

Fragile Environments and Emergent Vulnerabilities in the Age of Capitalocene

We invite you to submit abstracts for the upcoming special issue of *Svetovi / Words* titled “**Fragile Environments and Emergent Vulnerabilities in the Age of Capitalocene**” (tentative title) (eds. Nežka Struc & Sandi Abram).

In this issue we seek to thematize and explore intersections as well as disentanglement between environmental fragility and vulnerabilities that emerge in the lives of (more-than-)human beings. In the era of Capitalocene (Moore 2017; 2018) when contemporary climate change ebbs and flows across the Earth as heatwaves, droughts, wildfires, severe storms, floods, and air pollution and crises become part of everyday lives (Fassin 2012, Podjed 2024), the once reassuring narrative about the world, as Domínguez Rubio (2025) writes, is all but gone: “ontological security” is giving way to “a sense of ontological fragility, [...] a fragility that is felt as the inescapable condition of life on this planet”. One condition shared, albeit unequally, across plural worlds.

If this horizon of planetary fragilities might index global “capitalogenic flows” (Lawson 2025), where ceaseless accumulation of capital depends on the production of “systemic harm to socio-ecological infrastructure” (Wojnarowski 2025: 3) in particular contexts, then vulnerability names the conditions through which those harms are inscribed in bodies, landscapes and multispecies “lifeworlds” (Ingold 2000) - as feelings, affects and lived experiences.

What remains, in many places, are debilitated bodies and damaged environments, where “debility” (Levine 2025, Mohamed 2023, Puar 2017) – injury and exclusion produced by economic and political forces – disrupts the category of disability as not something that is inscribed into lives, but created by violent social arrangements. It describes the ongoing conditions of exposure, and damaged environments in which (more-than-)human beings must continue to live.

The issue addresses, but is not limited to, the following topics of interest:

Temporalities

- How crises shape the temporalities of environments and beings?
- What are the possible relations between sudden disruptions and “slow violence” (Nixon 2011)?

Ontological insecurities

- What are the reasons behind situated or planetary unevenness in the time of Capitalocene?
- How to (re)frame concepts as vulnerability, fragility, disability and debility in the context of an insecure world?

Care, repair, politics

- What are the connections between building and/or providing infrastructures of care, repair and resilience and political mobilizations in demanding environmental justice and accountabilities?
- Which forms of commoning, subversion and refusal disrupt capitalogenic flows?

Methodologies

- In the above contexts, what are the methodological challenges in a more-than-human world?
- What research methods can provide insight into fragile environments and emergent vulnerabilities?
- How can the following approaches reveal and address the fragilities and vulnerabilities in Capitalocene: sensory ethnography; walking-with methodologies; multispecies ethnography; collaborative and multimodal designs; participatory and militant ethnography; atmospheric methods; critical decolonial, queer, feminist, crip and debility approaches.

Proposed timeline:

- 6 March 2026: deadline for abstracts
- 1 August 2026: manuscript submission deadline
- October 2026: peer reviews
- July 2027: publication

For submission please visit our registration page: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/X6k3tWBQR4> .

Notifications of acceptance will be sent by 10 March January 2026.

About the editors

Nežka Struc is an assistant researcher at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. In her anthropological research, she focuses on themes of community, solidarity economies, and non-hierarchical modes of everyday life. She is currently involved in Sonar-Cities, a Horizon Europe project, that aims to enhance the resilience of European cities in the face of health emergencies and disasters. She is also a poet, who explores sonic, visual, and spatial interpretation of poetry, creating various performances.

Sandi Abram is a cultural anthropologist at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana. His research draws on sensory anthropology, walking methodologies, as well as digital, collaborative, and multimodal ethnography to explore how people experience and shape their environments. Areas of interest: sensory-affective transformations, environmental anthropology, the anthropology of the Alps, and multispecies ethnography. He is part of the Chanse-funded research project DigiFREN: Digital Aestheticization of Fragile Environments.

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Background: artwork by Tomás Saraceno (photo Bruno Cordioli)