

Imagine! Creating Earth Futures?

How do you imagine the environment?
Where does this imagination come from?



Dr. Harriet Hawkins

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This talk is part of the NEH-funded *Critical Approaches to Place* project, which includes development of interdisciplinary geohumanities curricula and a public speaker series.

For more information, see cap.nmsu.edu
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Four Depths - Hollow Earth,
by Flora Parrott, Nottingham Contemporary, 2022

Monday 3 April 2023 5:30 pm
Breland Hall Room 185, NMSU
free & open to the public

In recent times the imagination has offered both a means to understand the origins of our current environmental predicament and a proactive response to it. In other words, can some responsibility for environmental crisis be laid at the doorstep of failures of a Western imagination of human-environmental relations? Whether these failures be a diminished imagination unable to provide the basis for modes of respectful living with the Earth, an imagination inadequate to the spatial-temporal complexities of climate change and the Anthropocene, or an overlooking of other imaginations of the environment already present in the world. Accepting such failures might however, also direct us to the possibilities of the imaginary realm, not only for imagining new Earth Futures, but also, for forging foundations for living onwards otherwise. This talk sets out to explore these possibilities and their pitfalls through probing a series of artistic-academic projects that fall under the rubric of the GeoHumanities. Revisiting the troubled inheritances of the idea of the imagination, discussion of these projects will consider where the resources for less flawed environmental imaginations might come from, what the form of such imaginations might be, but also, what understandings of the imagination itself they demand.

My research is focused on the advancement of the GeoHumanities, a field that sits at the intersection of geographical scholarship with arts and humanities scholarship and practice. Empirically, I explore the geographies of artworks and art worlds. I'm interested in the elaboration of core humanities concepts of aesthetics, creativity and the imagination from a geographical perspective. My current research focuses on the underground as a site of much needed new environmental imaginations. Collaboration underpins my research practice and alongside written research, I've produced artist's books, participatory art projects and exhibitions with individual artists and a range of international arts organizations including Tate, Arts Catalyst, Iniva, Furtherfield and Swiss Artists in Labs.

-Harriet Hawkins