

The Nonhuman Turn & Speculative Literature: Becoming the Chthulucene

This review of literature will consider how the *nonhuman turn* operates with speculative literature to decenter the human as an isolated actor and, simultaneously, to reposition the human as part of a larger biopolitical network. The nonhuman turn is composed of a myriad of late-twentieth and early twenty-first century theoretical and philosophical developments that frequently reference speculative literature to demonstrate their concepts. The link between nonhuman theories and speculative literature is fitting; literature that is *speculative*, while a debated term historically, is generally defined as literature that resists the dominant consensus-reality. The nonhuman turn seeks to move away from both human-centered narratives and a social constructivist framework and finds strange bedfellows with the robots, shapeshifters, and reality-benders of speculative works. As the nonhuman turn is a large body of theoretical and methodical approaches, I will focus my review here on the major critiques of speciesism in the field (as discussed by the field's founder, Richard Grusin) and how the nonhuman turn is informed by both postcolonial and feminist studies. To demonstrate these nonhuman concepts, I will, as many nonhuman scholars have done before me, use examples from speculative literature to de/re/imagine an allied multispecies future, past, and present world.

Richard Grusin in *The Nonhuman Turn* (2015) coined the term “nonhuman turn” to name and discuss many theoretical approaches that move away from the emphasis of the human as dominant and turn (not instead, but *together*) toward the concern for the nonhuman. Grusin traces the nonhuman turn to a variety of different schools of thought, including (but not limited to) *animal (or species) studies*, *actor-network theory*, *assemblage theory*, among others. These developments “turn toward and [show] concern for the nonhuman” (vii)...

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