

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

This workshop on climate fiction is a cooperation between the M.A. seminars “Dystopian Visions of America” (Kathleen Loock) and “American Ecologies” (Alexander Starre) at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies and the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in Potsdam.

Since the new millennium, a growing canon of dystopian literature and film centers around climate change, natural disasters, and environmental catastrophes. These texts have been labeled “climate change fiction,” “climate fiction,” or short “cli-fi.” Notable examples of North American cli-fi are the novels of Barbara Kingsolver, Paolo Bacigalupi, Margaret Atwood, Nathaniel Rich and others, as well as Hollywood films such as *The Day after Tomorrow*, *Interstellar*, and *Mad Max: Fury Road*. The aim of this workshop is to critically engage with the aesthetics and the cultural work of cli-fi.

INVITED GUESTS

Julia Leyda is an American Studies scholar based at the IASS, where she is working on a project on cli-fi following her research on media representations of extreme weather, most recently in her co-edited collection *Extreme Weather and Global Media* (Routledge, 2015).

Thiago Pinto Barbosa is an anthropologist at the IASS, where he researches environmental awareness and coordinates projects of dialogue between science and arts.

PROGRAM

10:15 Workshop Opening

Speakers:
Kathleen Loock (JFKI), Alexander Starre (JFKI),
Thiago Pinto Barbosa (IASS)

PART I: The Politics and Cultural Work of Cli-Fi

10:30 Keynote Lecture

Julia Leyda, “The Cultural Affordances of Cli-Fi”
Moderator: Thiago Pinto Barbosa

11:00 Discussion

12:00 Catered Lunch

PART II: Contemporary Cli-Fi Films

13:00 Group Presentation 1

***The Day after Tomorrow* (R. Emmerich, 2004)**

Speakers:
Miye Hong Thomé de Moura, Leonie Mainx,
Angelika Reiss, Bahar Senotay, Mara Goldwyn

13:25 Group Presentation 2

***Take Shelter* (Jeff Nichols, 2012)**

Speakers:
Christoph Baer, Karl Imdahl, Astrid Zimmermann,
Matti Kuivalainen, Frantiska Zezulakova
Schormova, Christin Oswald

13:50 Group Presentation 3

***Snowpiercer* (Bong Joon-ho, 2013)**

Speakers:
Samira Franzel, Fatemeh Nourollahy, Yujie Wu,
Jens Langheinrich, Cameron Seglias, Solveig
Raschpichler

14:15 Group Presentation 4

***Interstellar* (Christopher Nolan, 2014)**

Speakers:
Saskia Chelmowski, Jennifer Pechhold, Alexandra
Veronica Vescan, Nils Partha, Saskia Heike

14:40 Group Presentation 5

***Mad Max: Fury Road* (George Miller, 2015)**

Speakers:
Philipp Nagel, Jenny Rossi, Philip Scheidemann,
Eloise Millard, Daniel Sorenson, Emily Taylor,
Fabius Mayland, Timothy Palma, Felicitas
Behrendt

15:05 Final Discussion & Farewell

The event is free and open to the public. If you plan to attend, we ask you to register in advance (alexander.starre@fu-berlin.de).

