

Compost or Posthuman: More-than-Human Kinship at the End of the World as We Know It

“The end of the world” evokes apocalypse or dystopia, warning us of disasters to avoid. This talk will take as its point of departure the idea that in some sense the end of the world is necessary. In addition, imagining life at or after this end is potentially a radically transformative move. Through setting up dialogues with and between works of contemporary speculative fiction I wish to explore this potential, highlighting how these works disrupt exploitative relationships or weave new webs of relationality. Employing the concept of kinship, the lecture traces material, emotional, and discursive connections that could help us build “unknown” worlds, while also paying attention to tensions, conflicts, and limits of such worldbuilding.