

The Human Park: Industrialization, Resource Utilization and Climate Change in the 21st Century

Ivan Tchalakov

University of Plovdiv, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

The lecture offers a science and technology studies (STS)' perspective towards the crucial environmental problems of late modern societies - among them the destruction of 'wild' ecosystems, industrial and anthropogenic pollution, climate change. It also elaborates a conceptual frame that possibly could facilitate the communication between scientists and engineers, economic actors, social communities, and general public.

More than twenty years ago STS questioned the very division between nature and society, pointing out that this division was born at a specific moment in the development of early modern science. Since then a number of concepts and approaches have been developed, that offer new approaches in the accounting of human presence in the world and the effects of our interaction with other entities that are inhabiting it. The first part of the lecture will briefly discuss the notions of 'risk society' (Ulrich Beck), 'human park' (Peter Sloterdijk), and 'modern constitution' (Bruno Latour) as first theoretical approximations to environmental problems of late modern societies. The second part of the lecture focuses on research practices in science to introduce the idea of scientists as representatives and 'spoke-person' in the larger society of the non-human entities they study. The notion of 'heterogeneous communities' will be considered as framing both research practices and the introduction of 'tamed' nonhuman entities (substances, vaccines, artefacts, devices, etc.) into the larger society. The notion pays special attention to the bodily (corporeal) and ethical layers of relationship between human and non-human actors, which allows to distinguish between *entrepreneurial* and *enduring* types of science (Tchalakov 2014).

The last part of the lecture offers a critical account of Bruno Latour's conception of *Gaia* and related idea of *Anthropocene* as a new way to understanding the effects of human activities on the Earth and to redefine the relationships between science and society. It raises the question about the limitations of Latour's approach, based on the latest studies of the author of *New Space* movement and its vision of humanity as space-faring civilization, where the Earth is only the initial point of the coming colonization of outer space.