

Review of: "From Necro-Politics to Necro-Ecology: framing the current climate environmental politics in the Americas"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

There are some very impressive ideas in this piece and I very much enjoyed reading it. The first section of the article where the authors develop the idea of necro-ecology is particularly strong. On that basis, my initial impression of the piece was that it was entirely publishable. However, I think that there are one or two issues that I would advise the authors to try to address. First, and this would only be an issue for an English language journal, I think the English needs some minor tweaks. It's 90% there, but there are one or two slight issues that I think might be corrected to support publication. Second, I think the paper loses its intellectual bite somewhere around half-way when it starts to discuss a range of case studies that illustrate the problem of necro-ecology. The methodological approach of the piece - starting theory and then illustrating the ideas discussed through concrete examples - makes perfect sense to me, but I think it needs slightly more in the second half of the piece to retain the reader's interest. The main issue with the second half of the piece for me is this - we already know that late capitalism is a necro-economic system. There is a lot of literature on this problem. On that basis, what is this article doing that adds to current knowledge. I'm not clear about the answer to this question. In order to respond to this my advice to the authors would be to look for something in part 1 of the piece, where they expertly explain the problem of necro-ecology, and identify this as a causal factor of the necro-economic system. In other words, there must be something behind the necro-economic profit seeking motive that underpins the problem of necro-ecology. If the authors could identify that, and say that this is what we need to address to respond to this problem which is manifest in the catastrophic conditions present in the Latin American examples they refer to, then they would have a complete and very strong piece. In terms of what this issue might be, I would advise looking at the work of Bernard Stiegler. Essentially, Stiegler uses psychoanalysis and notions of unconscious repetition to explain how late capitalism represents a path-dependent, self-destructive system that will eventually consume itself and the biospheric resource that it lives off and we rely on to survive. I think that if the authors can very slightly sharpen their English and then thread this argument through the piece, to say 'look, this may be what we need to address to respond to the problem of necro-ecology', then they would have, in my view, a strong, publishable piece.