

Review of: "From Necro-Politics to Necro-Ecology: framing the current climate environmental politics in the Americas"

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This has been an interesting read and I would like to encourage the authors to keep up with the good work and further improve this piece.

The authors develop the concept of “necro-ecology as a new transdisciplinary framework” that builds on previous works on necropolitics. They do so with the aim of moving beyond necropolitics and add insights stemming from political ecology, philosophy, and environmental studies. The authors root their concept in Foucault’s writings, namely his works on biopower and biopolitics, and relate this to Mbembe’s writings, finally arriving at a definition of necro-ecology as “the latest stage of the political ecology thinking in the region and the necro politics dimensions, given not only the dramatic impacts of decision-making policies in the conservancy and nature preservation but also in the way current governments adopt decisions that can deeply affect in negative terms human beings and their relations with the ecosystems.”

Conceptual strengths lie in the connection made to “necro-economy”, and to the widening of perspective by referring to the ecological sphere.

However, the authors should provide more reason, why introducing a new concept is necessary, how it expands previous frameworks (such as necro-politics or climate necropolitics). For doing so, a more programmatic research strategy and a reflection on blind spots and roads less travelled in hitherto debates would be fruitful. Also, the four dimensions in figure 1 should already be mentioned when defining the concept, because they give a good impression on how to use necro ecology as an analytical framework.

In general, the conceptual framework would greatly benefit from a more solid engagement with the ideational roots of necropolitics beyond Foucault’s works. There should be more references to the debate on Mbembe’s work, as well as the debates on climate / green governmentality. Furthermore, engagement with Meredith DeBoom’s concept of climate necropolitics, Nixon’s “slow violence”, the debate on “green sacrifice zones”, as well as Farhana Sultana’s recent piece on climate coloniality would be necessary to develop a stronger argument.

The takes on Anglo-American political ecology lack rigour and I doubt the claim that “the studies of PE have been little for mainly two reasons”. Also the references made to eco-criticism in British literature are not so clear and need broader referencing.