

EDITORIAL

This issue of *Literary Cultures* explores land as a literary theme in modern and contemporary works. The issue specifically focuses on literature wherein land may be interpreted as vulnerable or under threat. Every article has a unique perspective on the relationship between humans and land, the sometimes volatile aspect of this relationship and its textual representations. The aim of this issue is to encourage a nuanced conversation about how land is altered and affected by human behavior, and the way colonialism, industrialism, and socio-political structures have impacted our understanding of land. The issue will offer a unique way of looking at issues like climate change, rapid urbanization and the loss of land, by contextualizing them through the lens of race, warfare and economic and social disparities.

A focus on contemporary works was favored in order to more closely analyze post-colonial literary representations of land. Colonialism led to the destruction of the natural resources of several countries, the disruption of indigenous cultural practices, and irreparable damage to the environment and the relationship the populations of the subjected nations had with their land. The articles in this issue assess this negative impact in modern writing, exploring the conflicted relationship between land and its inhabitants and the lasting, destructive impact of colonization.

The first article by Molly Bale analyses poems by Sylvia Stults, Matthew Olzmann and Joshua Isham, exploring poetic representations of land and climate change. The article observes human beings and their relationship with land, and the impact climate change has inevitably had on it.

The second Article by George Bradford discusses *The Trouser People* by Andrew Marshall, exploring the lasting detrimental impact of British colonialism on Burma's (Myanmar) Ecosystem, population and economy. The article shines light on the vulnerable eco-system of Myanmar, and the role of imperialism and warfare in its deterioration.

The third article by Reid Carmichael discusses Dan Trachtenberg's *Prey*, a science fiction film centering an Indigenous story with Indigenous characters. The article explores the analogy of the predator and the prey to navigate colonial constructs and the impact of imperialism on land and the environment.

The fourth article by Rebecca Dick argues the effectiveness of climate fiction in encouraging conversation around climate change and our relationship with land. It emphasizes the importance and influence of media and the benefits of wide-spread knowledge through the medium of fiction.

The fifth article by Harneet Dhindsa discusses a poem by Tawahum Bige. The article talks about the Kinder Morgan Pipeline and the restrictions placed on indigenous peoples, preventing them from practicing their traditions. The article emphasizes the importance of the Indigenous relationship with land. It highlights the active oppression of Indigenous rights being disguised as a climate change effort, and the hypocrisy of these actions.

The sixth article by Henna Khan discusses Saadat Hasan Manto's short stories, and explores the partition of India and Pakistan. The partition, a direct consequence of British colonialism in the Indian sub-continent, heavily impacted the populations ideas of culture, religion and identity. The article touches on the psychological impact of the partition, and explores how this division of land led to a subsequent division of its inhabitants.

The seventh article by Ilinca Moraru discusses the impact of colonialism on Indigenous lands and resources. The article explores the effect imperialist practices have had on native land,

and the economical, environmental and social consequences of years of destruction and harm to natural resources.

The eighth article by Ashley Pocrnich brings attention to how western-controlled narratives about climate change and climate action have often wrongly implicated Indigenous peoples, rather than allowing for policies that tackle climate change within the context of colonial structures. Using an analogy by Dr. Kyle Whyte, the article argues that Indigenous relationships with land cannot be conflated with western narratives. The article highlights the various forms of environmental action already being taken by Indigenous populations, and the dismissive and exclusive nature of policies being implemented by national and international bodies.

The ninth article by Rebecca Rees poses an interesting question, discussing whether the Cli-fi (Climate Fiction) genre may serve as a medium of learning and engagement with climate change and global warming. The article discusses two fictional works, *Implanted* by Lauren C. Tefreau and *The Myth of Rain* by Seanan McGuire. The article argues in favor of books that are not traditionally academic as being effective tools to encourage and facilitate an interest in climate action and environmental conservation.

The final article by Veronika Vermes discusses the practice of cultural burning in Indigenous communities, and the denial of this practice to many communities in British Columbia. The article emphasizes the importance of these traditions and the necessity for wide-spread information and knowledge to combat unfair policies.

This issue was worked on meticulously by the contributing writers and the editorial teams. Moreover, the Social Media and Marketing team, Conference team, Human Resources and Project Management team and the International Liaisons team worked immensely hard to

make this issue a success. The cover of this issue was designed by Ellie Morrin of the Social Media and Marketing team.

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Editor-in-Chief