

Peer Review

Review of: "Let the Transformative Anthropocene Be Positive!"

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Thank you for the opportunity to review this engaging article. It provides a compelling and helpful review of the Anthropocene, what is driving it, and its consequences. I would suggest two areas that could be addressed to help strengthen the piece.

The first and most important point relates to the title: "Let the Transformative Anthropocene Be Positive!" I love this and was looking forward to the article because of the title. We can use all the hope we can get! I think the paper sets a nice stage for understanding why it's important to be thinking about the Anthropocene and makes a strong case for the fact that we're in it. But it doesn't quite get to making a strong argument for what a positive Anthropocene could look like. What would its core elements be? How can we work together to achieve this vision? And so forth. Here, it would be good to engage with some similarly situated work. I don't know this work particularly well, but I'd suggest beginning with articles like 'A Manifesto for Abundant Futures' by Collard, Dempsey, and Sundberg (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00045608.2014.973007>) and build from there. Then it will be important to figure out how this contribution is in conversation with this literature to make a stronger case for how the Anthropocene can be positive and how we can build this.

Second, I think it could be helpful to build a bit more on the literature on anthropocentric landscapes. We've had anthropogenic landscapes much longer than many of us have realized, based on recent compelling research by Erle Ellis and others. At what point have anthropogenic landscapes led us into the Anthropocene or at least led to irreversible environmental damage? Based on cases where anthropogenic landscapes are not environmentally harmful, how might these be an important part of building the positive Anthropocene? I feel this is an important question and one the authors are in a good position to respond to.

Best of luck to the authors as they continue to develop this important article!

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.