

Ewa Domanska

"Ecological Humanities – A New Utopia?"

ABSTRACT

In this essay I am going to present and problematize changes in the human and social sciences related to the process of conventionalization of the interpretivist-constructivist paradigm (in new humanities) and the emergence of a so-called ecological humanities or non-anthropocentric humanities since the late 90s. I will identify visible reconfigurations that are manifested in the replacement of a vertical model of knowledge by a horizontal one in which relational approaches and so-called „flat alternatives” are of special interest. My claim is that the future of the human and social sciences is strictly related to the concern for the future of the human species and life itself (zoe). Biology, science and technology studies, and art open up considerations on a future world of multispecies communities - a topic that attracts the attention of avant-garde scholars such as Rosi Braidotti, Bruno Latour, Donna Haraway, Nicholas Rose, Cary Wolfe?

BIO

Ewa Domanska is Associate Professor of theory and history of historiography in the Department of History, Adam Mickiewicz University at Poznan, Poland and since 2002 Visiting Associate Professor at the Department of Anthropology, Stanford University. Her teaching and research interests include comparative theory of the human and social sciences, history and theory of historiography. She is the author of *Mikrohistorie: spotkania w międzyświatach* (*Microhistories: Encounters In-between Worlds*, 1999, revd. edn, 2005 in Polish); *Unconventional Histories. Reflections on the Past in the New Humanities* (*Historie niekonwencjonalne. Refleksja o historii w nowej humanistyce*, 2006, in Polish); *Existential History. Critical Approach to Narrativism and Emancipatory Humanities* (*Historia egzystencjalna. Krytyczne studium narratywizmu i humanistyki zaangażowanej*, in Polish, 2012 – in print). She edited and co-edited 13 books including Hayden White’s and Frank Ankersmit’s collections of essays (in Polish) and also: *Encounters: Philosophy of History After Postmodernism* (1998); and *Re-Figuring Hayden White* (with Frank Ankersmit and Hans Kellner, 2009); and recently - *French Theory in Poland* (with Mirosław Loba, *French Theory w Polsce*, 2010, in Polish) and *Theory of Knowledge of the Past and the Contemporary Human and Social Sciences* (*Teoria wiedzy o przeszłości na tle współczesnej humanistyki*, in Polish, 2010).