

**CLIMATE CULTURES NETWORK BERLIN and
VOLKSBÜHNE AM ROSA-LUXEMBURG-PLATZ
present
CLIMATE CULTURES FESTIVAL 2021**

Planet Writes Back!

**27 November
Arctic People/Climate Cultures**

Roter Salon

27 November

Arctic People/Climate Cultures

Mankind is devastating its environment and ultimately destroying the whole of nature. Literarily spoken: We write economical exploitation into the text of the earth and we are paid back in real rates: the greenhouse effect, global warming, desertified continents, acidic oceans, superstorms, heavy rain, and melting ice that leads to rising sea levels. Planet writes back! That's how we see it, as polluters from industrial cultures. But what do others see?

What do the Arctic People see as subjects of particularly exposed climates? Climate change is thawing the soil; iron ore, uranium, rare earths wait to be mined and could finance national independence; the offshore oil claims have already been called for. Climate cultures have many faces, perspectives, languages. But what does shared responsibility for the future look like?

4 panels will address this question and at 18:00, the event will continue in BABYLON with the opening of our photo exhibition and a Greenlandic performance followed by a film program.

All events in the Roter Salon will be translated: English/German or German/English

11:00–11:15 • Introduction and Welcoming Remarks

Panel 1 • 11:15–12:45 • Climate Knowledge bottom up Aqqaluk Lyngge (GL), Mike Hulme (GB) (prerecorded) and Lill Rastad Bjørst (DK). Moderation: Martin Zähringer

Colonial history – climate crisis – change of perspective: Greenland could finance a nation state with the raw materials accessible due to climate change, the CO2-critical world sees this as a continuation down the wrong course. Who is right – and from which perspective? The ethical question of climate cultures using the Arctic as an example.

Panel 2 • 13:30–14:30 • Climate Crisis and Culture Contact Minik Rosing (GL/DK) and Catherine Bush (CA). Moderation: Martin Zähringer

Minik Rosing is a geologist in Denmark who writes memoirs about the lost homeland of Greenland and participates in art actions against climate change. Catherine Bush writes novels and also seeks to forge bridges between art, science, and climate engagement. Two climate activists in conversation.

Panel 3 • 15:00–16:00 • New Nature Writing

Ulrike Draesner (D) and Esther Kinsky (D). Moderation: Gabriele Dürbeck.

Two German poets attempt a poetic turn to the material of the earth of Arctic landscapes, more precisely of the scandalous landscape of the cryosphere. Scandalous because we are causing the planet's icy landscapes to disappear. What is poetry saving here?

Panel 4 • 16:45–18:00 • Shifting Baselines / Climate Change

Harald Welzer (D) and Frederic Hanusch (D). Moderation: Martin Zähringer

A decade ago, Harald Welzer reached only a few with his ClimateCultures. At the time, talk of the planetary also emerged. Do climate cultures have better chances of unfolding in a new space of planetary thinking – or is the climate crisis once again beyond our grasp?

Panel 5 • 18:30–19:00

(move to Babylon. The vernissage of the photo exhibition begins at 18:00 in Babylon „Raw Fabrics - Fine Photos. Scandalous Landscapes“) Jessie Kleemann/Performance

In the evening, Greenlandic-Danish poet and performance artist Jessie Kleemann will stage a performance in memory of two classics of Greenlandic art and literature: Jens Kreutzmann and Aron von Kangeq, both active in the 19th century.

Film program at BABYLON

20:30 *Sila and the Gatekeepers of the Artic* + Q&A with Lill Rastad Bjørst, Jessie Kleemann and Aqqaluk Lyngge. Moderated by Tobias Gralke USA, CH, 2015, R: Corina Gamma, 70 min, OmeU

22:30 Supporting film: *Utuqaq (Ice that Stays Year after Year)* USA, 2021, R: Iva Radivojevic, 27 min, OmeU Introduction: Tobias Gralke *Qapirangajuq: Inuit Knowledge and Climate Change* CA, 2010, R: Zacharias Kunuk and Ian Mauro, 56 min, OmeU



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**28 November
Petrocultures/Oil modernity**

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Petrocultures/Oil modernity

The industrially developed countries of this world have facilitated a tremendous acceleration of technical development in the last 150 years. The megamotor was powered by oil, gas, and coal. This carbon burned in a few seconds in the history of earth now leaves us with a fat bill. The CO2 costs are so high that many prefer to deny the facts rather than pull the emergency brake. Especially those who earn money from it. And there are many of them, and they earn a lot. Because essentially everything that industrial culture is built on and consists of is coal, oil, or gas.

This universal product line of capitalism leads us directly to a symbolic avant-garde of critique. It is a critique of the oil era in 5 panels: in theories and stories, in films and photos, in dramas and documentaries, and not to forget in a film program starting at 18:30 in BABYLON.

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Panel 6 • 10:00–11:15 • PIPELINE STORIES – Oil, Landscapes, Climate Change

Imre Szeman (CA), James Marriott (GB) (via video) and Rena Effendi (TUR). Moderation: Dariya Manova

The global oil industry has consistently offered local promises: Jobs, infrastructure boost, prosperity. The construction of the Baku-Tbilisi pipeline proved otherwise: the false promise of oil modernity is unmasked in literary reportage and engaging art photography.

Panel 7 • 12:00–13:30 • Oil, Art, and Propaganda

J. Henry Fair (US), Helon Habila (US), James Marriott (GB) (via video). Moderation: Dariya Manova

Photographed from far above, the scandalous landscapes of extractivism yield beautiful compositions. In the process, aesthetic deception denounces the business of deception and propaganda. So claim photographers. Literature strikes more directly; Helon Habila's oil novel about Nigeria is still one of the most incisive there is.

Panel 8 • 14:15–15:45 • The Petromodern(s) – a Retrospective

Alexander Klose (D), Benjamin Steininger (D/AT).

Benjamin Steininger and Alexander Klose talk about central aspects and projects of their curatorial exploration of petromodernity in three chapters (I Probe, II Refinery, III Oilman) as part of a multimedia „Petrorevue“. Video screens are accompanied with readings of text passages from the Petroleum Atlas by actors.

Panel 9 • 16:30–18:00 • Petrofiction/Petrofeminities

Georgiana Banita (D), Lukas Bärfuss (CH), Katharina Hagen (D). Moderation: Florian Auerochs

The world of oil is man's sphere of power. How do women figure in? This panel investigates this question by way of the drama „Oil“ by Lukas Bärfuss, in which the battle of the sexes is set against the backdrop of the quest for raw materials, and in Katharina Hagen's novel, which takes us to the Athabasca tar sands. A conversation about the feminist challenge of „petroculture.“

Film program at BABYLON

- 18:30 *Big Men*
+ Q&A with Rachel Boynton and Helon Habila
Moderation: Tobias Gralke
UK, DK, USA, 2013, R: Rachel Boynton, 99 min, OmeU
- 21:00 Supporting film: *Leave it in the Ground*
AT, NO, 2013, R: Oliver Ressler, 18 min, OmU
Introduction: Tobias Gralke
Petropolis: Aerial Perspectives on the Alberta Tar Sands
CA, 2009, R: Peter Mettler, 43 min



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**29 November
Climate Fiction/Science Fiction**

Roter Salon

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Climate Fiction/Science Fiction

Science fiction and climate fiction are labels that don't necessarily make the concepts easier to grasp for readers, but rather simplify marketing for publishers. No matter how it's labeled, literature as such has had its eye on the climate crisis for a long time. And so has the climate film industry, which sometimes produces pointed climate fiction:

In *Snowpiercer* (to be shown at 20:00 at Babylon), a mile-long express train races non-stop around the frostbitten earth. Designed by the world's last capitalist, the world's last proletarians are kept at the very end of the train and served artificial protein bars while the elite feast in the front. Tension arises when a revolution is planned in the back of the train.

The revolution has an even darker context – apart from the general misery – and the film exemplifies it in its own way: Thematically and dramaturgically, science fiction and climate fiction currently offer the most daring narratives of climate cultures. We bring you samples from Canada, China, the United States, and Korea.

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Panel 10 • 14:00–15:00 • Apocalypse No!
Catherine Bush (CA), Waubgeshig Rice (CA) (via video).
Moderation: Sieglinde Geisel

Two novels from subarctic Canada show the range of climate fiction. Catherine Bush transforms the tragic constellation of Shakespeare's „*Tempest*“ into a prose drama about a climate scientist. Waubgeshig Rice, by contrast, builds on the principle of the suspense novel and writes a collective drama of an indigenous village. Electricity and the internet are failing, but this is by no means an apocalypse if one knows the basic laws of coexistence.

Panel 11 • 15:45–17:15 • Science Fiction from China
Chen Qiufan (CN), Han Song (CN), Mingwei Song (US), Regina Kanyu Wang (CN) (completely prerecorded).
Moderation: Kapsel-Magazin

Although the participants from China are unable to attend, the form of their presentation is particularly dialogue-oriented. In several video conversations, they exchange ideas about the concrete content of their science fiction, which, like everywhere else in the world, is meant to grapple with the ecological crisis, climate change, and technological hubris.

Panel 12 • 18:00–19:30 • Kim Stanley Robinson
Kim Stanley Robinson (US) (video interview). Thekla Dannenberg (D) and Elisabeth Bösl (D) in conversation.

With regard to the climate crisis, Kim Stanley Robinson is the most important science fiction author of our time. He never settles for dystopian scenarios or gloomy forecasts; his revolutionary excursions into the not-so-distant future translate ecological reason into political-economic alternatives – this, too, in the spirit of science.

Film program at BABYLON

20:00 *Snowpiercer*
KOR, USA, FR, CZE, 2013, R: Bong Joon Ho with Chris Ewans, Jamie Bell, Tilda Swinton, 126 min, OmU

23:00 Introduction: Tobias Gralke
Lessons of Darkness [Lektionen in Finsternis]
FR, UK, DE, 1992, R: Werner Herzog, 52 min, DF



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