

Donna Haraway- Tentacular thinking: Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Chthulucene

The introduction of Donna Haraway in our practice seems to be completely unnecessary but also because how can you describe Haraway and her work? In plain English I personally find it very unlikely. For the record Haraway is a distinguished Professor in the history department at the university of California and the author of several books, with her breakthrough to the public “ A cyborg manifesto”. Several years after that Haraway wants to speak about the Chthulucene, her need to stay with the trouble and how according to her it is essential to invent new narratives and ways of telling stories.

As an attempt to unpack the unique writing and new way of storytelling by Haraway and specifically of this piece from her book *Staying with the trouble: Making kin in the Chthulucene*, I will try to review the three most essential parts of it, the Anthropocene, the Capitalocene and the Chthulucene.

The Anthropocene is placed in a geological era in the history of earth where the human activities have altered its physiology and shapes its progress. By crossing multiple boundaries especially in the 18th century, according to Paul Crutzen the use of fossil energy such as gas, oil and coal changed the shape of our society and disrupted the atmospheric composition. Haraway highlights how this word to describe this epoch has been picked up by multiple researchers, artists to portray the aftermath of the human fossil evolution.

That brings us to the Capitalocene which according to Haraway is the result of our need to extract every possible energy asset we can from the earth and generate as much capital as possible, chronologically exactly where we are now. The age of profit and reusable energy. Since earth hasn't much more to offer our capital is getting generated or to be more accurate, re-generated from the minimum sources left.

Last we come to the Chthulucene, a parallel universe or speculative era where humans are not the dominant creatures but all sorts of critters and combinations of humans/ animals are possible. The evolution has come and we managed that by seeing and experiencing this alternative life that exists somewhere between a broken mirror.

This of course is my way of interpreting this vast text that reeks of Donna Haraway speculative fabulosa and her completely unique way of seeing humans and their progress. It is imperative indeed to understand how capitalism and human greed shaped earth, societies and life as we know it. The Chthulucene is a utopian era where we were not too late to act and change and by changing our ways we managed to go an epoch further instead of facing our extinction. I could say this message could have been given in a more simple way so that it could reach a bigger audience but then again it wouldn't be Donna Haraway, would it?