

Geopower: Genealogy After Life

13 May 2015,
14.30–16.00



University of Zürich,
Karl-Schmid-Str. 4,
Room KO2-F-152



Eruption of Eldfell volcano on island of Heimaey, Iceland, which engulfed parts of the village of Vestmannaeyjar in January 1973.

The Anthropocene thesis contains within it a notion of geologic planetary agency and a new mode of subjectivity that is constituted by, and constituting of, geologic forces. After a century of biologic thought, a sharp “turn” is being enacted towards a future governed by geophysics. Given the centralisation of life as an organising concept within biopolitical thought, the consideration of political subjectivity in the Anthropocene raises the question of what geopolitics after life might look like. Staying with a notion of “geologic life” as corporeal condition and a question of political subjectivity, this paper examines the prepolitical condition of geopower as a basis for a genealogy after life.

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