

6S 2022 Sketch Groups Template
Staccato Project Design

TITLE

Ghosts of Climates Past: Navigating Microbial Prehistories as a Public Health Challenge

RESEARCHER/S

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ABSTRACT, INTELLECTUAL MERIT, BROAD IMPACT

Antibiotic resistance, or the ability of bacterial strains to evolve and become impervious to medication, is a critical concern for the management of human health and the functioning of health infrastructures worldwide. The thawing of permafrost in Arctic ecosystems due to climate change has aggravated the risks of antibiotic resistance through changes in soil biochemistry activating dormant soil microbes. In this research project, I ask - how do scientific and policy communities articulate and contend with the varying timescales associated with bacterial evolution in the context of climate change? By doing so, I aim to explore new vernaculars of historicity and their translations in order to make climate change sensible.

OVERVIEW / RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Q1. a) How do scientists, media and policy practitioners discursively constitute the risk associated with prehistoric microbes?
b) How are ideas of temporality inflected in these discourses?
Q2. a) What imaginative and sensory resources do they draw on to 'think with bacteria'?
b) How does thinking with bacteria orient these practitioners to different apprehensions of history- and future-making?

BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

LITERATURE REVIEW

- Scalemaking in the Anthropocene
Landecker, Hannah. 2016. "Antibiotic Resistance and the Biology of History." *Body & Society* 22 (4): 19–52. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1357034X14561341>.
Hecht, Gabrielle. 2018. "Interscalar Vehicles for an African Anthropocene: On Waste, Temporality, and Violence." *Cultural Anthropology* 33 (1): 109–41. <https://doi.org/10.14506/ca33.1.05>.
- Storying Climate Change
Callison, Candis. 2014. *How Climate Change Comes to Matter: The Communal Life of Facts*. Experimental Futures: Technological Lives, Scientific Arts, Anthropological Voices. Durham: Duke University Press.

Cruikshank, Julie. 2005. *Do Glaciers Listen? Local Knowledge, Colonial Encounters, and Social Imagination*. Brenda and David McLean Canadian Studies Series. Vancouver: UBC Press.

METHODS AND DATA RESOURCES

THEORETICAL FRAMES & DATA ANALYSIS

PLAN OF WORK

CHALLENGES AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

VALIDITY AND EVALUATION

PREPARATION AND WORK THUS FAR

REFERENCES

DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

FURTHER NOTES