

## 1. Anthropocene: What is it?

The first text describes the Earth as being approximately 4.5 billion years old. And geologists divide this history into blocks of time that can be called eras, epochs, periods or ages. The epoch we are in is the Holocene and it began approximately 12,000 years ago. During the Holocene, human civilization developed. The notion that we have entered a new epoch, the Anthropocene, was first voiced in 2000 by Paul Crutzen. According to him, the Anthropocene began in the late 18th century, when data in the polar ice shows the beginning of increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide and methane. Further, the text tells of the increasing influence of humans on their surroundings.

According to the second text, the essence of the Anthropocene is not technological, but technological humans have moved the earth to a "state without analogy." We are in an ontology of modern times that centers on the belief that humans can use science to unlock the secrets of nature and, with the help of technology, take control of the natural world. The text goes on to describe Descola's naturalism, which contrasts this naturalism with three other ontologies: animism, totemism, and analogism. But which premodern ontology to choose, and how exactly does it inform our response to climate change? According to the author of the text, one cannot nostalgically return to old ontologies in the Anthropocene. The author goes on to criticize science, although he admittedly maintains his naturalistic optics. He describes the Earth system as a whole in constant motion, and disruption of one sphere is inevitably disruption of other spheres, and criticizes the shorthand in which the Anthropocene is used as a human influence on the environment. It is rather a "state without analogy". That is to say, a condition that has no parallel in the geological history of the Earth. The onset of the Anthropocene is thus a turning point in the history of humanity and the Earth. As a result, the ontological nature of the Earth as an object has changed and its state is not determined by the forces of nature, but its state is influenced by the will of an intelligent being. The world is so much changed in the Anthropocene that it renders all previous ontologies obsolete. Thus, according to the author, there is a need for a new ontology (a fifth ontology) that expresses the emotional orientation of the Anthropocene, which is faithful to the actual circumstances of the new epoch.

Crutzen-Stoermer (2000). The "Anthropocene". IGBP Newsletter. Hamilton, C. 2020. "TOWARDS A FIFTH ONTOLOGY FOR THE ANTHROPOCENE." *Angelaki* 25 (4):110-119. doi: DOI: 10.1080/0969725X.2020.1790839