

**Wednesday, December 11**

Keynote lecture at 18:00

Keith Mako Woodhouse (Northwestern)

Ecoterrorism at the Gate: The Recent History of an Idea

Ecoterrorism is an ambiguous and amorphous term, and this talk will try to identify three overlapping phases of its recent history. First, from the 1960s to the early 1990s, during which terms like “environmental terrorism” and “ecocide” referred primarily to the actions of states during times of war. Second, from the 1970s to the early 2000s, during which “ecoterrorism” came to connote activism pursued in defense of the natural world. Third, from the 2000s to the present, during which ecoterrorism was increasingly associated with climate change. Across these decades the idea of ecoterrorism was shaped not only by policy and activism but also by literature and film, and it shifted in terms of direction (who was doing what against whom or what?) and in terms of meaning (what does “terrorism” mean, and, just as crucially, what does “eco” mean?).

Keith Woodhouse is an associate professor of history at Northwestern University and the author of *The Ecocentrists: A History of Radical Environmentalism*. He directs the Environmental Policy and Culture Program as well as the Environment, Culture, and Society graduate cluster.

The keynote is followed by a reception.

The conference is free and open to the public. All are welcome!

<https://islk.kuwi.tu-dortmund.de/ecoterrorism/>

Conference venue:

Internationales Begegnungszentrum (IBZ)  
Emil-Figge-Straße 59, 44227 Dortmund

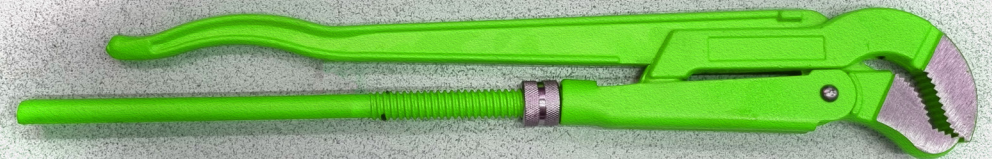
Conference organizers:

the American Studies team at TU Dortmund

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# Ecoterrorism in Anglophone Media



## Conference Program

**TU Dortmund University/December 11-13, 2024**

## Thursday, December 12

9:00 Sylvia Mayer (Bayreuth): On the Radicalization of Environmental Activism: A US-American Literary Profile

coffee break

10:00 Madeline Becker (Rostock): (Re-)Thinking Urban Mobility Infrastructures through their Disruption by Environmental Protest Groups

10:30 Roman Meinhold (Salaya): Seek and Destroy: The Mediation of Symbolic Destruction- An Aesthetic Assessment of Ecotage in Anglophone Media

11:00 Aylin Walder (Cologne): Eco-Terror as Violence against Non-Human Nature and Indigeneity: Fantastic Reflections on the Terracene and Chthulucene in *Avatar* (2009), *Avatar: The Way of Water* (2022) and *Game of Thrones* (2011-2019)

lunch break

13:00 Christian Quendler (Innsbruck): Interventions and Reinventions of Ecoterrorism in US Film Culture

coffee break

14:00 Mark Schmitt (Berlin): "Can God Forgive Us for What We Have Done to His World?" Ecoterrorism, Ahuman Aesthetics and Transcendence in Paul Schrader's *First Reformed*

14:30 Hamid Masfour (Beni Mellal): Representing Ecoterrorism in Hollywood Movies: The Cases of *The East* (2013) and *Night Moves* (2013)

15:00 Dele Maxwell Ugwanyi (Enugu): Ecoterrorism: Cinematic Representation of the Environment in Nollywood Films

coffee break

16:00 Rüdiger Heinze (Braunschweig): Nature Strikes Back: Ecological Terrorism in Fiction & Film

16:30 Gianluca Calio (Frankfurt): "None of them knows about floods or anything about the rivers:" Monstrous Ecoterrorism in Michael McDowell's *The Flood* and *The Levee*

## Friday, December 13

9:00 Moritz Ingwersen & Anja H. Lind (Dresden): From Ecoterrorism to Ecotopia – Radical World-Making in North American Speculative Fiction

coffee break

10:00 James Hastings (UC Louvain): The Ambiguous Ethics of Ecotage in Kim Stanley Robinson's *Antarctica* (1997)

10:30 Sarah Marak (Erlangen): "Eco-terrorism," Post-9/11: Speculation, the Green Scare, and Michael Crichton's *State of Fear*

11:00 Una López-Caparrós Jungmann (Cologne): Elemental Ecoterrorism in Louise Erdrich's *Tracks*: Human–Non-Human Collaboration in Environmental Violence

lunch break

13:00 Daniel Stein (Siegen): The Pop Aesthetics and Serial Politics of Comic Book Environmentalism; or, Is Ra's al Ghul an Ecoterrorist?

coffee break

14:00 Christian Lenz (Dortmund): Green Rising: Terror(ism) of the Other

14:30 Alexandra Galley (Cologne): From Captain Planet to Thanos the Destroyer: Tracing a Hostile Shift Towards Environmental Activism in American Superhero Media

coffee break

15:00 Natalie Zwätz (Konstanz): "Graves at my command" – Atmoterrorism in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*

15:30 Adrian Döring (Würzburg): Their Machines Will Rust: The Grammar of Ecopolitical Violence in Blackened Crust

16:00 wrap-up