

the great derangement

the great derangement is a term that has gained significant traction in discussions about climate change, environmental awareness, and the broader societal response to ecological crises. This article provides an in-depth exploration of the concept, its origins, cultural significance, and how it reshapes our understanding of literature, politics, and the environment. We will examine the key arguments presented in Amitav Ghosh's influential work, analyze the impact on global societies, and discuss the responses from various sectors. Whether you are a student, educator, or concerned citizen, this article offers a comprehensive guide to understanding the great derangement and why it matters today. Stay engaged as we delve into its literary roots, societal implications, and the ongoing global discourse it inspires.

- Understanding the Great Derangement: Definition and Origins
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Understanding the Great Derangement: Definition and Origins

The term "the great derangement" refers to the collective failure of societies, especially in modern times, to adequately respond to the escalating threats posed by climate change and environmental degradation. It highlights a disconnect between knowledge and action—a phenomenon where the magnitude of the crisis is acknowledged but not met with proportionate change in behavior or policy. The phrase was popularized by Indian author Amitav Ghosh in his 2016 book, which critiques the inability of contemporary culture, particularly literature, to grapple with the realities of a rapidly transforming planet. The origins of the term also nod to the psychological and social dimensions of denial and inaction, suggesting that societies are in a state of collective delusion regarding environmental risks. By tracing the roots of this concept, we gain insight into how deeply embedded the issue is in the structures of modern civilization.

Key Themes in "The Great Derangement" by Amitav Ghosh

Amitav Ghosh's "The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable" is a seminal work that explores the intersections of literature, history, and environmental crisis. The book is structured around several central themes that challenge readers to reconsider how climate change is represented and understood.

Literary Silence on Climate Change

One of the primary arguments Ghosh makes is that modern literature, especially the novel, has largely ignored or minimized the realities of climate change. The narrative conventions of the realist novel, he argues, are ill-suited to depicting the unpredictability and scale of environmental disasters. This literary silence contributes to the broader societal reluctance to confront the climate crisis head-on.

Colonialism and Environmental Degradation

Ghosh also investigates the historical links between colonial expansion, industrialization, and ecological destruction. He asserts that colonialism's quest for resource extraction and control set the stage for the environmental challenges we face today. This theme ties the great derangement to broader patterns of exploitation and inequality.

The Limits of Imagination

Another key theme is the failure of imagination in both public discourse and cultural production. Ghosh suggests that the inability to imagine catastrophic, non-linear events has left humanity unprepared for the realities of climate change, making the great derangement as much a crisis of narrative as of policy or science.

Cultural and Societal Implications of the Great Derangement

The great derangement extends beyond literature into the wider cultural and social fabric. It reflects how institutions, belief systems, and everyday practices can hinder meaningful responses to environmental threats. Societies often prioritize short-term gains over long-term survival, reinforcing behaviors that contribute to ecological harm.

Societal Denial and Inertia

Many communities exhibit a form of collective denial, choosing to downplay or ignore the severity of climate risks. This inertia is reinforced by economic interests, political polarization, and media narratives that frame climate change as distant or abstract.

Impacts on Vulnerable Populations

The effects of the great derangement are not distributed equally. Marginalized and vulnerable groups often bear the brunt of climate impacts, from displacement due to rising sea levels to health consequences from pollution. This highlights the ethical dimensions of climate inaction.

- Displacement of coastal communities
- Increased frequency of extreme weather events
- Food insecurity and resource scarcity
- Health risks from pollution and heatwaves

The Role of Literature and Art in Addressing Climate Change

Literature and the arts have a unique capacity to shape public consciousness and challenge dominant narratives. Addressing the great derangement requires expanding the boundaries of storytelling to include the unpredictability and scale of climate events. New genres such as climate fiction ("cli-fi") are emerging to fill this gap, offering imaginative responses to environmental crises.

Climate Fiction and New Narratives

Climate fiction explores potential futures shaped by environmental change, encouraging readers to envision the consequences of inaction. By foregrounding ecological themes, these works foster empathy, awareness, and a sense of urgency that traditional literature may lack.

The Power of Visual and Performing Arts

Visual and performing arts also play a crucial role in addressing the great derangement. Through exhibitions, installations, and performances, artists dramatize the impacts of climate change, making

abstract threats tangible and immediate for audiences around the world.

Political and Economic Perspectives

The great derangement is deeply intertwined with political and economic systems. Policy decisions, corporate practices, and market forces all influence how societies respond to climate change. Addressing the crisis requires transformative shifts at both the policy and systemic levels.

Challenges in Policy and Governance

Governments face significant obstacles in developing and implementing effective climate policies. Political polarization, economic interests, and lobbying by powerful industries often stall or dilute regulatory efforts, perpetuating the conditions of the great derangement.

Economic Drivers of Environmental Degradation

Global capitalism and the pursuit of endless growth are major drivers of resource depletion and pollution. The great derangement calls into question the sustainability of current economic models and underscores the need for green innovation, sustainable development, and equitable resource distribution.

Responses to the Great Derangement: Global Movements and Solutions

Despite the challenges, there are numerous responses emerging worldwide to confront the great derangement. From grassroots activism to international agreements, these efforts represent a growing recognition of the urgent need for change.

Grassroots Activism and Social Movements

Movements such as Fridays for Future, Extinction Rebellion, and indigenous environmental campaigns are mobilizing communities and raising awareness about the climate crisis. These initiatives challenge political and corporate inaction and advocate for justice, adaptation, and resilience.

International Agreements and Policy Initiatives

Multilateral efforts like the Paris Agreement signal a willingness among nations to coordinate responses to climate change. While progress has been uneven, these frameworks provide a foundation for regulatory action and cooperation on emissions reduction, adaptation, and sustainable development.

Technological Innovation and Sustainable Practices

Advances in renewable energy, conservation, and green technology offer pathways to mitigate the effects of the great derangement. Adoption of sustainable practices across sectors—from agriculture to transportation—can reduce emissions and foster environmental resilience.

Conclusion

The great derangement encapsulates the complex interplay of cultural, political, and economic factors that hinder effective responses to climate change. By understanding its origins, examining its impact on literature and society, and exploring potential solutions, we can begin to address the root causes of environmental inaction. As awareness grows, the challenge remains to translate knowledge into meaningful, collective action that ensures a sustainable future for all.

Q: What is the great derangement?

A: The great derangement refers to the widespread societal and cultural failure to adequately recognize and respond to the threats posed by climate change and environmental crises. The term was popularized by author Amitav Ghosh to describe the disconnect between awareness and meaningful action.

Q: Who coined the term "the great derangement"?

A: The term was popularized by Indian author Amitav Ghosh in his 2016 book, "The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable," where he critiques literature's and society's inability to address climate change.

Q: What are the main themes explored in "The Great Derangement" book?

A: Key themes include the absence of climate change in modern literature, the historical relationship between colonialism and environmental degradation, and the limits of societal imagination in addressing ecological crises.

Q: How does literature contribute to the great derangement?

A: Literature, particularly the realist novel, often avoids depicting large-scale environmental

catastrophe, which contributes to a cultural silence around climate change and limits public engagement with the crisis.

Q: What are some real-world impacts of the great derangement?

A: Real-world impacts include policy inaction, societal denial, increased vulnerability for marginalized populations, and insufficient adaptation to climate-related disasters.

Q: How are artists and writers responding to the great derangement?

A: Artists and writers are increasingly addressing climate change through genres like climate fiction and eco-art, using storytelling and visual media to raise awareness and inspire action.

Q: What political challenges are associated with the great derangement?

A: Political challenges include polarization, economic interests that resist change, and the influence of powerful industries that may undermine climate policies and regulations.

Q: Are there any solutions to overcome the great derangement?

A: Solutions involve grassroots activism, international policy agreements, technological innovation, and a shift in cultural narratives to prioritize sustainability and collective action.

Q: Why is imagination important in addressing the great derangement?

A: Imagination allows societies to envision possible futures, understand the magnitude of environmental risks, and create compelling narratives that motivate change and resilience.

Q: What role do international agreements play in tackling the great derangement?

A: International agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, aim to coordinate global efforts on emissions reduction and adaptation, providing frameworks for collective action despite uneven progress.

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The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable

The world is changing, and not for the better. Extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and unprecedented ecological shifts are becoming increasingly commonplace. These aren't just isolated incidents; they are symptoms of a larger, more profound issue: the great derangement. This blog post delves into the concept of the great derangement, exploring its implications for humanity and offering insights into why we struggle to comprehend and adequately respond to the climate crisis. We'll examine the psychological, sociological, and political factors contributing to our collective inaction, ultimately aiming to spark a crucial conversation about how we can move forward.

What is the Great Derangement?

The term "The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable," coined by Amitav Ghosh in his eponymous book, refers to the striking absence of climate change as a central theme in contemporary literature and, by extension, our collective consciousness. Ghosh argues that our dominant narratives, our ways of thinking and storytelling, are ill-equipped to grapple with the slow-moving, long-term catastrophe of climate change. This "derangement" prevents us from fully grasping the scale and urgency of the crisis, hindering our ability to take effective action. It's not simply a failure of science or technology; it's a failure of imagination and narrative.

The Psychological Barriers to Understanding

Our brains are wired for immediate threats. A looming predator or a sudden natural disaster triggers an immediate fight-or-flight response. Climate change, however, unfolds gradually, making it harder to perceive as an existential threat. This cognitive dissonance, the disconnect between what we know intellectually and how we emotionally respond, creates a significant barrier to action. Furthermore, the sheer scale of the problem can feel overwhelming, leading to apathy and despair – a phenomenon known as "climate grief."

The Sociological Dimensions of Inaction

The great derangement isn't just an individual psychological phenomenon; it's deeply embedded in our social structures. Our economic systems, driven by relentless growth and consumption, are fundamentally incompatible with the ecological limits of our planet. Political systems, often influenced by powerful vested interests, frequently prioritize short-term economic gains over long-term environmental sustainability. This systemic inertia makes it difficult to implement the radical changes necessary to address climate change effectively. Powerful narratives around progress and economic development often overshadow concerns about ecological collapse.

The Role of Power Structures and Narratives

The existing power structures often benefit from the status quo. Industries reliant on fossil fuels, for example, wield significant political and economic influence, actively resisting policies that threaten their profits. This resistance is further reinforced by powerful narratives that frame climate action as an economic burden or a threat to individual freedoms. These narratives, often carefully cultivated and disseminated through media and political discourse, actively work to obscure the reality of climate change and hinder meaningful action.

The Political Landscape and Climate Change

The political landscape is often characterized by a stark divide on climate change, further exacerbating the great derangement. Ideological positions often overshadow scientific consensus, leading to political gridlock and inaction. The complexity of climate change, with its intricate interplay of environmental, economic, and social factors, often makes it difficult to formulate and implement effective policies. Furthermore, the global nature of the problem necessitates international cooperation, which is often hampered by competing national interests and differing priorities.

Breaking the Cycle of Inaction: Towards a New Narrative

Overcoming the great derangement requires a fundamental shift in our thinking and storytelling. We need new narratives that can effectively communicate the urgency and gravity of the climate crisis, connecting it to the lived experiences of people worldwide. This requires a multi-pronged approach that includes:

Elevating climate change in mainstream discourse: Moving beyond niche discussions and incorporating climate change as a central theme in media, literature, and education.

Promoting systemic change: Reforming our economic and political systems to prioritize sustainability and ecological limits.

Fostering climate literacy: Equipping individuals with the knowledge and understanding necessary to engage effectively with climate change.

Empowering communities: Supporting local initiatives and empowering communities to take action on climate change.

Ultimately, confronting the great derangement demands a collective effort to reshape our understanding of the world and our place within it.

Conclusion

The great derangement is not merely an intellectual puzzle; it's a profound challenge to our collective survival. By acknowledging the psychological, sociological, and political barriers to action, and by actively working to construct new narratives and implement systemic change, we can begin to address this crisis before it's too late. The future of our planet depends on our ability to overcome this profound derangement and face the unthinkable.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the difference between climate change and the great derangement? Climate change is the scientific phenomenon of a warming planet. The great derangement describes the societal and cultural inability to adequately respond to the reality and urgency of climate change.
2. How does the great derangement manifest in everyday life? It manifests in our consumption habits, our political choices, the stories we tell, and the lack of urgency in addressing climate-related issues in our daily lives.
3. Can literature help us understand the great derangement? Yes, literature can offer powerful ways to understand the emotional, social, and psychological impacts of climate change, fostering empathy and urgency.
4. What role do corporations play in the great derangement? Corporations, particularly those in fossil fuel industries, often prioritize profits over environmental sustainability, contributing to the inertia in addressing climate change.
5. What individual actions can help overcome the great derangement? Individual actions, such as reducing carbon footprint, supporting sustainable businesses, advocating for climate-friendly policies, and engaging in conscious consumption, contribute to a larger collective effort.

the great derangement: The Great Derangement Amitav Ghosh, 2017-07-24 Are we deranged? The acclaimed Indian novelist Amitav Ghosh argues that future generations may well think so. How

else to explain our imaginative failure in the face of global warming? In his first major book of nonfiction since *In an Antique Land*, Ghosh examines our inability—at the level of literature, history, and politics—to grasp the scale and violence of climate change. The extreme nature of today's climate events, Ghosh asserts, make them peculiarly resistant to contemporary modes of thinking and imagining. This is particularly true of serious literary fiction: hundred-year storms and freakish tornadoes simply feel too improbable for the novel; they are automatically consigned to other genres. In the writing of history, too, the climate crisis has sometimes led to gross simplifications; Ghosh shows that the history of the carbon economy is a tangled global story with many contradictory and counterintuitive elements. Ghosh ends by suggesting that politics, much like literature, has become a matter of personal moral reckoning rather than an arena of collective action. But to limit fiction and politics to individual moral adventure comes at a great cost. The climate crisis asks us to imagine other forms of human existence—a task to which fiction, Ghosh argues, is the best suited of all cultural forms. His book serves as a great writer's summons to confront the most urgent task of our time.

the great derangement: *The Great Derangement* Amitav Ghosh, 2016-09-14 A “concise and utterly enlightening” look at why we can’t wrap our minds around climate change (Publishers Weekly). Are we deranged? Award-winning essayist and novelist Amitav Ghosh argues that future generations may think so. How else to explain our imaginative failure in the face of global warming? *The Great Derangement* examines our inability—at the level of literature, history, and politics—to grasp the scale and violence of climate change. The extreme nature of today's climate events, Ghosh asserts, make them peculiarly resistant to current modes of thinking and imagining. This is particularly true of serious literary fiction: hundred-year storms and freakish tornadoes simply feel too improbable; they are automatically consigned to genres like science fiction. In the writing of history, too, the crisis has sometimes led to gross simplifications, but the carbon economy is a tangled story with many contradictory and counterintuitive elements. Ghosh ends by suggesting that politics, much like literature, has become a matter of personal moral reckoning rather than an arena of collective action, and that limitation comes at great cost. The climate crisis asks us to imagine other forms of human existence—a task to which fiction, Ghosh argues, is the best suited of all cultural forms. His book serves as a great writer's summons to confront the most urgent task of our time, and “makes the case that climate solutions can't be left to scientists, technocrats, and politicians” (Los Angeles Review of Books). “Perhaps the most penetrating cultural critic of a new age defined by climate change and the strange, inadequate, and often self-deluding ways we process its transformations in our storytelling.”—New York Magazine “Resistance to the grim realities of climate change is so widespread that the crisis barely figures in literary fiction, notes writer Amitav Ghosh...The solution, he argues, lies in collective action as well as scientific and governmental involvement.”—Nature

the great derangement: Easternisation Gideon Rachman, 2016 Selected as a Book of the Year by Evening Standard The West's domination of world politics is coming to a close. The flow of wealth and power is turning from West to East and a new era of global instability has begun. Easternisation is the defining trend of our age - the growing wealth of Asian nations is transforming the international balance of power. This shift to the East is shaping the lives of people all over the world, the fate of nations and the great questions of war and peace. A troubled but rising China is now challenging America's supremacy, and the ambitions of other Asian powers - including Japan, North Korea, India and Pakistan - have the potential to shake the whole world. Meanwhile the West is struggling with economic malaise and political populism, the Arab world is in turmoil and Russia longs to reclaim its status as a great power. We are at a turning point in history: but Easternisation has many decades to run. Gideon Rachman offers a road map to the turbulent process that will define the international politics of the twenty-first century.

the great derangement: *Gun Island* Amitav Ghosh, 2019-06-06 Bundook. Gun. A common word, but one which turns Deen Datta's world upside down. A dealer of rare books, Deen is used to a quiet life spent indoors, but as his once-solid beliefs begin to shift, he is forced to set out on an

extraordinary journey; one that takes him from India to Los Angeles and Venice via a tangled route through the memories and experiences of those he meets along the way. There is Piya, a fellow Bengali-American who sets his journey in motion; Tipu, an entrepreneurial young man who opens Deen's eyes to the realities of growing up in today's world; Rafi, with his desperate attempt to help someone in need; and Cinta, an old friend who provides the missing link in the story they are all a part of. It is a journey which will upend everything he thought he knew about himself, about the Bengali legends of his childhood and about the world around him. *Gun Island* is a beautifully realised novel which effortlessly spans space and time. It is the story of a world on the brink, of increasing displacement and unstoppable transition. But it is also a story of hope, of a man whose faith in the world and the future is restored by two remarkable women.

the great derangement: *The Nutmeg's Curse* Amitav Ghosh, 2022-09-07 In this ambitious successor to *The Great Derangement*, acclaimed writer Amitav Ghosh finds the origins of our contemporary climate crisis in Western colonialism's violent exploitation of human life and the natural environment. A powerful work of history, essay, testimony, and polemic, Amitav Ghosh's new book traces our contemporary planetary crisis back to the discovery of the New World and the sea route to the Indian Ocean. *The Nutmeg's Curse* argues that the dynamics of climate change today are rooted in a centuries-old geopolitical order constructed by Western colonialism. At the center of Ghosh's narrative is the now-ubiquitous spice nutmeg. The history of the nutmeg is one of conquest and exploitation—of both human life and the natural environment. In Ghosh's hands, the story of the nutmeg becomes a parable for our environmental crisis, revealing the ways human history has always been entangled with earthly materials such as spices, tea, sugarcane, opium, and fossil fuels. Our crisis, he shows, is ultimately the result of a mechanistic view of the earth, where nature exists only as a resource for humans to use for our own ends, rather than a force of its own, full of agency and meaning. Writing against the backdrop of the global pandemic and the Black Lives Matter protests, Ghosh frames these historical stories in a way that connects our shared colonial histories with the deep inequality we see around us today. By interweaving discussions on everything from the global history of the oil trade to the migrant crisis and the animist spirituality of Indigenous communities around the world, *The Nutmeg's Curse* offers a sharp critique of Western society and speaks to the profoundly remarkable ways in which human history is shaped by non-human forces.

the great derangement: *The Great Derangement* Matt Taibbi, 2009-01-13 A REVELATORY AND DARKLY COMIC ADVENTURE THROUGH A NATION ON THE VERGE OF A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN—FROM THE HALLS OF CONGRESS TO THE BASES OF BAGHDAD TO THE APOCALYPTIC CHURCHES OF THE HEARTLAND Rolling Stone's Matt Taibbi set out to describe the nature of George Bush's America in the post-9/11 era and ended up vomiting demons in an evangelical church in Texas, riding the streets of Baghdad in an American convoy to nowhere, searching for phantom fighter jets in Congress, and falling into the rabbit hole of the 9/11 Truth Movement. Matt discovered in his travels across the country that the resilient blue state/red state narrative of American politics had become irrelevant. A large and growing chunk of the American population was so turned off—or radicalized—by electoral chicanery, a spineless news media, and the increasingly blatant lies from our leaders ("they hate us for our freedom") that they abandoned the political mainstream altogether. They joined what he calls *The Great Derangement*. Taibbi tells the story of this new American madness by inserting himself into four defining American subcultures: The Military, where he finds himself mired in the grotesque black comedy of the American occupation of Iraq; The System, where he follows the money-slicked path of legislation in Congress; The Resistance, where he doubles as chief public antagonist and undercover member of the passionately bonkers 9/11 Truth Movement; and The Church, where he infiltrates a politically influential apocalyptic mega-ministry in Texas and enters the lives of its desperate congregants. Together these four interwoven adventures paint a portrait of a nation dangerously out of touch with reality and desperately searching for answers in all the wrong places. Funny, smart, and a little bit heartbreaking, *The Great Derangement* is an audaciously reported, sobering, and illuminating portrait of America at the end of the Bush era.

the great derangement: Dancing In Cambodia & Other Essays Amitav Ghosh, 2010

the great derangement: Tales of Two Planets John Freeman, 2020-08-04 Building from his acclaimed anthology *Tales of Two Americas*, beloved writer and editor John Freeman draws together a group of our greatest writers from around the world to help us see how the environmental crisis is hitting some of the most vulnerable communities where they live. In the past five years, John Freeman, previously editor of *Granta*, has launched a celebrated international literary magazine, *Freeman's*, and compiled two acclaimed anthologies that deal with income inequality as it is experienced. In the course of this work, one major theme came up repeatedly: Climate change is making already dire inequalities much worse, devastating further the already devastated. But the problems of climate change are not restricted to those from the less developed world. Galvanized by his conversations with writers and activists around the world, Freeman engaged with some of today's most eloquent storytellers, many of whom hail from the places under the most acute stress--from the capital of Burundi to Bangkok, Thailand. The response has been extraordinary. Margaret Atwood conjures with a dys-topian future in a remarkable poem. Lauren Groff whisks us to Florida; Edwidge Danticat to Haiti; Tahmima Anam to Bangladesh; Yasmine El Rashidi to Egypt, while Eka Kurniawan brings us to Indonesia, Chinelo Okparanta to Nigeria, and Anuradha Roy to the Himalayas in the wake of floods, dam building, and drought. This is a literary all-points bulletin of fiction, essays, poems, and reportage about the most important crisis of our times.

the great derangement: Bruny Heather Rose, 2019-10-01 The brilliant and explosive new novel from the author of the award-winning *The Museum of Modern Love*. Why is a massive bridge being built to connect the sleepy island of Bruny with the mainland of Tasmania? And why have terrorists blown it up? When the Bruny bridge is bombed, UN troubleshooter Astrid Coleman agrees to return home to help her brother before an upcoming election. But this is no simple task. Her brother and sister are on either side of politics, the community is full of conspiracy theories, her mother is fading and her father is quoting Shakespeare. Only on Bruny does the world seem sane. Until Astrid discovers how far the government is willing to go. *Bruny* is a searing, subversive novel about family, love, loyalty and the new world order. It is a gripping thriller with a jaw-dropping twist, a love story, a cry from the heart and a fiercely entertaining and crucial work of imagination that asks the burning question: what would you do to protect the place you love? Praise for *The Museum of Modern Love*: 'A glorious novel, meditative and special in a way that defies easy articulation.' Hannah Kent, author of *Burial Rites* 'Audacious and beautiful.' Dominic Smith, author of *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos* 'I adored it, and it is my book of the year so far.' Amanda Rayner, *Readings Reviews* 'coruscates with captivating energy Incisive, beautiful, and precise.' *Foreword Reviews*, starred review 'Captivating a gem of a novel.' *Library Journal*, starred review 'Deeply involving profound emotionally rich and thought-provoking.' *Booklist*, starred review 'With rare subtlety and humanity, this novel relocates the difficult path to wonder in us all.' *The Christina Stead Prize 2017* 'Profound a tender meditation on art, love, grief, and life.' *Bustle* 'An unusual and lively work of fiction.' *Newsday*

the great derangement: The Anthropocene Unconscious Mark Bould, 2021-11-02 From Ducks, Newburyport to zombie movies and the *Fast and Furious* franchise, how climate anxiety permeates our culture The art and literature of our time is pregnant with catastrophe, with weather and water, wildness and weirdness. The Anthropocene - the term given to this geological epoch in which humans, *anthropos*, are wreaking havoc on the earth - is to be found bubbling away everywhere in contemporary cultural production. Typically, discussions of how culture registers, figures and mediates climate change focus on 'climate fiction' or 'cli-fi', but *The Anthropocene Unconscious* is more interested in how the Anthropocene and especially anthropogenic climate destabilisation manifests in texts that are not overtly about climate change - that is, unconsciously. The Anthropocene, Mark Bould argues, constitutes the unconscious of 'the art and literature of our time'. Tracing the outlines of the Anthropocene unconscious in a range of film, television and literature - across a range of genres and with utter disregard for high-low culture distinctions - this playful and riveting book draws out some of the things that are repressed and obscured by the term 'the

Anthropocene', including capital, class, imperialism, inequality, alienation, violence, commodification, patriarchy and racial formations. The Anthropocene Unconscious is about a kind of rewriting. It asks: what happens when we stop assuming that the text is not about the anthropogenic biosphere crises engulfing us? What if all the stories we tell are stories about the Anthropocene? About climate change?

the great derangement: *Incendiary Circumstances* Amitav Ghosh, 2007-04-23 A journalist who "illuminates the human drama behind the headlines" writes about today's dramatic events, from terrorist attacks to tsunamis (Publishers Weekly). "An uncannily honest writer," Amitav Ghosh has published firsthand accounts of pivotal world events in publications including the New York Times, Granta, and the New Yorker (The New York Times Book Review). This volume brings together the finest of these pieces, chronicling the turmoil of our times. *Incendiary Circumstances* begins with Ghosh's arrival in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands just days after the devastation of the 2005 tsunami. We then travel back to September 11, 2001, as Ghosh retrieves his young daughter from school, sick with the knowledge that she must witness the kind of firestorm that has been in the background of his life since childhood. In his travels, Ghosh has stood on an icy mountaintop on the contested border between India and Pakistan; interviewed Pol Pot's sister-in-law in Cambodia; shared the elation of Egyptians when Naguib Mahfouz won the Nobel Prize; and stood with his threatened Sikh neighbors through the riots following Indira Gandhi's assassination. In these pieces, he offers an up-close look at an era defined by the ravages of politics and nature. "Ghosh is the perfect chronicler of an increasingly globalized world . . . Reading [him] is a mind-expanding experience. Once you've finished this book, you're very likely to press it into your friends' hands and beg them to read it as well." —Sunday Oregonian

the great derangement: *Writing for Animals* John Yunker, 2018-08 A unique anthology of articles and essays to inspire animal-themed creative writing.

the great derangement: *Climate and Crises* Ben Holgate, 2019-01-31 *Climate and Crises: Magical Realism as Environmental Discourse* makes a dual intervention in both world literature and ecocriticism by examining magical realism as an international style of writing that has long-standing links with environmental literature. The book argues that, in the era of climate change when humans are facing the prospect of species extinction, new ideas and new forms of expression are required to address what the novelist Amitav Gosh calls a crisis of imagination. Magical realism enables writers to portray alternative intellectual paradigms, ontologies and epistemologies that typically contest the scientific rationalism derived from the European Enlightenment, and the exploitation of natural resources associated with both capitalism and imperialism. *Climate and Crises* explores the overlaps between magical realism and environmental literature, including their respective transgressive natures that dismantle binaries (such as human and non-human), a shared biocentric perspective that focuses on the inter-connectedness of all things in the universe, and, frequently, a critique of postcolonial legacies in formerly colonised territories. The book also challenges conventional conceptions of magical realism, arguing they are often influenced by a geographic bias in the construction of the orthodox global canon, and instead examines contemporary fiction from Asia (including China) and Australasia, two regions that have been largely neglected by scholarship of the narrative mode. As a result, the monograph modifies and expands our ideas of what magical realist fiction is.

the great derangement: *Jungle Nama* Amitav Ghosh, 2021-11-11 'One of the finest writers of his generation' Financial Times Thousands of islands rise from the rivers' rich silts, crowned with forests of mangrove, rising on stilts. This is the Sundarban, where great rivers give birth; to a vast jungle that joins Ocean and Earth. *Jungle Nama* is a beautifully illustrated verse adaptation of a legend from the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest. It tells the story of the avaricious rich merchant Dhona, the poor lad Dukhey, and his mother; it is also the story of Dokkhin Rai, a mighty spirit who appears to humans as a tiger, of Bon Bibi, the benign goddess of the forest, and her warrior brother Shah Jongoli. *Jungle Nama* is the story of an ancient legend with urgent relevance to today's climate crisis. Its themes of limiting greed, and of preserving the balance

between the needs of humans and nature have never been more timely. Written in Amitav Ghosh's interpretation of the traditional Bengali verse meter, poyar, the poem is coupled with stunning illustrations from internationally renowned artist, Salman Toor.

the great derangement: *The Story of More* Hope Jahren, 2020-03-05 'Hope Jahren asks the central question of our time: how can we learn to live on a finite planet? *The Story of More* is thoughtful, informative and - above all - essential' Elizabeth Kolbert, author of *The Sixth Extinction* Hope Jahren is an award-winning geobiologist, a brilliant writer, an inspiring teacher, and one of the seven billion people with whom we share this earth. In *The Story of More*, Jahren illuminates the link between human consumption habits and our imperiled planet. In short, highly readable chapters, she takes us through the science behind the key inventions - from electric power to large-scale farming and automobiles - that, even as they help us, release untenable amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. She explains the current and projected consequences of greenhouse gases - from superstorms to rising sea levels - and the actions that all of us can take to fight back. At once an explainer on the mechanisms of warming and a lively, personal narrative given to us in Jahren's inimitable voice, *The Story of More* is the essential pocket primer on climate change that will leave an indelible impact on everyone who reads it.

the great derangement: *The Circle of Reason* Amitav Ghosh, 2005-05-03 A New York Times Notable Book: A policeman chases a falsely accused man on a wild journey around the world in this "utterly involving" novel (*The Sunday Times*). When eight-year-old Nachiketa Bose first arrives in the East Bengali village of Lalpukur, he receives the name Alu—potato—for the size and shape of his extraordinary head. His uncle Balaram, the local schoolmaster and phrenology enthusiast, sends Alu to apprentice as a weaver, and the boy soon surpasses the skill of his master. But when a tragic bombing leaves Alu suspected of terrorism, he flees across India to Bombay and the Arabian Sea, followed all the way by the dogged policeman—and avid ornithologist—Jyoti Das. From East Bengal to the Persian Gulf and North Africa, Amitav Ghosh's wild and extraordinary novel "follows in the footsteps of magical realists like Gabriel García Márquez and Salman Rushdie" (*The New York Times Book Review*). "A novelist of dazzling ingenuity." —*San Francisco Chronicle* "A Scheherezade effortlessly spinning tales within tales, the possessor of a strong narrative voice quite like no other." —*Newsday* "Ghosh's writing soars, producing electric images." —*The Baltimore Sun* "A wonderful mix of magic and horror, wit and curiosity . . . Ghosh has really woven a fresh world for us to visit." —*Providence Sunday Journal*

the great derangement: *Uncanny and Improbable Events* Amitav Ghosh, 2021-08-26 In twenty short books, Penguin brings you the classics of the environmental movement. In this personal and wide-ranging exploration of how our collective imaginations fail to grasp the scale of environmental destruction, Amitav Ghosh summons writers and novelists to confront the most urgent story of our times. Over the past 75 years, a new canon has emerged. As life on Earth has become irrevocably altered by humans, visionary thinkers around the world have raised their voices to defend the planet, and affirm our place at the heart of its restoration. Their words have endured through the decades, becoming the classics of a movement. Together, these books show the richness of environmental thought, and point the way to a fairer, saner, greener world.

the great derangement: *Climate Leviathan* Joel Wainwright, Geoff Mann, 2018-02-13
Winner of the 2019 Sussex International Theory Prize -- How climate change will affect our political theory - for better and worse Despite the science and the summits, leading capitalist states have not achieved anything close to an adequate level of carbon mitigation. There is now simply no way to prevent the planet breaching the threshold of two degrees Celsius set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. What are the likely political and economic outcomes of this? Where is the overheating world heading? To further the struggle for climate justice, we need to have some idea how the existing global order is likely to adjust to a rapidly changing environment. *Climate Leviathan* provides a radical way of thinking about the intensifying challenges to the global order. Drawing on a wide range of political thought, Joel Wainwright and Geoff Mann argue that rapid climate change will transform the world's political economy and the fundamental political

arrangements most people take for granted. The result will be a capitalist planetary sovereignty, a terrifying eventuality that makes the construction of viable, radical alternatives truly imperative.

the great derangement: *The Year Without Summer* Guinevere Glasfurd, 2020-02-06
LONGLISTED FOR THE WALTER SCOTT HISTORICAL FICTION PRIZE 2021 SHORTLISTED FOR THE HWA GOLD CROWN AWARD 2020 'A STRIKINGLY SHARP AND SUBTLE WRITER' Guardian 'SUPERB...BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN...UNFORGETTABLE' FT Weekend 'SKILFUL' Sunday Times 'RICH, INTRICATE, IMPRESSIVELY REALISED' Observer 'VIVIDLY REALISED' The Times 'A VISION OF THE PAST AND A VISION OF THE FUTURE' Irish Times 'A VIVID SLICE OF HISTORICAL FICTION' Sunday Express 1815, Sumbawa Island, Indonesia Mount Tambora explodes in a cataclysmic eruption, killing thousands. Sent to investigate, ship surgeon Henry Hoggcan barely believe his eyes. Once a paradise, the island is now solid ash, the surrounding sea turned to stone. But worse is yet to come: as the ash cloud rises and covers the sun, the seasons will fail. 1816 In Switzerland, Mary Shelley finds dark inspiration. Confined inside by the unseasonable weather, thousands of famine refugees stream past her door. In Vermont, preacher Charles Whitlock begs his followers to keep faith as drought dries their wells and their livestock starve. In Suffolk, the ambitious and lovesick painter John Constable struggles to reconcile the idyllic England he paints with the misery that surrounds him. In the Fens, farm labourer Sarah Hobbs has had enough of going hungry while the farmers flaunt their wealth. And Hope Peter, returned from the Napoleonic wars, finds his family home demolished and a fence gone up in its place. He flees to London, where he falls in with a group of revolutionaries who speak of a better life, whatever the cost. As desperation sets in, Britain becomes beset by riots - rebellion is in the air. *The Year Without Summer* is the story of the books written, the art made; of the journeys taken, of the love longed for and the lives lost during that fateful year. Six separate lives, connected only by an event many thousands of miles away. Few had heard of Tambora - but none could escape its effects. 'VIVID, VIBRANT, HARD TO PUT DOWN' Hilary Spurling 'THOUGHT-PROVOKING, BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN AND VERY COMPELLING' Harriet Tyce 'INGENIOUS AND ABSORBING' Kirsty Wark 'ASTONISHING, RIVETING, MASTERFUL, POETIC' Emily Rapp Black 'A WORLDWIDE CANVAS BROUGHT TO LIFE IN VIVID, HEARTBREAKING DETAIL' Marianne Kavanagh

the great derangement: A Children's Bible: A Novel Lydia Millet, 2020-05-12 Finalist for the 2020 National Book Award for Fiction One of the New York Times' Ten Best Books of the Year Named one of the best novels of the year by Time, Washington Post, NPR, Chicago Tribune, Esquire, BBC, and many others National Bestseller A blistering little classic. —Ron Charles, Washington Post *A Children's Bible* follows a group of twelve eerily mature children on a forced vacation with their families at a sprawling lakeside mansion. Contemptuous of their parents, the children decide to run away when a destructive storm descends on the summer estate, embarking on a dangerous foray into the apocalyptic chaos outside. Lydia Millet's prophetic and heartbreaking story of generational divide offers a haunting vision of what awaits us on the far side of Revelation.

the great derangement: Sex and the Single Girl Helen Gurley Brown, 2012-07-10 The 1962 blockbuster that took on "one of the most absurd (if universal) myths of our time: that every girl must be married" (The New York Times). Helen Gurley Brown, the iconic editor in chief of *Cosmopolitan* for thirty-two years, is considered one of the most influential figures of Second Wave feminism. Her first book sold millions of copies, became a cultural phenomenon, and ushered in a whole new way of thinking about work, men, and life. Feisty, fun, and totally frank, *Sex and the Single Girl* offers advice to unmarried women that is as relevant today as it was when it burst onto the scene in the 1960s. This spirited manifesto puts women—and what they want—first. It captures the exuberance, optimism, and independence that have influenced the lives of so many contemporary American women.

the great derangement: The Curious Thing: Poems Sandra Lim, 2021-09-14 In this gorgeous third collection, Sandra Lim investigates desire, sexuality, and dream with sinewy intelligence and a startling freshness. Truthful, sensuous, and intellectually relentless, the poems in *The Curious Thing* are compelling meditations on love, art making, solitude, female fate, and both

the mundane and serious principles of life. Sandra Lim's poetry displays stinging wit and a tough-minded approach to her own experiences: She speaks with Jean Rhys about beauty, encounters the dark loneliness that can exist inside a relationship, and discovers a coiled anger on a hot summer day. An extended poem sequence slyly revolves the meanings of finding oneself astray in midlife. A steely strength courses through the volume's myriad discoveries—Lim's lucidity and tenderness form a striking complement to her remarkable metaphors and the emotional clamor of her material. Animated by a sense of reckoning and a piercing inwardness, these anti-sentimental poems nevertheless celebrate the passionate and empathetic subjective life.

the great derangement: Son of the Thundercloud Easterine Kire, 2016-12-08 After losing all his family in a terrible famine, a man leaves his village with just the clothes on his back, never once looking back. For endless miles he walks through a landscape as desolate as his heart. Until two ancient women who have waited for rain for four hundred years lead him to the Village of Weavers where a prophecy will be fulfilled. A single drop of rain will impregnate the tiger-widow and her son will slay the spirit-tiger. The traveller will help the woman bring up the boy. He will witness miracles and tragedy and come close to finding a home again. And he will learn that love and life are eternal. In her new novel, Easterine Kire, winner of the Hindu Prize, combines lyrical storytelling with the magic and wisdom of Naga legends to produce an unforgettable, life-affirming fable.

the great derangement: Polysituatedness John Kinsella, 2017 This book is concerned with the complexities of defining 'place', of observing and 'seeing' place, and how we might write a poetics of place. From Kathy Acker to indigenous Australian poet Jack Davis, the book touches on other writers and theorists, but in essence is a hands-on 'praxis' book of poetic practice. The work extends John Kinsella's theory of 'international regionalism' and posits new ways of reading the relationship between place and individual, between individual and the natural environment, and how place occupies the person as much as the person occupies place. It provides alternative readings of writers through place and space, especially Australian writers, but also non-Australian. Further, close consideration is given to being of 'famine-migrant' Irish heritage and the complexities of 'returning'. A close-up examination of 'belonging' and exclusion is made on a day-to-day basis. The book offers an approach to creating poems and literary texts constituted by experiencing multiple places, developing a model of polyvalent belonging known as 'polysituatedness'. It works as a companion volume to Kinsella's earlier Manchester University Press critical work, *Disclosed Poetics: Beyond Landscape to Lyricism*.

the great derangement: Flood of Fire Amitav Ghosh, 2016-07-27 'A triumph of storytelling' The Hindu It is 1839. The British, whose opium exports to China have been blockaded by Beijing, are planning an invasion to force China's hand. In Calcutta, Zachary Reid, an impoverished young sailor, dreams of his lost love and of a way to make his fortunes. Heading towards Calcutta is Havildar Kesri to lead a regiment of Indian volunteers in the upcoming war. In Mumbai, Shireen Modi prepares to sail alone to China to reclaim her opium trader husband's wealth and reputation. In Canton, Neel becomes an aide and translator to a senior Chinese official as Beijing begins to prepare for war with Britain and the more he sees, the more worried he becomes—for the Chinese have neither the ships nor the artillery to match the British in modern warfare. The future seems clear but do the Chinese know it?

the great derangement: Tippi Tippi Hedren, 2016-11-01 In this absorbing and surprising memoir, one of the biggest names of classic Hollywood—the star of Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* and *Marnie*—tells her story, including never-before-revealed experiences on the set of some of the biggest cult films of all time . . . now with a foreword by Melanie Griffith For decades, Tippi Hedren's luminous beauty radiated from the silver screen, enchanting moviegoers and cementing her position among Hollywood's elite—beauty and star power that continue to endure. For too long Hedren's story has been told by others through whispered gossip and tabloid headlines. Now, Hedren sets the record straight, recalling how a young and virtuous Lutheran girl from small-town Minnesota became a worldwide legend—as one of the most famous Hitchcock girls, as an unwavering animal activist, and as the matriarch of a powerful Hollywood dynasty that includes her

movie star daughter Melanie Griffith, and rising star Dakota Johnson, her granddaughter. For the first time, Hedren digs deep into her complicated relationship with the man who discovered her talent, director Alfred Hitchcock, the benefactor who would become a repulsive and controlling director who contractually controlled her every move. She speaks openly about the dark pain she endured working with him on their most famous collaborations, *The Birds* and *Marnie*, and finding the courage she needed to break away. Hedren's incandescent spirit shines through as she talks about working with the great Charlie Chaplin, sharing the screen with some of the most esteemed actors in Hollywood, her experiences on some of the most intriguing and troubling film sets—including filming *Roar*, one of the most dangerous movies ever made—and the struggles of being a single mother—balancing her dedication to her work and her devotion to her daughter—and her commitment to helping animals. Filled with sixteen pages of beautiful photos, *Tippi* is a rare and fascinating look at a private woman's remarkable life no celebrity aficionado can miss.

the great derangement: Carbon Democracy Timothy Mitchell, 2013-06-25 "A brilliant, revisionist argument that places oil companies at the heart of 20th century history—and of the political and environmental crises we now face." —Guardian Oil is a curse, it is often said, that condemns the countries producing it to an existence defined by war, corruption and enormous inequality. *Carbon Democracy* tells a more complex story, arguing that no nation escapes the political consequences of our collective dependence on oil. It shapes the body politic both in regions such as the Middle East, which rely upon revenues from oil production, and in the places that have the greatest demand for energy. Timothy Mitchell begins with the history of coal power to tell a radical new story about the rise of democracy. Coal was a source of energy so open to disruption that oligarchies in the West became vulnerable for the first time to mass demands for democracy. In the mid-twentieth century, however, the development of cheap and abundant energy from oil, most notably from the Middle East, offered a means to reduce this vulnerability to democratic pressures. The abundance of oil made it possible for the first time in history to reorganize political life around the management of something now called "the economy" and the promise of its infinite growth. The politics of the West became dependent on an undemocratic Middle East. In the twenty-first century, the oil-based forms of modern democratic politics have become unsustainable. Foreign intervention and military rule are faltering in the Middle East, while governments everywhere appear incapable of addressing the crises that threaten to end the age of carbon democracy—the disappearance of cheap energy and the carbon-fuelled collapse of the ecological order. In making the production of energy the central force shaping the democratic age, *Carbon Democracy* rethinks the history of energy, the politics of nature, the theory of democracy, and the place of the Middle East in our common world.

the great derangement: The Case for the Green New Deal Ann Pettifor, 2019-11-05 What is the Green New Deal and how can we afford it? To protect the future of life on earth, we need to do more than just reimagine the economy—we have to change everything. One of the seminal thinkers of the program that helped ignite the US Green New Deal campaign, Ann Pettifor explains how we can afford what we can do, and what we need to do, before it is too late. *The Case for the Green New Deal* argues that economic change is wholly possible, based on the understanding that finance, the economy and the ecosystem are all tightly bound together. The GND demands total decarbonization and a commitment to an economy based on fairness and social justice. It proposes a radical new understanding of the international monetary system. Pettifor offers a roadmap for financial reform both nationally and globally, taking the economy back from the 1%. This is a radical, urgent manifesto that we must act on now.

the great derangement: Sea of Poppies Amitav Ghosh, 2009-07-09 Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2008 'Sea of Poppies boasts a varied collection of characters to love and hate, and provides wonderfully detailed descriptions . . . utterly involving and piles on tension until the very last page' Sunday Times At the heart of this epic saga, set just before the Opium Wars, is an old slaving-ship, the *Ibis*. Its destiny is a tumultuous voyage across the Indian Ocean, its crew a motley array of sailors and stowaways, coolies and convicts. In a time of colonial upheaval, fate has thrown

together a truly diverse cast of Indians and Westerners, from a bankrupt Raja to a widowed villager, from an evangelical English opium trader to a mulatto American freedman. As their old family ties are washed away they, like their historical counterparts, come to view themselves as jahaj-bhais or ship-brothers. An unlikely dynasty is born, which will span continents, races and generations. The vast sweep of this historical adventure spans the lush poppy fields of the Ganges, the rolling high seas, and the exotic backstreets of China. But it is the panorama of characters, whose diaspora encapsulates the vexed colonial history of the East itself, which makes *Sea of Poppies* so breathtakingly alive - a masterpiece from one of the world's finest novelists.

the great derangement: *Geography: Ideas in Profile* Danny Dorling, Carl Lee, 2016-03-24
Ideas in Profile: Small Introductions to Big Topics Geography gives shape to our innate curiosity; cartography is older than writing. Channelling our twin urges to explore and understand, geographers uncover the hidden connections of human existence, from infant mortality in inner cities to the decision-makers who fly overhead in executive jets, from natural disasters to over-use of fossil fuels. In this incisive introduction to the subject, Danny Dorling and Carl Lee reveal geography as a science which tackles all of the biggest issues that face us today, from globalisation to equality, from sustainability to population growth, from climate change to changing technology - and the complex interactions between them all. Illustrated by a series of award-winning maps created by Benjamin D. Hennig, this is a book for anyone who wants to know more about why our world is the way it is today, and where it might be heading next.

the great derangement: *The Collapse of Western Civilization* Naomi Oreskes, Erik M. Conway, 2014-07-01 The year is 2393, and the world is almost unrecognizable. Clear warnings of climate catastrophe went ignored for decades, leading to soaring temperatures, rising sea levels, widespread drought and—finally—the disaster now known as the Great Collapse of 2093, when the disintegration of the West Antarctica Ice Sheet led to mass migration and a complete reshuffling of the global order. Writing from the Second People's Republic of China on the 300th anniversary of the Great Collapse, a senior scholar presents a gripping and deeply disturbing account of how the children of the Enlightenment—the political and economic elites of the so-called advanced industrial societies—failed to act, and so brought about the collapse of Western civilization. In this haunting, provocative work of science-based fiction, Naomi Oreskes and Eric M. Conway imagine a world devastated by climate change. Dramatizing the science in ways traditional nonfiction cannot, the book reasserts the importance of scientists and the work they do and reveals the self-serving interests of the so called carbon combustion complex that have turned the practice of science into political fodder. Based on sound scholarship and yet unafraid to speak boldly, this book provides a welcome moment of clarity amid the cacophony of climate change literature.

the great derangement: *The Hungry Tide* Amitav Ghosh, 2014-03-04 Three lives collide on an island off India: "An engrossing tale of caste and culture... introduces readers to a little-known world."—Entertainment Weekly Off the easternmost coast of India, in the Bay of Bengal, lies the immense labyrinth of tiny islands known as the Sundarbans. For settlers here, life is extremely precarious. Attacks by tigers are common. Unrest and eviction are constant threats. At any moment, tidal floods may rise and surge over the land, leaving devastation in their wake. In this place of vengeful beauty, the lives of three people collide. Piya Roy is a marine biologist, of Indian descent but stubbornly American, in search of a rare, endangered river dolphin. Her journey begins with a disaster when she is thrown from a boat into crocodile-infested waters. Rescue comes in the form of a young, illiterate fisherman, Fokir. Although they have no language between them, they are powerfully drawn to each other, sharing an uncanny instinct for the ways of the sea. Piya engages Fokir to help with her research and finds a translator in Kanai Dutt, a businessman from Delhi whose idealistic aunt and uncle are longtime settlers in the Sundarbans. As the three launch into the elaborate backwaters, they are drawn unawares into the hidden undercurrents of this isolated world, where political turmoil exacts a personal toll as powerful as the ravaging tide. From the national bestselling author of *Gun Island*, *The Hungry Tide* was a winner of the Crossword Book Prize and a finalist for the Kiriyaama Prize. "A great swirl of political, social, and environmental issues, presented

through a story that's full of romance, suspense, and poetry."—The Washington Post
"Masterful."—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

the great derangement: The Inland Sea Madeleine Watts, 2020-03-05 A fierce and beautiful novel about coming of age in a dying world As she faces the open wilderness of adulthood, our narrator finds that the world around her is coming undone. She works as an emergency dispatch operator, trapped in constant crisis as fires and floods rage across Australia. Her personal life is buckling under her self-destructive obsessions - she drinks heavily, sleeps with strangers, wanders the streets of Sydney at night, and pursues a disastrous affair with an ex-lover. Desperate and adrift, she yearns for change. Building to a tightly controlled bushfire of ecological and personal crisis, *The Inland Sea* is a fierce and beautiful novel about the search for refuge in a state of emergency. Madeleine Watts grew up in Sydney, Australia and has lived in New York since 2013. She has an MFA in creative writing from Columbia University, and her fiction has been published in *The White Review* and *The Lifted Brow*. Her essays have appeared in *The Believer* and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. Her novella, *Afraid of Waking It*, was awarded the 2015 Griffith Review Novella Prize. *The Inland Sea* is her first novel.

the great derangement: Climate Change and the Art of Devotion Sugata Ray, 2019-07-31 In the enchanted world of Braj, the primary pilgrimage center in north India for worshippers of Krishna, each stone, river, and tree is considered sacred. In *Climate Change and the Art of Devotion*, Sugata Ray shows how this place-centered theology emerged in the wake of the Little Ice Age (ca. 1550-1850), an epoch marked by climatic catastrophes across the globe. Using the frame of geoaesthetics, he compares early modern conceptions of the environment and current assumptions about nature and culture. A groundbreaking contribution to the emerging field of eco-art history, the book examines architecture, paintings, photography, and prints created in Braj alongside theological treatises and devotional poetry to foreground seepages between the natural ecosystem and cultural production. The paintings of deified rivers, temples that emulate fragrant groves, and talismanic bleeding rocks that Ray discusses will captivate readers interested in environmental humanities and South Asian art history. Art History Publication Initiative. For more information, visit <http://arthistorypi.org/books/climate-change-and-the-art-of-devotion>

the great derangement: River of Smoke Amitav Ghosh, 2011-06-09 'As hypnotic as an opium dream and pretty unputdownable' Daily Mail In September 1838 a storm blows up on the Indian Ocean and the *Ibis*, a ship carrying a consignment of convicts and indentured laborers from Calcutta to Mauritius, is caught up in the whirlwind. When the seas settle, five men have disappeared - two lascars, two convicts and one of the passengers. Did the same storm upend the fortunes of those aboard the *Anahita*, an opium carrier heading towards Canton? And what fate befell those aboard the *Redruth*, a sturdy two-masted brig heading East out of Cornwall? Was it the storm that altered their course or were the destinies of these passengers at the mercy of even more powerful forces? On the grand scale of an historical epic, *River of Smoke* follows its storm-tossed characters to the crowded harbors of China. There, despite efforts of the emperor to stop them, ships from Europe and India exchange their cargoes of opium for boxes of tea, silk, porcelain and silver. Among them are Bahram Modi, a wealthy Parsi opium merchant out of Bombay, his estranged half-Chinese son Ah Fatt, the orphaned Paulette and a motley collection of others whose pursuit of romance, riches and a legendary rare flower have thrown together. All struggle to cope with their losses - and for some, unimaginable freedoms - in the alleys and crowded waterways of 19th century Canton. As transporting and mesmerizing as an opiate induced dream, *River of Smoke* will soon be heralded as a masterpiece of twenty-first century literature.

the great derangement: Learning to Die in the Anthropocene Roy Scranton, 2015-09-07 In *Learning to Die in the Anthropocene*, Roy Scranton draws on his experiences in Iraq to confront the grim realities of climate change. The result is a fierce and provocative book.--Elizabeth Kolbert, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* Roy Scranton's *Learning to Die in the Anthropocene* presents, without extraneous bullshit, what we must do to survive on Earth. It's a powerful, useful, and ultimately hopeful book that more than any other I've read has the

ability to change people's minds and create change. For me, it crystallizes and expresses what I've been thinking about and trying to get a grasp on. The economical way it does so, with such clarity, sets the book apart from most others on the subject.--Jeff VanderMeer, author of the Southern Reach trilogy

Roy Scranton lucidly articulates the depth of the climate crisis with an honesty that is all too rare, then calls for a reimagined humanism that will help us meet our stormy future with as much decency as we can muster. While I don't share his conclusions about the potential for social movements to drive ambitious mitigation, this is a wise and important challenge from an elegant writer and original thinker. A critical intervention.--Naomi Klein, author of *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate*

Concise, elegant, erudite, heartfelt & wise.--Amitav Ghosh, author of *Flood of Fire*

War veteran and journalist Roy Scranton combines memoir, philosophy, and science writing to craft one of the definitive documents of the modern era.--*The Believer*

Best Books of 2015

Coming home from the war in Iraq, US Army private Roy Scranton thought he'd left the world of strife behind. Then he watched as new calamities struck America, heralding a threat far more dangerous than ISIS or Al Qaeda: Hurricane Katrina, Superstorm Sandy, megadrought--the shock and awe of global warming. Our world is changing. Rising seas, spiking temperatures, and extreme weather imperil global infrastructure, crops, and water supplies. Conflict, famine, plagues, and riots menace from every quarter. From war-stricken Baghdad to the melting Arctic, human-caused climate change poses a danger not only to political and economic stability, but to civilization itself . . . and to what it means to be human. Our greatest enemy, it turns out, is ourselves. The warmer, wetter, more chaotic world we now live in--the Anthropocene--demands a radical new vision of human life. In this bracing response to climate change, Roy Scranton combines memoir, reportage, philosophy, and Zen wisdom to explore what it means to be human in a rapidly evolving world, taking readers on a journey through street protests, the latest findings of earth scientists, a historic UN summit, millennia of geological history, and the persistent vitality of ancient literature. Expanding on his influential New York Times essay (the #1 most-emailed article the day it appeared, and selected for Best American Science and Nature Writing 2014), Scranton responds to the existential problem of global warming by arguing that in order to survive, we must come to terms with our mortality. Plato argued that to philosophize is to learn to die. If that's true, says Scranton, then we have entered humanity's most philosophical age--for this is precisely the problem of the Anthropocene. The trouble now is that we must learn to die not as individuals, but as a civilization. Roy Scranton has published in the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Rolling Stone, Boston Review, and Theory and Event, and has been interviewed on NPR's Fresh Air, among other media.

the great derangement: Why Geology Matters Doug Macdougall, 2011-05-02 Volcanic dust, climate change, tsunamis, earthquakes—geoscience explores phenomena that profoundly affect our lives. But more than that, as Doug Macdougall makes clear, the science also provides important clues to the future of the planet. In an entertaining and accessibly written narrative, Macdougall gives an overview of Earth's astonishing history based on information extracted from rocks, ice cores, and other natural archives. He explores such questions as: What is the risk of an asteroid striking Earth? Why does the temperature of the ocean millions of years ago matter today? How are efforts to predict earthquakes progressing? Macdougall also explains the legacy of greenhouse gases from Earth's past and shows how that legacy shapes our understanding of today's human-caused climate change. We find that geoscience in fact illuminates many of today's most pressing issues—the availability of energy, access to fresh water, sustainable agriculture, maintaining biodiversity—and we discover how, by applying new technologies and ideas, we can use it to prepare for the future.

the great derangement: The Animal Part Mark Payne, 2010-10-15 How can literary imagination help us engage with the lives of other animals? The question represents one of the liveliest areas of inquiry in the humanities, and Mark Payne seeks to answer it by exploring the relationship between human beings and other animals in writings from antiquity to the present. Ranging from ancient Greek poets to modernists like Ezra Pound and William Carlos Williams, Payne considers how writers have used verse to communicate the experience of animal suffering, created

analogies between human and animal societies, and imagined the kind of knowledge that would be possible if human beings could see themselves as animals see them. The Animal Part also makes substantial contributions to the emerging discourse of the posthumanities. Payne offers detailed accounts of the tenuousness of the idea of the human in ancient literature and philosophy and then goes on to argue that close reading must remain a central practice of literary study if posthumanism is to articulate its own prehistory. For it is only through fine-grained literary interpretation that we can recover the poetic thinking about animals that has always existed alongside philosophical constructions of the human. In sum, *The Animal Part* marks a breakthrough in animal studies and offers a significant contribution to comparative poetics.

the great derangement: Florida Lauren Groff, 2018-06-05 'Magnificent . . . Lauren Groff is a virtuoso' Emily St John Mandel 'A blistering collection . . . lyrical and oblique' Guardian 'Not to be missed . . . deep and dark and resonant' Ann Patchett 'It's beautiful. It's giving me rich, grand nightmares' Observer In these vigorous stories, Lauren Groff brings her electric storytelling to a world in which storms, snakes and sinkholes lurk at the edge of everyday life, but the greater threats are of a human, emotional and psychological nature. Among those navigating it all are a resourceful pair of abandoned sisters; a lonely boy, grown up; a restless, childless couple; a searching, homeless woman; and an unforgettable conflicted wife and mother. Florida is an exploration of the connections behind human pleasure and pain, hope and despair, love and fury. 'Innovative and terrifyingly relevant. Any one of these stories is a bracing read; together they form a masterpiece' Stylist 'Lushly evocative . . . mesmerising . . . a writer whose turn of phrase can stop you on your tracks' Financial Times

the great derangement: *The Four Humors* Mina Seckin, 2022-11-08 This wry and visceral debut novel follows a young Turkish-American woman who, rather than grieving her father's untimely death, seeks treatment for a stubborn headache and grows obsessed with a centuries-old theory of medicine. [A] humane and refreshingly astringent novel. —Lauren LeBlanc, The New York Times Book Review Twenty-year-old Sibel thought she had concrete plans for the summer. She would care for her grandmother in Istanbul, visit her father's grave, and study for the MCAT. Instead, she finds herself watching Turkish soap operas and self-diagnosing her own possible chronic illness with the four humors theory of ancient medicine. Also on Sibel's mind: her blond American boyfriend who accompanies her to Turkey; her energetic but distraught younger sister; and her devoted grandmother, who, Sibel comes to learn, carries a harrowing secret. Delving into her family's history, the narrative weaves through periods of political unrest in Turkey, from military coups to the Gezi Park protests. Told with pathos and humor, Sibel's search for strange and unusual cures is disrupted as she begins to see how she might heal herself through the care of others, including her own family and its long-fractured relationships.

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