

## Journal of Sustainability Studies

### Call for Submissions

Deadline: July 31, 2018

Dear Students,

We invite you to submit articles, posters, photo essays, and creative pieces to a special issue of UNA's peer-reviewed Journal of Sustainability Studies. This issue, Our Dying Earth: Proceedings from the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Alabama Regional Graduate Conference, will be edited by Cheryl Blake Price and Katie Owens-Murphy and will include papers recently presented at the conference.

We also welcome new submissions from those who did not participate in the conference but fit our theme, "Our Dying Earth." A description of the conference call for papers is included below.

Please visit <https://ir.una.edu/sustainabilityjournal/> and click the "submit article" link in the left sidebar.

Contact Dr. Katie Owens-Murphy ([kowensmurphy@una.edu](mailto:kowensmurphy@una.edu)) if you have any questions.

### Our Dying Earth: A Journey through Ecocriticism

"Do not go gentle into that good night; Old age should burn and rave at close of day.

Rage, rage against the dying of the light." – Dylan Thomas

Our world is in decline. Rising sea levels, temperatures, deteriorating O-Zone layer, deforestation, pollution... Despite the sins of our past, of comfort and naivety, each require human attention going forward. Science is clear: we need to protect our home, lest it deteriorate like the imagined world of Christopher Nolan's *Interstellar*. But how to communicate this problem in a culture that has politicized Climate Change? Science shares truths, humanities explains the morality behind the truths. Culture has to hear scientific truths with the caveat of what they *ought* to do to keep the world intact.

Thus, from the pastoral landscapes of William Wordsworth and John Keats to the documentary "An Inconvenient Truth", ecocritical studies are a popular and passionate topic that involve many aspects of today's popular culture. At its basic level, nature can be represented as the natural world around us, and the physical world in which we inhabit. It can also be defined as the basic or inherent features of something. Literature, television, film, theatre, and scientific writings have sought to enlighten the world of the "nature" of things. By exploring ecology through a variety of lenses, "nature" becomes a more fluid concept, and we are able to see the world in broader terms. This is an interdisciplinary conference in the truest sense. Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Former Graduate Students (within the previous 3 years) are welcome to submit work for the conference.

The University of North Alabama's Department of English invites papers which investigate any aspect of ecocritical or nature themes in Science-Fiction, other literature, philosophy, meteorology, helio-physics, astrophysics, history, sustainability studies, geology, etc. All forms of research and writing about the subject of Ecocriticism or Climate Change are on the table. For example, topics might include analyses of works that incorporate themes related to environmental narratives, racial studies, globalization, philosophy of ecocriticism, research in the field, etc. We solicit submissions that focus on various types of texts, from canonical works to contemporary or nontraditional texts or media, scientific papers, etc. As for creative works, we recommend short fiction, creative nonfiction, or poetry that explores the popular themes of nature and ecology in its myriad manifestations.

Possible topics, foci, or texts many include (but are not limited to):

Atmospheric Science

Science-Fiction

Geology

Helio-Physics

Astrophysics

Computer Science

Sustainability Studies

Climate Change

The Oceanic Turn

Science Literacy

Post-colonialism

Ecofeminism

Philosophy

Deconstructionism

Gender studies

Nontraditional texts

Ecology

Romantic/Victorian literature

Race theory

Nature writings

Globalization

Regionalism

Film and television

Culture/nature

Sociology

Psychology