht: ATHENA 3, 2009, 1, s. 95-121
chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgclefindmkaj/https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:403445/FULLTEXT02.pdf

Session 6 (15.45-16.30 hrs) Lecture D "Classics up-close: Primate Visions (and Modest Witnessing When Species Meet) + Leviathan and the Air Pump" (Cecilia Åsberg)

LITERATURE (to get *acquainted* with)

Primate Visions (chap 1 – first 15 or so pages)

Haraway, Donna J. *Primate visions: Gender, race, and nature in the world of modern science*. Routledge, 2013.

Modest Witnessing – where-ever you can (suggestion pp 23-39, or pp 141-148, or pp 174-192, or on "diffraction" p 14 and p 268-273.)

Haraway, Donna J. (1997). *Modest_Witness@ Second_Millennium. FemaleMan_Meets_OncoMouse: Feminism and Technoscience*. Routledge, 2018.

When Species Meet – as much as you can, whenever

Leviathan and the Air Pump (read reviews online, or read the real deal)

Shapin, Steven, and Simon Schaffer. *Leviathan and the air-pump: Hobbes, Boyle, and the experimental life*. Princeton University Press, 2011.

- Thursday February 8 (10.15-11.50 + 13.15-17.00 hrs)
Session 7 (10.15-11.50 hrs) “Feminist Environmental Humanities – An Overview + “Posthumanities at Sea: Field Philosophy in Time and Place ... or ‘I suppose we could think of this as field work, but how the hell do we get out of the field?’” (Cecilia Åsberg and Caroline Elgh on dry land, still sea-bound)

LaFauci, Lauren, Cecilia Åsberg (2020). "Is All Environmental Humanities Feminist Environmental Humanities." *Seeing the Woods A Blog by the Rachel Carson Center* (2020). OA online.

Neimanis, Astrida, Cecilia Åsberg, and Johan Hedrén. "Four problems, four directions for environmental humanities: Toward critical posthumanities for the Anthropocene." *Ethics & the environment* 20.1 (2015): 67-97.

Session 8 (13.15-17:00 hrs) **Workshop on location at LiU** (Caroline Elgh) “The speculative seaweed herbarium”

WORKSHOP: Thinking through the lens of blue humanities (Alaimo 2019), a field that turns to the mutable relationship between human bodies and the ocean, and the emerging practices of posthumanities (Åsberg 2021), this workshop seeks to challenge its participants to imagine their work as *underwater worldings*. With seaweed and science fiction writing as tools/methods, the workshop invites participants to engage in the making of a speculative seaweed herbarium. Employing speculative thinking to envision their practices as embodied, multisensory and naturalcultural (Haraway 2008) participants are asked to open up for new environmental imaginations (Yusoff and Gabrys 2011). *The workshop seeks to relate to the participants own work/research/area of interest and therefore we ask you to bring with you a research question/hypothesis/line of enquiry/title of an article* that you have been recently or continue to be engaged with.

Literature

Stacy Alaimo. 2019. “Introduction: Science Studies and the Blue Humanities”, *Configurations*, Volume 27, Number 4 (fall). pp. 429-432, John Hopkins University Press.

Elgh, Caroline. 2023. “Coastal Imaginations and Intermedialities. The art exhibition as a response to present planetary environmental disruptions.” In *State of the Art*, ed. Erich Berger, Mari Keski-Korsu, Marietta Radomska and Line Thastum. Helsinki: Bioart Society.

Elgh, Caroline (Upcoming) 2024.” Tracing ‘Chthulucene environmental imaginations’ in contemporary art: The speculative in the work of Larissa Sansour and Johannes Heldén”. In *Nordic Speculative Fiction: Research, Theory and Practice*, ed. Jyrki Korpua, Aino-Kaisa Kostinen and Marta Tveit. Routledge.

Elgh, Caroline. 2019. ”Science Fiction as Imaginary Laboratory and Mirror of Our Times.” In

Cosmological Arrows, edited by Caroline Elgh Klingborg and Jerry Määttä, Stockholm: Art and Theory Publishing.

Haraway, Donna. 2016. *Staying with the Trouble. Making Kin in the Chthulucene*. Durham: Duke University Press. pp. 1-8.

Yusoff, Kathryn and Gabrys, Jennifer. 2011. "Climate change and the imagination." *WIREs Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews Climate Change* 2, no. 4 (July/August): 516–534.

Åsberg, Cecilia. "A Sea Change in the Environmental Humanities:-." *Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities* 1 (2020): 1-12. Open access:
http://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/1670705783_ecocene-1.1.12_asberg_0.pdf

Åsberg, C., J. Holmstedt and **Radomska**. 2020. "[Methodologies of Kelp: On Feminist Posthumanities, Transversal Knowledge Production and Multispecies Ethics in an Age of Entanglement](#)" In: *The Kelp Congress*, edited by H. Mehti, N. Cahoon, and A. Wolfsberger, Svolveær: NNKS Press, pp. 11-23.

- Friday March 8 (10.15-11.50 + 13.15-17.00)
Session 9 (10.14-11.50 hrs) Feminist Time Philosophy, Waste Heritage and Deep, Dark Anthropocene (Christina Fredengren med Cecilia Åsberg) – **online**

LITERATURE

Buchanan, Brett, Michelle Bastian, and Matthew Chrulew. "Introduction: Field philosophy and other experiments." *Parallax* 24.4 (2018): 383-391.

Fredengren, Christina. "Archaeological posthumanities: feminist re-invention of science and material pasts." *A feminist companion to the posthumanities* (2018): 129-140. (available as pdf online)

Fredengren, Christina, and Cecilia Åsberg. "Checking in with Deep Time: Intragenerational Care in Registers of Feminist Posthumanities, the Case of Gärstadsverken." [Deterritorializing the Future](#) (2020): 56.

Session 10 (13.15-17:00 hrs) **Mineral Workshop on location at LiU** (Petra Lilja)
"Mineral walk" multimedial designs and materials taken for a walk" (prel title)

LITERATURE – more literature might be announced later. But check this out:

<https://www.petrililja.com/mineral-meditation-walk>

- Friday March 22 (13.15-15.00 hrs)
Session 11 (13.15-15.00 hrs) **Posthumanities to Practice** (Re-cap: What have we learned? Drafts and questions for how to put theory in action and action to theory. Collaboratory)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://liu-se.zoom.us/j/7402234640?omn=63064016975>
- Weeks for finishing course paper: *1 April is deadline* for submitting and circulating course paper amongst all course participants.
- Thursday April 4 (13.15-15.30 hrs)
Session 13 Grande Finale and presentations of your work (a methodology chapter, a new paper, a case study or a chapter overview of previous research) Please, read all participants papers in advance, and prepare comments as “critical friends” of each other)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://liu-se.zoom.us/j/7402234640?omn=61174038323>