

# Towards a post-apocalyptic environmentalism?

Responses to loss and visions of the future in climate activism

Carl Cassegård

19:15-20:45, July 19th, 2019

Room L-821, 8th Floor, Library, Sophia University

The environmental movement has long been dominated by apocalyptic images of future catastrophes. This discourse is today challenged by the rise of 'post-apocalyptic' environmentalism based on the experience of irreversible or unavoidable loss. This discourse is neither nourished by a strong sense of hope, nor of a future disaster, but a sense that the catastrophe is already on-going and unstoppable, thus provoking the question of what makes activists mobilize in the absence of hope. In my talk I explore the notion of post-apocalyptic politics by focusing on how the utopias brought into play by activists are deployed in political mobilizations. I focus on two cases of climate activism – the Dark Mountain project and the International Tribunal for the Rights of Nature (ITRN) – and argue that their mobilizations

are possible through what I call the paradox of hope and the paradox of justice. I end by contextualizing post-apocalyptic environmentalism in relation to the recent wave of global climate-related protest.

**Carl Cassegård** is professor of sociology (University of Gothenburg). He is the author of *Youth Movements, Trauma and Alternative Space in Contemporary Japan* (2014) and *Shock and Naturalization* (2007), and has co-edited *Climate Action in a Globalizing World* (2017).

- Language: English
- No Prior registration necessary, but please bring the event flyer with you and show it at the entrance of the Library. The flyer can be downloaded at ICC webpage.
- This lecture is organized by Professor David H. Slater (FLA)

Institute of Comparative Culture (ICC) Sophia University:  
7-1 Kioicho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8554, JAPAN/  
Web: <http://icc fla.sophia.ac.jp/>

Photos by Markus Spiske [temporausch.com](https://www.pexels.com) from Pexels

