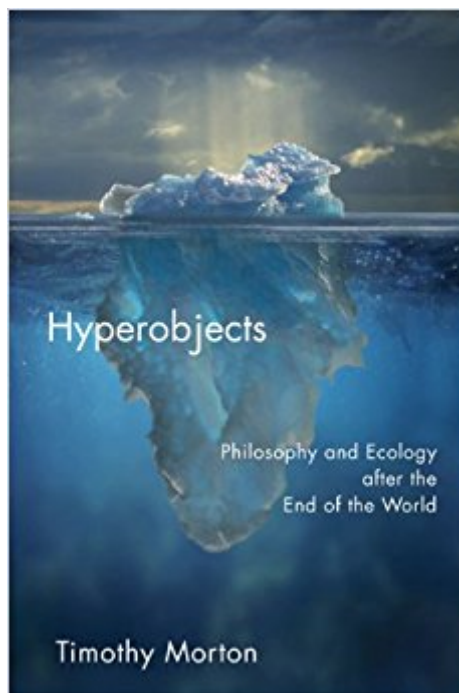




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Hyperobjects: Philosophy And Ecology After The End Of The World (Posthumanities)



Synopsis

Having set global warming in irreversible motion, we are facing the possibility of ecological catastrophe. But the environmental emergency is also a crisis for our philosophical habits of thought, confronting us with a problem that seems to defy not only our control but also our understanding. Global warming is perhaps the most dramatic example of what Timothy Morton calls "hyperobjects"—entities of such vast temporal and spatial dimensions that they defeat traditional ideas about what a thing is in the first place. In this book, Morton explains what hyperobjects are and their impact on how we think, how we coexist with one another and with nonhumans, and how we experience our politics, ethics, and art. Moving fluidly between philosophy, science, literature, visual and conceptual art, and popular culture, the book argues that hyperobjects show that the end of the world has already occurred in the sense that concepts such as world, nature, and even environment are no longer a meaningful horizon against which human events take place. Instead of inhabiting a world, we find ourselves inside a number of hyperobjects, such as climate, nuclear weapons, evolution, or relativity. Such objects put unbearable strains on our normal ways of reasoning. Insisting that we have to reinvent how we think to even begin to comprehend the world we now live in, *Hyperobjects* takes the first steps, outlining a genuinely postmodern ecological approach to thought and action.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In *Hyperobjects*, Timothy Morton brings to bear his deep knowledge of a wide array of subjects to

propose a new way of looking at our situation, which might allow us to take action toward the future health of the biosphere. Crucially, the relations between Buddhism and science, nature and culture, are examined in the fusion of a single vision. The result is a great work of cognitive mapping, both exciting and useful. — Kim Stanley Robinson, author of *Shaman*, 2312, and the Mars trilogy

Timothy Morton is Rita Shea Guffey Chair in English at Rice University. He is the author of many books, including *The Ecological Thought* and *Ecology without Nature*. He blogs frequently at *Ecology without Nature*.

Absolutely essential perspectives on our ability (or lack thereof) of absorbing complex things into our consciousness that are nonetheless as real as the nose in front of your face. Our survival depends on grasping the meaning of what Morton addresses. It is very much in question whether we really can. This writing could be seen as a part of the OOO canon as it stands so far.

Though delving into the "end of the world" creates a certain fear and stigma at first, hyperobjects seem to create interesting alternatives for freshening up bad memories of the never-ending present future.

The idea of a hyperobject is, I think, a vital one. Morton makes a compelling case for this, and I have no doubt that there is good philosophical work to be done with this concept. The trouble, I think, is that he proceeds to overdo it. His writing is dense, and that is to be expected with such strange and technically complex ontology. At times, however, I realised that it was vastly more Byzantine than it needed to be. Philosophy of all strains should aim at clarity, not performance. Morton, disappointingly, cannot help but perform.

Essential to get a grasp on the changes in climate and environment, considering I finished this book on this day when the North Pole is strangely at a temperature above the freezing point of water.

Reading this book made me hopeful about the state of the world. It's a book I have shared with students and friends.

Ok, I am nowhere near finished with this...I got the Kindle version but have been too busy to really sink my teeth into it...and I am barely able to understand this stuff...but OMG! It's one "Aha!"

moment after another... I haven't been this jazzed about a book or idea since Keith Dowman's "Spaciousness" (my favorite book). And for such a genius, Timothy Morton is totally down to earth, with a dry humor that captivates.

Very pleased with order

Really enjoyed it. Ecology is much more interesting to me now, and Morton's way of approaching and blending subjects like global warming, oil, Heidegger, capitalism, Wall-E, Nietzsche, sustainability, Monty Python, Buddhism, Aristotle, the Beatles, the Talking Heads, etc. all so seamlessly is great. Most aspects of OOO, and traits of hyperobjects like viscosity and undulation, are still beyond me. Nonetheless, it remained a challenging, fun, awareness-enhancing read. Morton works hard and does well to communicate difficult ideas in thoughtful and creative ways, even to novices.

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