

Call for papers

Anthropocene (A)synchronicities, organised by Blake Ewing (Nottingham) and Nicola Thomas (Lancaster), is a widely interdisciplinary conference taking place **on the 10th and 11th April at the University of Nottingham** with the aim of bringing together scholars interested in the Anthropocene and its varied temporal dimensions, especially the (dis)entanglement of different time scales and flows. The conference will be complemented by the development of an ongoing network and a series of funded public engagement events, for which proposals are also invited at this stage.

Scope

The Anthropocene is often thought of as much more than a geologic periodisation: it is also understood as a concept signifying the confluence, entanglement and clashing of different times amidst a rapidly changing climate. It is a concept that contains plural and contested pasts and future horizons, narratives, and varied paces of change and continuity, both natural and human. Politically and ideologically, meanwhile, it is a call for new temporal orientations and priorities – especially as a call to act in consideration of ‘deep time’, or ‘planetary futures’, or the need for ‘post-Anthropocene’ future.

Considering the concept’s temporal plurality, but also the contested nature of ‘Anthropocene times’, **the conference committee welcomes paper panel, and engagement event proposals – from *any discipline* – that address the issue of ‘synchronicity and non-synchronicity’.**

The issue of ‘synchronicity and asynchronicity’, as we see it, speaks to the theme of temporal plurality, but also to the sense of the overlap and often incompatibility between different times and timescales, undermining the descriptive and prescriptive uses to which the Anthropocene concept is often put. If time is ‘out of joint’ – for instance between human times and natural times – does the prioritisation of one or plural ‘Anthropocene time(s)’ sufficiently alleviate the problem? And is this desirable?

Proposals on the conference theme may address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Global South narratives and viewpoints
- (A)synchronicities between different humanities, social science and natural sciences uses of the Anthropocene concept
- Theories of time and language
- The Anthropocene as a political or ideological concept
- The awareness and human uses of phenological time
- Time in objects and design

In parallel, we also invite proposals for public-facing research engagement activities which link to the conference themes. Up to £1000 of funding is available to support these events. Engagement events may take place anywhere in the world, any time before December 2024.

Proposals must be sent to anthropocenetimes2024@gmail.com by the 31st of January. Please include the speaker’s name and institutional affiliation. Speakers from non-academic organisations are welcomed to apply. Proposals for panels (preferably 3 speakers and 1 commentator) and engagement events should not exceed 800 words. Proposals for individual papers should not be longer than 250 words.

The conference is funded by the British Academy and is hosted by University of Nottingham’s Centre for Research into Ideas and the Study of Political Ideologies (CRISPI), a research centre that is part of the University’s School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR).

The conference is free of charge. There is also a limited possibility for financial support for accommodation and travel expenses. We are especially keen to offer dedicated financial support for

scholars travelling from countries in the Global South. If you need funding support, please add this information along with a short justification to your submission.