

**Writing with Undisciplined Discipline: A Writing Workshop with
Environmental Humanities
26-27 January 2017**

**Call for Applications
Deadline: December 19, 2016**

KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory at the Division of History of Science, Technology and
Environment
TEMA - Department of Thematic Studies at Linköping University
Funded by Seed Box, a Mistra-Formas Environmental Humanities Collaboratory

We invite scholars, artists and activists to participate in this two-day experimental writing workshop. Using environmental humanities (EH), we seek to undiscipline and de-institutionalise modes and means of research-writing practice through sharing techniques and tools for both playing with words and writing for the joy of it. This workshop aims to support early stage scholars to write differently and sensitively in response to the need for new forms of engagement and expression called forth by the often destructive, at times regenerative, complexities of human-non-human entanglements within the anthro/capitalocene.

Writing forms a central part of academic as well as working, artistic, and activist lives. But we can get stuck in certain patterns and techniques of writing that do not help our words, nor our worlds, come alive. EH seeks to engage with human environmental relationships by rubbing different disciplines and practices together to see what exciting ways of seeing, sensing, and knowing those relationships might produce. As researchers-artists-activists ourselves, and working within this emerging framework, we share a commitment to and interest in experimental, creative, and more accountable forms of writing that can narrate and even make liveable worlds.

But how to write EH? During this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to supportively give feedback on one another's work from the perspective of EH. Together we hope to reflect on and test out alternative kinds and forms of sensing, writing and authorship that are required, or are possible, within this space, through collaborative trial and error. Donna Haraway's (1991) plea for 'cyborg writing' taking the 'fraught world' as a starting point, J. K. Gibson-Graham's (2008) invitation to view 'thinking and writing as productive ontological interventions' in world-making, and Rob Nixon's (2010) call for narratives that attend to 'slow violence' ask us to re-think how writing can participate in *right-ing*, understood as innovative actions (Rose et al. 2015). Through testing out techniques, we also aim to widen and re-imagine the forms of contestation, resistance and affirmation in everyday life through EH-informed ways of storytelling.

Writing doesn't have to be 'done' through idiosyncratic disciplinary self-taught practices—often in agonized silence or frenzied lone activity. It can be collaborative, open, and experimental. We believe that sharing techniques, tools,

and resources for working in a creative—rather than capitalistic—process as part of a network of support is much needed. EH and feminist calls for a ‘slow scholarship’ (Bergthaller et al. 2014; Mountz et al. 2015; Rose 2013) prompt reflection on how the pace of things can be crafted to our own rhythms. Thus, we also invite participants to share and trial tools together for ‘getting writing done’ and having fun in the process!

Workshop Program:

Unlike workshops composed of presentations and followed by comments on each other’s papers, this workshop is practice-oriented. During the workshop, each morning will be spent discussing the participants’ writing in four working groups to enable closer readings, discussions, and collaborations. The afternoons will be dedicated to developing EH writing techniques and *doing* them and will run like panel sessions but with exercises rather than presentations. The workshop will either take place in Stockholm, Sweden or in the nearby area. Most expenses for food and accommodation will be covered for all participants during the two-day workshop.

To Apply:

Please send a writing sample (max. 1000 words—messy, half-baked, unfinished writing is welcome) as a .doc or .docx attachment to ehlab@abe.kth.se no later than December 19, 2016. Use as your email subject “Undisciplined Discipline Submission” and include in the email body a short statement (100 words) about ways you want to develop your writing in an EH context and a short bio. In addition, since this workshop is designed to be co-produced and co-led, we highly recommend and will prioritize applications that also provide a brief proposal to guide a participatory activity about a writing technique or a writing productivity tool with the group (30-60 min. sessions). Include this short proposal in your email or upload as a second attachment. Finally, indicate whether you wish to apply for a travel scholarship. Those without university or third-party funding will receive priority.

The workshop initially seeks to develop a Swedish EH network through writing practice and sharing. We therefore encourage applicants living and working within Sweden to apply but will consider applicants that live outside Sweden or those that do not recognize geopolitical boundaries. We especially welcome applications from people of colour and/or indigenous people, ethnic minorities, trans and non-binary people and participants with disabilities. If you have any special needs or requirements please let the organisers know and we will do our best to accommodate them.

Workshop space is limited to approximately 25 participants. The working language of the workshop will be English.