Abstract



Matthias Fritsch Earth's Movement onto the Stage of Intergenerational Time

This talk seeks to offer a response to massive environmental destabilization by linking my account of intergenerational justice as turn-taking with the proposals for a geokinetic view of Earth and the idea of a second Copernican revolution. The argument will proceed in four steps. First, I suggest that recent proposals calling on us to respond to the Anthropocene by 'being geologically human' (as David Wood puts it), by situating lived human time in geological time, should be supplemented by generational time, and thus, by the ethics and politics of human generations following one another. To conceptualize intergenerational justice, the second step reviews my proposal for generations taking turns with the earth. I then suggest in step three that the earth is not an external, exchangeable object that we may or may not use, but is constitutive of generations being able to come about and take turns in the first place. In this constitutive sense, earth also takes turns with us. To further specify this idea, I discuss in the final step the so-called "second Copernican revolution," according to which the earth not only moves around the sun, but is internally on the move, its geokinetic processes co-constituting us. The environmental crises in our very midst demand a reconceptualization of time as always already intergenerational and space as counter-Copernican.



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