

Manifestos: Goldsmiths Press Planetarities by Jahara Maisek - A Critical Examination of Planetary Politics



Manifestos (Goldsmiths Press / Planetarities)

by Jahara Maisek

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 3018 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 304 pages

Lending : Enabled



In her groundbreaking work, "Manifestos: Goldsmiths Press Planetarities," Jahara Maisek presents a compelling exploration of the evolving discourse on planetary politics and the role of art and literature in shaping our understanding of the Anthropocene. This article aims to critically examine the book's theoretical framework, case studies, and methodological approach, highlighting its significant contributions while also offering constructive critiques.

Theoretical Framework

Maisek's analysis is rooted in a robust theoretical framework that draws upon planetary studies, environmental humanities, and postcolonial theory. She argues that the Anthropocene has ushered in a new era of planetary

politics, characterized by the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic systems.

Central to Matissek's framework is the concept of "planetary," which she defines as a "set of practices, discourses, and imaginations that intervene in the ways in which we understand and engage with the planet" (p. 12). She contends that planetary challenges traditional notions of sovereignty and territoriality, opening up possibilities for rethinking the relationship between humans and the Earth.

Case Studies

Matissek's book is structured around a series of case studies that examine how artists, writers, and activists have grappled with the challenges of planetary politics. These case studies range from the work of science fiction writer Kim Stanley Robinson to the environmental activism of the Zapatistas in Chiapas, Mexico.

One notable case study is Matissek's analysis of the Goldsmiths Press, a publishing house that has played a pivotal role in fostering a dialogue on planetary politics. She argues that the Press's publications have challenged conventional approaches to environmentalism, promoting instead a more radical and interdisciplinary understanding of the Anthropocene.

Methodological Approach

Matissek's methodological approach is interdisciplinary, drawing on literary analysis, cultural studies, and political science. She employs a close reading of texts, combined with ethnographic fieldwork and archival research, to develop a nuanced understanding of the ways in which planetary politics is represented and contested in art and literature.

A key strength of Matissek's approach is her focus on the materiality of planetary politics. She demonstrates how the physical environment, technological infrastructures, and artistic practices shape the ways in which we experience and respond to the Anthropocene.

Strengths

Matissek's book makes several significant contributions to the study of planetary politics and environmental humanities:

- It provides a comprehensive and theoretically informed analysis of the evolving discourse on planetary politics.
- The case studies offer insightful and original readings of key works in art, literature, and activism.
- The interdisciplinary approach allows Matissek to explore the multifaceted nature of planetary politics, bridging the gap between environmental studies, cultural studies, and political theory.

Critiques

While "Manifestos: Goldsmiths Press Planetarities" is a valuable contribution to the field, there are a few constructive critiques that can be offered:

- At times, the theoretical framework can feel somewhat dense and abstract, potentially making it challenging for readers who are unfamiliar with the relevant literature.
- The book's focus on the Goldsmiths Press, while significant, may give readers the impression that this is the only institution engaging with planetary politics.

- The analysis could have benefited from a more explicit engagement with the role of power dynamics and inequalities in planetary politics.

Jahara Matissek's "Manifestos: Goldsmiths Press Planetarities" is a thought-provoking and timely exploration of the complex and interconnected challenges of planetary politics. Its theoretical framework, case studies, and methodological approach provide valuable insights into the ways in which art and literature can shape our understanding of the Anthropocene and inspire action towards a more sustainable future. While certain critiques can be offered, the book's overall contribution to the field of planetary politics and environmental humanities is significant.



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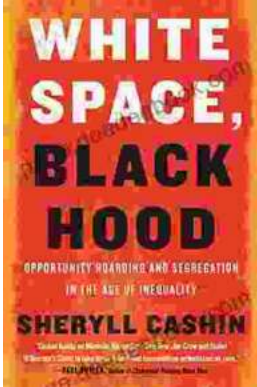
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