

Call for Abstracts

Growing Posthuman Subjectivities in the Dirt of Nihilism?

Panel held at the Annual Meeting of the *Society for Existential and Phenomenological Theory and Culture* (EPTC)
May 28-30, 2018, Regina, Saskatchewan

Organizers: Sean Braune (Brock University) and
Christine Daigle (Brock University)

Deadline for submissions of abstracts: December 18, 2017

What does the ear appended to Stelarc's elbow hear? What is the selfhood of posthuman objects, subjects, transjects, appendages, or assemblages? What remains of consciousness and the subject once we launch a critique of the Human? Is there any human agent left in a world filled with agentic capacities of the human and non-human kind? What does it mean to exist in/as "materiality that materializes"? Posthumanist material feminists propose to reconceptualise the human as a nomadic subject (Braidotti), a heterogeneous assemblage (Bennett), a mangle (Hekman), a biocultural creature (Frost), or an exposed subject (Alaimo). While this return to materiality and its concomitant rejection of centuries of emphasis on the mind and reason is welcome, one is left to ponder how precarious the experience of being a conscious subject has become. But does this precarious ontological vulnerability—the vulnerability of this fleeting, ever-constituted being—give birth to a new kind of being, albeit a negative *thing*? If so, then what is this nihilistic thing? What is the *thingliness* of this entirely novel "subjectivity"—this posthuman and yet agential or potentially vital thing? Is this negation in fact an enrichment, a growth, or even a flourishing?

This panel will welcome any engagement with notions of the development or morphogenetic growth of a posthumanist subjectivity that responds to the ever-present exigencies of the contemporary world (as found in ontology, politics, economics, etc.) in order to propose new ways forward for posthuman ontology. Our inquiry is therefore timely and pressing.

The languages of the panel are English and French. Authors are invited to submit a **750-word abstract (in English or in French)** for a paper of 20-25 minutes reading time. The deadline for submitting an abstract is **Friday December 18, 2017**. Abstracts can be emailed to Sean Braune (sbraune@brocku.ca) and Christine Daigle (cdaigle@brocku.ca).

Selected authors will be required to submit full papers for review by **February 15, 2018**.