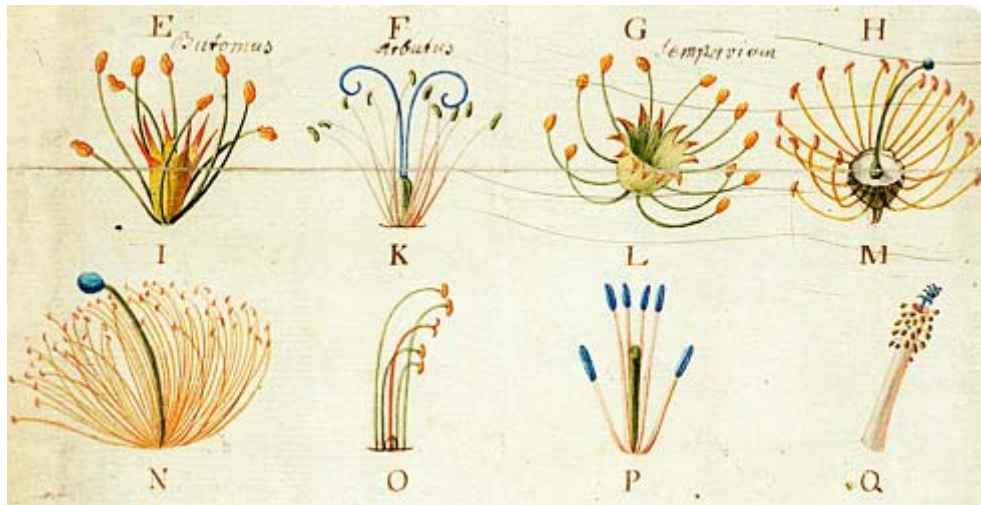


# Plantarium: Human-Vegetal Ecologies

Edited by Olga Cielemeńska and Marianna Szczygielska



Plant life is usually perceived, both in philosophy and commonsensically, as a lower (immobile, non-sentient, passive) form of being. Against this tradition, new multidisciplinary approaches come to view. Plants constitute not only potent metaphors for human relationship to the land, mobility, and fertility, but also determine in concrete, empirical ways human livelihoods, diets, health, landscape, urban design, economies, histories of belonging, domination, conquest, and “weeding out” (Schiebinger 1993). Plants are active agents participating in “the romance connecting people, plants, and places” (Tsing 2012). Emerging fields of research such as plant studies (Foster 2016, Marder 2013), queer ecologies (Mortimer-Sandilands and Erickson 2010), multispecies ethnographies (Haraway 2008; Kirksey and Helmreich 2010), human geography ( Foster and Sandberg 2004, Head 2015,), food studies (Shiva 2000, Carney 2001), feminist new materialisms (van der Tuin and Dolphijn 2012; Myers 2015), and political ecology, among others, point to the intensive traffic in meanings and matter between plants, places and humans. Simultaneously, there are multiple practices rooted in urban activism, grassroots community building, indigenous knowledges, and artistic experimentations, which explore and redefine intimate human-plant relations and dependencies. “Plantarium” aims at mobilizing these theoretical advances, artistic actions, and activist practices in a series of thought-provoking and grounded interventions.

“Plantarium” grows out of the budding debates within environmental humanities around plant life, thinking, and agency. The project looks into the vegetal not only through the lenses of its symbolic and visual representations – e.g. analysed as a motif in art or literature, but also, through exercising “plant-thinking” (Marder 2013) it seeks ways of reimagining of subjectivity, agency, and motility in the wake of the posthuman turn, as well as of recalibrating the discussions on ethical responsibility and environmental justice, which would respect and account for the plant others. These new ecologies sprout into territories of politically valent social struggles for queer, minority, and indigenous rights. “Plantarium” special issue intends to offer botanical thought as a way of crossing the taxonomic boundaries and normative classifications, and by that, trouble classical, discrete notions of identity, subjectivity, life, environment, nature, and culture.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to the following issues:

- Plants and environmental justice;
- Queer botanical ecologies: sexuality, sensuality, reproduction;
- From plant nonhuman ontologies to vegetal philosophies;
- Plant and vegetal life in bioart, art, architecture, design;
- Botanical accounts in history of science;
- Indigenous plant cosmologies;
- Plants in anti-colonial perspectives;
- Human-plant entanglements in a biopolitical perspective;
- Materiality of botanics, gardening, food production and other plant practices;
- Gardens, herbariums, and other botanical collections;
- Seeds, weeds, and biopiracy;
- Land and agriculture in a vegetal-oriented analysis;
- Plants in the wake of the Anthropocene;
- *Trans*-plants: mobility, borders, and plant-human belonging.

Rethinking the generative potentialities of the botanical calls for collaborative efforts to bring to life new praxes within such varied fields as art, activism, architecture, urban planning, literature, and academic interventions. Therefore, we encourage both traditionally academic submissions (5000-9000 words), as well as visual materials, provocations (5000-9000 words), review essays (3000-6000 words), activist reports and commentary pieces (1000-3000 words), and other varying genres.

**Submission guidelines:**

Due **September 29, 2017** to plantarium2017[at]gmail.com as word documents (.doc or .docx).

- Extended abstract of 500 words. The abstract should include: title, author's/s' name, current affiliation and email address, and maximum five key words.

- 1-page CV.

- Only previously unpublished (in English) work, not currently under review by other publishers will be considered.

\* Notifications will follow by October 10, 2017. Full submissions due December 18, 2017 for peer-review process. Publication is envisaged in an open-access peer-reviewed journal on environmental humanities.