

Review of: "The Anthropocene Borderline Problems"

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Martin Bohle's *The Anthropocene Borderline Problems* provides a valuable addition to literature on the Anthropocene. As Bohle explains, the Anthropocene is alternatively classified as an epoch, series of events, or episode, and these competing classifications have significantly different implications not only for scientists and scholars, but also for human society and our planetary future. In particular, the Anthropocene appears less dramatic when represented as a recent series of events in geological history than when it is framed as a new epoch characterized by largescale human environmental impact. Framed as an epoch, Bohle suggests, the Anthropocene becomes a game changer in the history of our planet. Of the three current models proposed for the Anthropocene (epoch, events, and episode), Bohle effectively argues that the emphasis on this dramatic shift from previous geological epochs is best situated to inspire human environmental consciousness. Additionally, by highlighting humans' potential to effect environmental change, this framing has the most potential to fuel advocacy and action.

Bohle's article informs current debates regarding the Anthropocene by providing a science communication perspective. It exposes the importance of terminology and the critical timeliness of this issue. As he points out, the Anthropocene Working Group (AWG) and the scientific community need, at the very least, to agree upon a model now so that they can work together to communicate the Anthropocene concept successfully to a wide audience.

While Bohle provides a compelling argument for the adoption of the Anthropocene epoch model, his article is less convincing in justifying the periodization of that model. The Great Acceleration in the mid-twentieth century is not the only starting point proposed for the Anthropocene. Indeed, Crutzen and Stoermer posited a much earlier base. Finding consensus on periodization is an additional hurdle to the establishment of coordinated messaging around the Anthropocene, a point Bohle's article largely overlooks. This article is most appropriate for a scientific audience working on Anthropocene-related subjects. However, this constituency might not be familiar with the term "borderline problems," since it stems from the history of science. Bohle explains the concept well in the article, but the title remains a bit obscure and might attract a broader readership if it were less technical. In general, the article is clearly structured and well supported. In addition to raising important points about the representation of the Anthropocene, it provides a solid overview of the development of this concept and a mine for further reading.