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Candidate: Sinead McKinlay

School: School of Global, Urban and Social Studies

Presentation: Second Milestone Review

Title: Ordinary Australian's sense-making of the anthropocene world

Abstract:

In response to the ecological crisis, sustainable transformation seeks to alter how humans interact with their environment fundamentally. Additionally, as the proposed Anthropocene increasingly acts upon people, how they respond or make sense of the epoch is tethered to their relationship with the material environment. This project aims to understand how ordinary Australians make sense of the Anthropocene via their relationship with the environment. In understanding the fundamentals of this relationship, pathways to sustainable transformation for Australian voters may be identified. The first study conducted three focus groups that elicited participants' self-reports of their relationship with the environment. Early results indicate that participants struggle to articulate the relationship yet draw upon experiences and connections to construct normative pathways to address the ecological crisis. Furthermore, the analysis reveals that focus group discussions largely neglected the non-human. A second study will undertake ten to fifteen object elicitation interviews to probe participants' relationship with the environment further and attend to the role of the material world.



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