



CLIMATE CHANGES GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

Lena Pfeifer,
Molina Klingler,
Hannah Nelson-Teutsch (Eds.)



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Climate Changes Global Perspectives

Challenges of Modernity I

Editors

Catrin Gersdorf and

MaryAnn Snyder-Körber

The Challenges of Modernity publication series provides a platform for innovative and engaged scholarship in the humanities.

Lena Pfeifer, Molina Klingler, Hannah Nelson-Teutsch (Eds.)

Climate Changes Global Perspectives



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As the symposium took root in the nascent Environmental Humanities cluster at the University of Würzburg, Catrin Gersdorf generously agreed to shepherd this collaborative endeavor to its ends. It was Catrin Gersdorf who broadened and deepened the critical work we carry out here with mentorship and recourse to an expansive personal network, which included our keynote speakers and discussion group leaders Heather Houser (University of Texas, Austin), Hannes Bergthaller (National Taiwan Normal University), Louis Mendy (Cheikh Anta Diop University), Michaela Fenske (University of Würzburg), Catriona Sandilands (York University), and Susan Morrison (Texas State University). Coming into conversation with such dedicated scholars anchored this symposium in critical conversations central to the field and an ethics of care that permeated both the symposium and our approach to this volume.

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Würzburg 2022

Lena Pfeifer
Molina Klingler
Hannah Nelson-Teutsch

Preface

Catrin Gersdorf and MaryAnn Snyder-Körber

Challenges of Modernity is a publication series, but yet more fundamentally a project of expressly ‘engaged’ inquiry in humanities scholarship, pedagogy, and writing practices.

First, the series proceeds from the model of an *Engaged Humanities*. Much ink has been spilled (and, more recently, tweeting energy expended) on the promises and perils of what is generally known as ‘activist scholarship’ (see, for example, June and Sider). Such discussions are hardly limited to one discipline, tradition, or institutional framework of higher education. Nonetheless, one often has the feeling as an American Studies scholar working in German academia that this particular position places you in the path of quite a bit of that ink.

Why is this so? Answers tend to focus on the tensions between supposedly ‘interested’ versus ideally ‘disinterested’ approaches to scholarship. This tension is consequently figured as a smash-up between American Studies as the incarnation of agit-propping interest, on the one hand, and the German university as an Immanuel Kant-quoting, Max Weber-invoking higher ground of impartiality, on the other. As with all caricatures, the scenario is overdrawn, but not wholly untruthful. American Studies began as a project of resistance to what the midcentury scholar Henry Nash Smith termed “‘academism’ or the detachment of scholarship from public life” (Deloria and Olson 84). The aim of attaching scholarly inquiry to ongoing real-world dynamics, along with a multidisciplinary approach, has made American Studies a ready ally and, at times, a partner for further scholarly formations energized by movement-based social activism and intent on academic institution building. Native American Studies, African American Studies, Women’s Studies, and LGBTQ+ Studies constitute only an initial short list of fields that from the 1960s on were not just setting up programs alongside American Studies in the United States. Scholars in these areas have often worked with Americanists more directly through the classroom collaborations, course cross-listings, and courtesy arrangements common for younger and less generously funded academic units. Such proximity shapes the questions asked in a field, the stances taken by its practitioners, and inevitably also the ends and outcomes pursued in scholarship.

Not everyone wants to join in on such interactions. Even scholars who concern themselves with North America and the United States have noted an “estrangement” between disciplinarily grounded work and the looser multidisciplinary Americanist approach (Böger 242). Keeping American Studies at a distance from work in the disciplines is not necessarily a consequence of the field’s foundational commitment to social relevance. Nor is alignment with social justice concerns inevitably taken umbrage at. For the German university context, and perhaps for higher education

outside the United States generally, the marked political interests behind the export of the initially US-based field to the wider world of post-World War II are a more likely source. While the functionalization of a formation born out of anti-academism into a means of internationalizing soft power was too internally contradictory to fully succeed in terms of scholarly thinking even at the height of the Cold War, the maneuver certainly accomplished its mission institutionally in terms of centers, study programs, and teaching positions (for an account focused on the Salzburg Seminar, but generalizable in terms of this larger history, see Schmidt). Americanists abroad long lived with that bargain. More to the point of the interest versus disinterest tension under consideration here, enough colleagues acquiesced to the underlying suppositions of the bargain often enough to engender a general distrust that is still prone to flare up when an American Studies initiative appears more political than philological, for instance. Opportunism is the specter that haunts American Studies; and it regularly makes its presence felt when work in the field is critiqued as too interested, overtly topical, or methodologically thin (compare, for example, Wasser's identification of 'principled opportunism' as a fundamental American Studies mode in his recently republished midcentury state-of-the-field essay).

Fair enough. One hardly has to look far in modern history, in German-speaking countries or elsewhere, for cautionary lessons regarding politically motivated and coopted scholarship. Against such a backdrop, the desire to quote Kant on "objective validity" and maintain that ideal as an anchor for methodologies is more than understandable. In fact, a reflected turn to objectivity holds promise for moving humanities inquiry and particularly interdisciplinary and engaged humanities endeavors forward. Historian Lorraine Daston calls objectivity in the Kantian tradition "aperspectival" (600). According to Daston, "aperspectival objectivity" first became a discursive standard not in the natural sciences, as one might suspect, "but rather in the moral and aesthetic philosophy of the latter half of the eighteenth century" (600). The goal was to eliminate individual or group "idiosyncracies" in practices of moral and aesthetic analysis (599). Enlightenment, in this sense, did not only mean the creation of hierarchies and injustices. Epistemologically, it meant finding ways of sharing information and knowledge across lines of difference and particular interests (for a concise precis of Kantian "objective validity" and an orienting sketch of its adaption in the early nineteenth-century establishment of the objective ideal, see Daston and Gallison 30-31). By the end of the twentieth century, objectivity and disinterestedness as the related epistemological ideals of the Enlightenment became the culprit of postmodern politics. The pursuit of knowledge was now a politically and socially situated affair, and differences were 'irreducible' (see Haraway). Against this background, literary and critical theory scholar Satya P. Mohanty revisited objectivity, not in a reactionary attempt to reinstall the false claim of objectivity and disinterestedness as political, ethical, or aesthetic neutrality, but as a "realizable goal" to reduce "the risk of repeating our culture's ideological errors" or "projecting our metaphysical blindnesses" onto the ideal of building a better society (805-06; for an extended discussion of various positions on Mohantyan objectivity, see the 2001 *NLH* special issue *Objectivity in Ethics, Politics, and Aesthetics*).

We revisit these discussions because we think these backgrounds are important for parsing the profound stakes of current higher education debates. Our more specific examples have been drawn from the disciplinary and institutional intersections that we as series editors most often work within. However, such discussions are hardly unique to German American Studies. Our suspicion, bolstered by perusing higher education reporting, is that the constellations and consequences we have outlined are recognizable beyond our own narrower networks (compare, for example, recent developments in Classics, Medieval Studies, and History as recounted by Bartlett, Poser, and Sandkühler, respectively). We are equally sure, however, that our view of the humanities is far too short-sighted if we limit our attention to issues of interest versus disinterest, pro-active distrust, and further discontents of the twentieth- and twenty-first-century academy.

Challenges of Modernity instead holds with the account laid out historically by Paul Reitter and Chad Wellmon in *Permanent Crisis: Humanities in a Disenchanted Age* (2021). Their focus is on the specifically *modern* humanities, as opposed to the classical *artes liberales* or the *studia humanitatis* of the Renaissance. In historical terms, this humanities is roughly continuous with the emergence of the modern research university in the German-speaking territories of Central Europe from the early nineteenth century on. More important than the timeline alone, however, is the intersection with contemporary times constitutive of the modern humanities from this beginning onward. Reitter and Wellmon speak of “the persistent present mindedness and situatedness of intellectuals and scholars who tried to define, defend, and justify something like the humanities” (6). What unites humanities disciplines and moves inquiry within its frameworks forward is, from this perspective, not a narrow method and most certainly not a tradition. Coherence rather comes from a “permanent relationship to the present” (6). Wellmon and Reitter specify: “[T]he *modern* humanities address not disordered desires, unruly passions, or the presence of evil but historical changes: industrialization, new technologies, natural sciences and capitalism” (6, emphasis original). One could hardly ask for a more pertinent initial catalogue of the *Challenges of Modernity* that this publication project aims to engage with moving forward – with the necessary addition of nature, the environment, and climate as objects of study in the humanities.

With the challenges of ‘what’ we would like to analyze in this series very broadly and boldly sketched, the question of ‘how’ to proceed presents itself. Our answer regarding procedure is two-fold, accentuating a second and third dimension of engagement key to the project: *Engaging Teaching and Scholarship* and *Writing as Engagement*.

Connecting teaching with research is, of course, a key element of the modern humanities and the university model we are a part of. Unfortunately, the ‘and’ in such constructions is frequently experienced as a division between teaching as the relentless ‘day job’ versus scholarly research as an all-too-often deferred fantasy of sabbatical isolation and archive-diving bliss. Again, the fantasy feeds on the factual. But there are also notes of ‘woe-is-me’ melodrama that we should be wary of. That said, the principal danger of the ‘research library on a desert island’ dream lies not

so much in delusion, but in distraction. Specifically, our attention is drawn away from the engaging productivity of ‘and’ as a multi-level connector: between teaching informed by ongoing research *and* scholarly inquiry shaped by teaching; the dialogue of established *and* emerging thinkers that ideally carries through from first-semester seminars through graduate training to professional-collegial interaction, and, hardly least, the intersections in thinking in *and* across disciplines as much as in *and* beyond traditional university frameworks. Accordingly, the second understanding of engagement central to our project might be written out as *Engaging Teaching and Scholarship* for reasons of brevity, but the accent should be placed on an expansively engaging ‘and’ that connects teaching and research, creative works in the arts, including but not limited to literature, with scholarship, public debates, and scholarly discussions, and further onward from there.

Humanities scholars are hardly alone in thinking through the challenges of the modern. We are in good company with artists, filmmakers, theater creatives, and others whose thinking efforts we often might even prefer to our own analyses, and for reasons beyond the fact that their work is often our designated object of study. Hard as it might sometimes be to admit after the many years scholars dedicate to disciplinary training, specifically academic modes of thinking are not always the most adequate medium for ‘thinking through’ an issue. In planning academic monographs and articles as much as in plotting traditional lectures, we are instead encouraged (and, in turn, encourage our students) to assert that the thinking has been done because now it is time for an argument to be made. To understand *Writing as Engagement* is to take a more expansive view on when writing connects with thinking: namely, from the very beginning and throughout the intersecting processes of thinking in, through, and with writing. As a further consequence, a wider range of writing forms and modes offer themselves as a means for addressing and thinking through modern challenges. There will always be a place for the monograph and argument-led analysis in scholarly inquiry, but space can be made (again) for the essayistic, the personally inflected, and/or formally experimental in scholarly writing.

As series editors, we are thrilled to begin this endeavor with *Climate Changes Global Perspectives*. We are equally thrilled to be working with Würzburg University Press (WUP): a publisher committed to sustained engagement between teaching and scholarship at the University of Würzburg as well as to expanding dialogue through innovative publishing models. This volume exemplifies the *Engaged Humanities* in grappling with the charged entanglements between environmental crises, challenges of representation, and possibilities of critical analysis and further forms of response. That these explorations began during a two-week international and interdisciplinary symposium in which emerging scholars and established academics learned together and from each other speaks to our aim of *Engaging Teaching with Scholarship* as an element of wider interactions. The texts collected in the book you hold in your hands or read on the screen all speak for themselves in demonstrating *Writing as Engagement*.

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Le Pollueur de la Lagune Zalou

Eldad Sangare

L'on se réveilla avec une odeur nauséabonde et suffocante, ce matin du 10 octobre 1988 à cinq heures. Le quartier paisible de Dadel est embaumé ce jour par une forte puanteur. D'où pouvaient provenir ces effluves diaboliques ? Qui pourrait être derrière cette manœuvre funeste dans le quartier botanique et fluvial de Dan ? Dadel s'interrogea avec beaucoup d'amertume et de consternation. Fils natal du quartier qu'il connaît depuis sa tendre enfance, il se souvient encore de ses sorties en pleine brousse avec les animaux de toutes espèces. La lagune dégageait un parfum féérique et authentique qui ne laissait pas les touristes indifférents, quelle que soit leur nationalité. Il connaissait le nom de chaque plante, animal, insecte et lagune, surtout la lagune Zalou, sa préférée, son amie. Et d'ailleurs, toute cette faune, cette flore et ces lagunes le connaissaient également. C'était l'amour parfait entre Dadel, les végétaux, les animaux, les insectes et la lagune Zalou. Et, ce n'est pas son voisin Zana qui dira le contraire. Comme son ami Dadel, il aimait la nature et l'eau. Et celles-ci l'aimaient également.

En écoutant la radio, les deux amis apprennent que leur lagune adorée a été violée, bafouée et assassinée par des déchets toxiques déversés incognito. C'est au réveil, comme tout le monde, que Dadel et Zana se sont rendu compte que la lagune Zalou a été victime d'une attaque écologique et industrielle. Il s'agissait donc de déchets toxiques déversés dans la belle et paisible lagune du quartier Dan. De là venaient ces exhalations fétides ! L'information se diffusant, la panique s'empara des riverains. Dadel était sous le choc et en pleurs. Choqué par la violence des industriels sur sa lagune, celle qui l'a bercé depuis sa tendre enfance. Il n'avait pas la force de se mouvoir et faillit même perdre connaissance. Il fallut la présence de Zana pour retenir son souffle et le reconforter. Peu de temps après, une troupe d'agents de protection des espaces liquides du quartier Dan, accompagnée de la brigade de protection animale, débarquèrent sur les lieux du crime au grand soulagement de Dadel et de la population.

Les auteurs de troubles, dans leur fuite, avaient laissé un sachet portant le nom d'une des buvettes de la localité. C'était le seul indice rassemblé par les agents de protection des espaces liquides et la brigade de protection animale, trouvé immédiatement sur le lieu du crime. Mais, la désolation était déjà manifeste à Dan. Les dégâts étaient énormes. Soudain, la lagune se couvrait d'une mousse verdâtre due au poison qui y a été déversé. L'on apercevait même des corps de crustacés flottant sur la rive. Non seulement il y eut l'apparition de nombreux symptômes cliniques sur les habitants dans les jours et les mois qui suivirent le déversement de ces déchets toxiques mais l'on dénombra également la mort de plusieurs espèces aquatiques. La plupart des habitants de Dan connurent des troubles respiratoires.

D'autres avaient le corps couvert de pustules. Certains moururent d'AVC. Beaucoup furent traumatisés. Les femmes enceintes payèrent le plus lourd tribut. Car, à leurs accouchements, les enfants avaient soit des malformations soit des troubles respiratoires.

Sidéré et révolté par ce crime odieux, le détective Abybe de la brigade de police écologique de Dan, saisi de la situation, ouvrit une enquête pour tracer, traquer, retrouver et condamner les criminels. Dadel et Zana furent les premiers à être interrogés. Le chef du quartier n'échappa pas à l'interrogatoire ainsi que toute la population de Dan. Dadel mit tout son espoir sur la diligence du détective afin de retrouver et punir ces assassins de l'écologie marine. Car, ils avaient aussi tué les poissons, les crustacés, les algues et tout être aquatique vivant dans la lagune Zalou.

Grâce à l'enquête menée suite à la découverte du sachet sur les lieux du crime, la police écologique parvient à retrouver la buvette qui y était mentionnée. Elle interrogea le responsable de ladite buvette ainsi que sa clientèle. Il était difficile d'incriminer un responsable car, son activité était plutôt nutritive que nocive. Jamais l'on n'y avait signalé un antécédent d'empoisonnement ou d'intoxication d'un quelconque client. C'était une buvette reconnue pour sa qualité hygiénique. Prenant à cœur ce geste écocide dont la lagune Zalou fut victime, le détective Abybe décida de se faire l'un des clients réguliers de la buvette. Lors d'un de ses moments de déjeuner, sur une table assez proche de la sienne, il surprit deux clients planifiant d'évacuer des produits nocifs dans un autre cours d'eau non loin de la lagune Zalou. A leur insu, le détective enregistra leur conversation. Il utilisa donc cette autre preuve pour mettre la main sur ces criminels de la nature. Suite à un interrogatoire très poussé, et aidé par la police scientifique, le détective parvient à démasquer le directeur Zouzou, chef du service technique de la compagnie pétrolière dénommée Oulai. En effet, il avait un mode opératoire ; celui de laisser des indices assez difficiles à rapprocher de sa compagnie. Ce patron de la compagnie pétrolière Oulai, pour évacuer ses déchets nocifs n'hésita pas à polluer la lagune Zalou sans le consentement de la population Dan. A la surprise générale, l'on se rendit compte que Pablo, le chef du quartier de Dan et Bilé le gardien l'y ont aidé, en échange d'une forte somme d'argent. Ils déversèrent ces déchets toxiques entre trois heures et quatre heures du matin sous le regard joyeux et la supervision du gardien de la lagune Zalou. Mais, à la joie des populations, ces auteurs de troubles furent traduits devant les tribunaux grâce à la houlette de la police judiciaire écologique afin de répondre de leurs actes écocides. Ce qui rendit Dadel et Zana très heureux, au-delà de ce dénouement, c'est qu'une équipe de dépollution arriva un matin de l'année 1993 afin de donner un nouveau souffle à la lagune Zalou.

D'ailleurs, toute cette histoire avait changé les mentalités. Lors du procès des criminels, le procureur de la cour pénal en charge du dossier de pollution de la lagune Zalou en profita pour sensibiliser les uns et les autres à l'écologie. Il n'hésita pas à présenter les risques liés à la multiplication des gestes anti-écologiques au sein du quartier. Chacun ressorti du procès avec une grande détermination, celle de veiller à la sauvegarde de l'écosphère pour un monde meilleur. Le Directeur Zouzou fut contraint de verser une amende de quatre milliards de francs CFA aux habitants

de Dan pour y réparer son patrimoine écologique. Le procureur insista également sur le fait que les agences de protection des écosystèmes marins doivent s'investir dans le processus de sauvegarde du milieu aquatique avec plus de rigueur et de probité.

Le détective Abybe fut primé pour sa bravoure, son honnêteté et son professionnalisme dans la façon dont il avait mené les enquêtes dans cette affaire de la pollution de la lagune Zalou. Grâce à lui, la police écologique a obtenu une subvention complémentaire de la part du gouvernement dans le but d'être plus efficace. Dan, riche en ressource halieutique, faunique et floristique, continuait d'attirer les touristes qui reprenaient du service sur la lagune Zalou, faisant la fierté de Dadel et Zana. Les animaux, les insectes, les lagunes et les végétaux sont maintenant en sécurité car Zana se proposa d'être le nouveau gardien de la lagune Zalou. Ce nouvel agent était l'homme qu'il fallait à ce poste car, incorruptible. Le chef Pablo et le gardien Bilé purgeant leur peine en prison furent atteints d'un cancer du poumon dû au produit toxique qu'ils avaient eux-mêmes déversé dans la lagune Zalou sans aucune mesure de protection. Le Directeur Zouzou, l'acteur principal de la pollution fut encore interpellé et condamné à verser une forte somme à la brigade de protection pour les soins de ses deux complices pollueurs. Quelques années après son incarcération, il mourut tragiquement d'une crise cardiaque causée également par les effets nocifs de son acte écocide.

Eldad Sangare est titulaire d'un doctorat en littérature moderne de l'Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny d'Abidjan, en Côte d'Ivoire.

The Polluter of the Zalou Lagoon

Eldad Sangare

Translated by Zoe McNamee

At 5 o'clock that morning, 10 October 1988, they awaken to a sickening, suffocating smell. Dadel's peaceful neighbourhood starts the day submerged in stink. Where can this diabolical reek have come from? Who, in the leafy, waterside district of Dan, could be behind this grim turn of events? Dadel poses these questions with bitterness and consternation. Native son of these streets, which he has known since his tender years, he still remembers his childhood forays into the bush with animals of every species. The otherworldly, yet authentic, scent of the lagoon left no tourist indifferent, whatever their nationality. Dadel knew the name of every plant, animal, insect, and inlet, especially the Zalou lagoon – his favourite, his friend. The fauna, flora, and lagoons knew him too. There existed a perfect love between Dadel, the plants, animals, insects, and the Zalou lagoon. His neighbour, Zana, was of the same mind. Like his friend Dadel, Zana adored nature and water. And they loved him back.

Listening to the radio, the two friends learn that their beloved lagoon has been violated, defiled, and murdered by an anonymous spillage of toxic waste. Upon waking, like everyone else, Dadel and Zana discover that the Zalou lagoon has fallen victim to an ecological and industrial attack. Toxic waste has been poured into the Dan neighbourhood's beautiful, peaceful lagoon. This is the source of those fetid exhalations! As word spreads, panic overtakes the locals. Dadel is shocked and tearful – stunned by the industrialists' violence against his lagoon, cradle of his childhood. He hasn't the strength to move and almost loses consciousness. Only Zana's presence can calm his breathing and comfort him. Shortly afterwards – and to the great relief of Dadel and the residents – a troop of agents from Dan's water protection agency, accompanied by colleagues from the animal protection brigade, arrive at the crime scene.

The wrongdoers, in their flight, had dropped a bag bearing the name of a local café. The only clue collected at the crime scene by the agents of the water protection agency and animal protection brigade, it was found immediately. But the desolation of Dan was already obvious. The damage was immense. The water was soon covered in a greenish scum resulting from the poison poured into the lagoon. One could even spot the shells of crustaceans floating on its banks. And as numerous clinical symptoms appeared among the locals in the days and months following the unloading of the toxic waste, several aquatic species were wiped out altogether. Most of Dan's inhabitants experienced respiratory difficulties. Others became covered in pustules. Some died of strokes. Many were traumatised. Pregnant women paid the highest price. Their newborns entered the world with malformations or breathing problems.

Stunned and revolted by this odious crime, the Dan environmental police's Detective Abybe, assigned to the case, launches an enquiry to trace, track down, and convict the criminals. Dadel and Zana are the first to be interrogated. The local chief doesn't escape a police interview; the rest of Dan's population follows. Dadel pins his hopes on the detective's diligence in finding and punishing these assassins of marine ecology. They had killed every fish, crustacean, and aquatic plant – every underwater species living in the Zalou lagoon.

After focussing their enquiries on the evidence found at the crime scene, the environmental police successfully locate the café advertised on the plastic bag. They interrogate the owner of the establishment, then his clientele. Identifying a culprit here is difficult, as the business's activities prove far more wholesome than harmful. No customer had ever been reported poisoned or intoxicated. The place was famed for its high standards of hygiene. Mindful of the ecocidal act to which the Zalou lagoon had fallen victim, Detective Abybe decided to become a regular patron. One lunchtime, he overheard two clients at a neighbouring table planning to empty toxic products into another body of water not far from the Zalou lagoon. The detective discreetly taped their conversation. He would use this evidence to collar these criminals against nature. Following an in-depth interrogation, and with the help of the scientific police, the detective finally unmasked Director Zouzou, head technician of the oil firm Oulai. His MO had been to maximise profits by skipping out on recycling fees for toxic waste. Oulai's head honcho had no qualms about polluting the Zalou lagoon, obviously without a word of consent from Dan's unsuspecting population. All were surprised to learn that neighbourhood chief Pablo and watchman Bilé had helped, in exchange for a considerable sum of money. They had unloaded the toxic slurry between 3am and 4am under the complicit eye of the Zalou lagoon's own guardian. But to the joy of the populace, the police's tireless pursuit ensured that these miscreants were made to answer for their ecocidal acts in court. Then, one morning in 1993, long after this resolution, Dadel and Zana were thrilled to witness the arrival of a decontamination team. Their mission: to breathe new life into the Zalou lagoon.

This whole sorry tale changed people's mentalities. During the trial, the criminal prosecutor charged with the Zalou pollution case used it as a teaching opportunity. He didn't hesitate to set out the dangers of anti-ecological habits, which had been multiplying within the community. Every citizen came out of the affair determined to protect the ecosphere in order to create a better world. Director Zouzou was forced to pay four billion CFA francs to Dan's inhabitants – the cost of repairing their ecological inheritance. The prosecutor also insisted that the agencies tasked with protecting marine ecosystems had to apply themselves to the task with greater rigour and probity.

Detective Abybe was rewarded for the bravery, honesty, and professionalism of his leadership of the investigation into the Zalou lagoon affair. Thanks to him, the environmental police secured additional government funding aimed at making them more efficient. Dan, rich in fish, fauna, and flora, continued to attract tourists, who returned to the Zalou lagoon, making Dadel and Zana proud. The animals, insects,

water, and plants are safe now; Zana volunteered to be their new guardian. This latest recruit proved just the man for the job: he was incorruptible. Neighbourhood chief Pablo and watchman Bilé were serving their prison sentences when both were diagnosed with lung cancer – the price for pouring toxic products into the Zalou lagoon without precautions. Director Zouzou, the main culprit behind the pollution, was detained and charged a hefty sum by the protection brigade to cover the cost of his accomplices' care. A few years after his incarceration, he would die tragically: from a heart attack, another harmful effect of his ecocidal act.

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WORLD



CHALLENGES OF MODERNITY I

Climate Changes Global Perspectives

brings together creative approaches to representing environmental crises in a globalized world, which originated in an eponymous symposium hosted virtually by the University of Würzburg in August of 2021. This volume, and the unruly texts that claim space here, are written not only to question and challenge standardized patterns of representation, but also to contribute to undisciplining the genres and practices of traditional academic writing by exploring alternative representational form(at)s.

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