

Economy(y)ics of the Anthro(po)sce)ne:

Resemiotizing Nature- Culture Exchanges

Gwendolyn Inocencio, MS, PHD (c)

Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas
USA

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Anthropo(sce)ne



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- more than a geological epoch
- “separation of social signs from natural facts” (Menely and Taylor, 4)
- “Semiotic criteria take precedence over a geophysical account” (7).

- double internality: “Human social and economic forms at once *shape and are shaped by* ‘biological and geological conditions” (4).

Key Question & Objective

- Can economic regimes recognize nonhuman agencies?
- Exploring the ability of human symbolic systems to comprehend nonhuman "given ways of life"



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Theoretical Framework

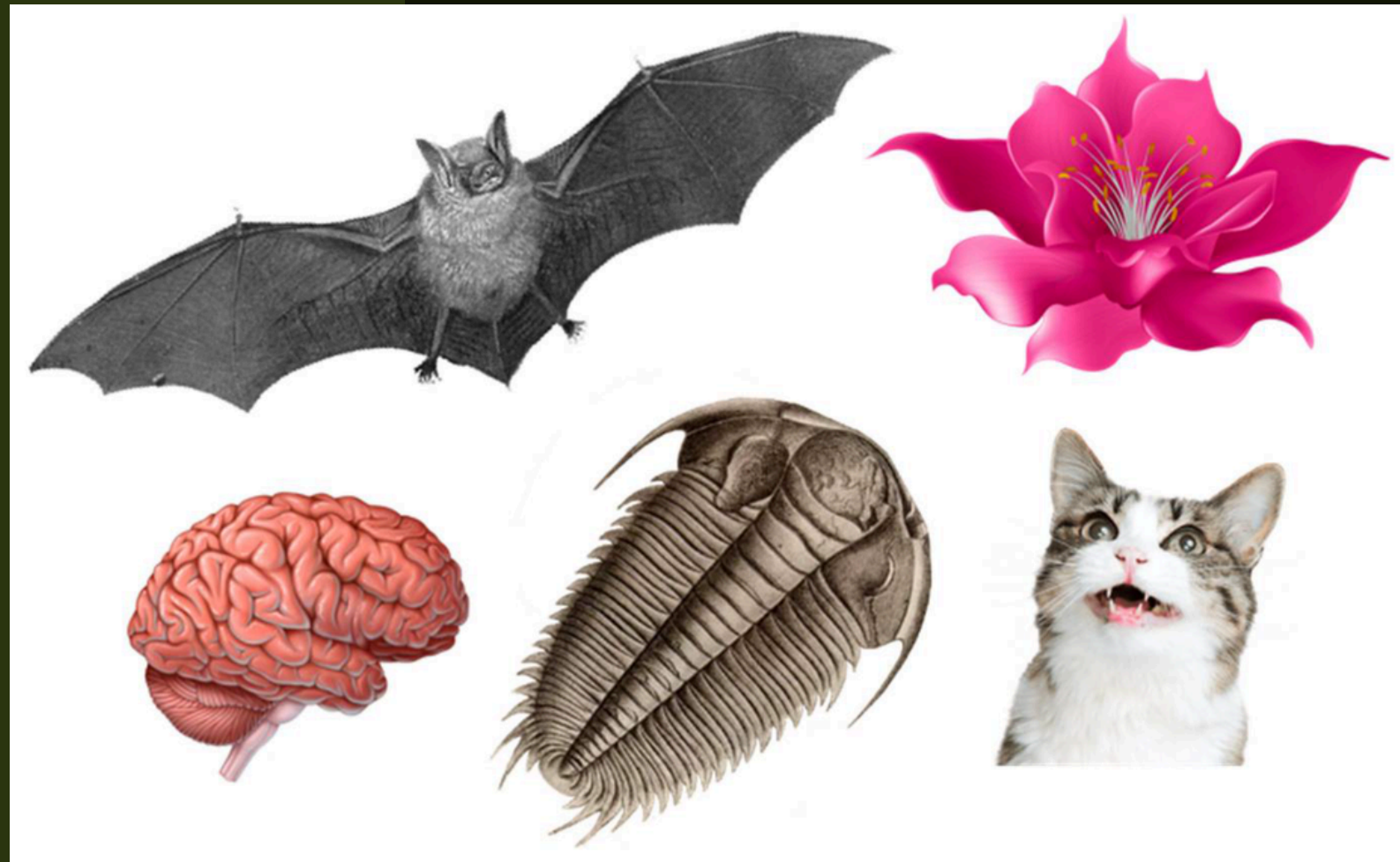
- semi-anthropological lens
- bridging nature-culture divide
- “resemiotizing” approach



AI-generated “nature”



AI-generated “culture”



Pictures representing bat echolocation, flowering plants, human intelligence, trilobites, and cat domesticity whose evolutions all defy the neo-Darwinian model

Umwelten

- unique perceptual world of organisms (Uexküll)
- a given way of life
- complex tapestry of interspecies communication



AI-generated "Magnifying glass focusing on specific elements of a complex image"

Legibility as Rhetorical Tool

- process of making salient facts matter (Rickert)
- legibility-making

Zoetropes & Zoerhetic

- discursive formations rendering existents intelligible
- shaping human understandings of the perceived world



AI-generated "classic zoetrope animation device"

Biosemiotics & Ecosemiotics

- nature as sign-based, communicative lifeworlds
- semiosis in all living things
- abiotic entities in the semiosphere

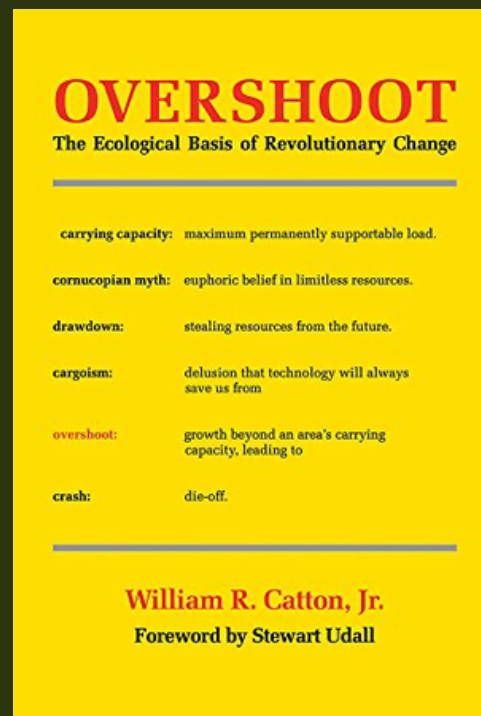


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Historical Failures

- *Overshoot: The Ecological Basis of Revolutionary Change* by William R. Catton, Jr.
- failure to recognize human–nonhuman interdependencies



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Diachronic Competition

- “contemporary well-being at the expense of descendants”
- manifestation of human-nonhuman interdependency



AI-generated “planet draining through an hourglass”

Ecological Overshoot



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- “the maximum persistently feasible load”
- exceeding Earth’s carrying capacity
- disruption of double internality balance

The Economics
of Biodiversity:
The Dasgupta
Review



Sir Partha Dasgupta

- Published in 2021, 600+ pages
- economic approach to finance sector action on Nature
- “Nature is a blind spot that we ignore at our peril.”
- “We are part of Nature, not separate from it.”

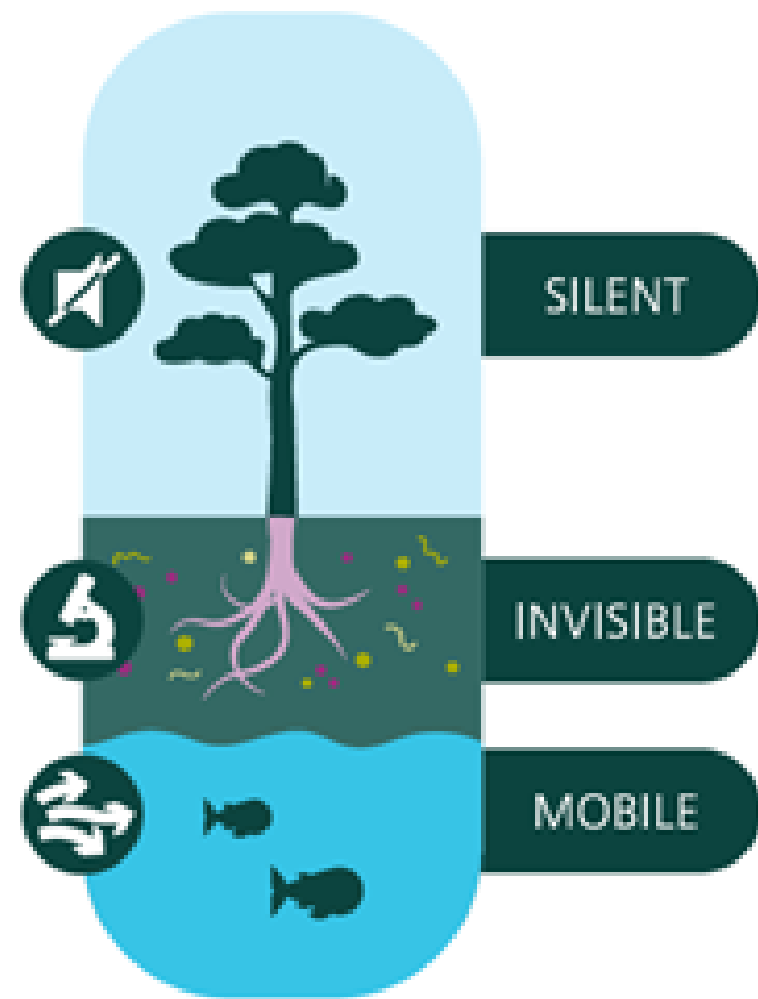
The Dasgupta Review

- human-centric historical narrative
- focus on growth and sustainability
- Nature as an asset, humans as asset managers



Silence, Invisibility, Mobility

Figure 2 Nature's Properties



- signs humans can't read
- signs humans can't see
- existants / forces humans can't constrain

Biosemiotic Lens

- semiotic signs of crisis (“dark precursors”)
 - operate beneath the level of representation or identity
 - facilitate communication between unrelated, incompatible systems
 - not directly perceivable / representable
 - associated with difference / becoming



AI-generated “invisible and silent nature”

Biosemosis

- challenge traditional notions of causality and identity
- suggest hidden forces that connect seemingly disparate phenomena



AI-generated "migrating birds"



AI-generated "mycorrhizal network"



AI-generated "wind patterns"

Interventions



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- Reconsidering economic semiotic regimes
- limitations of current economic models
- challenges in recognition of nonhuman agencies



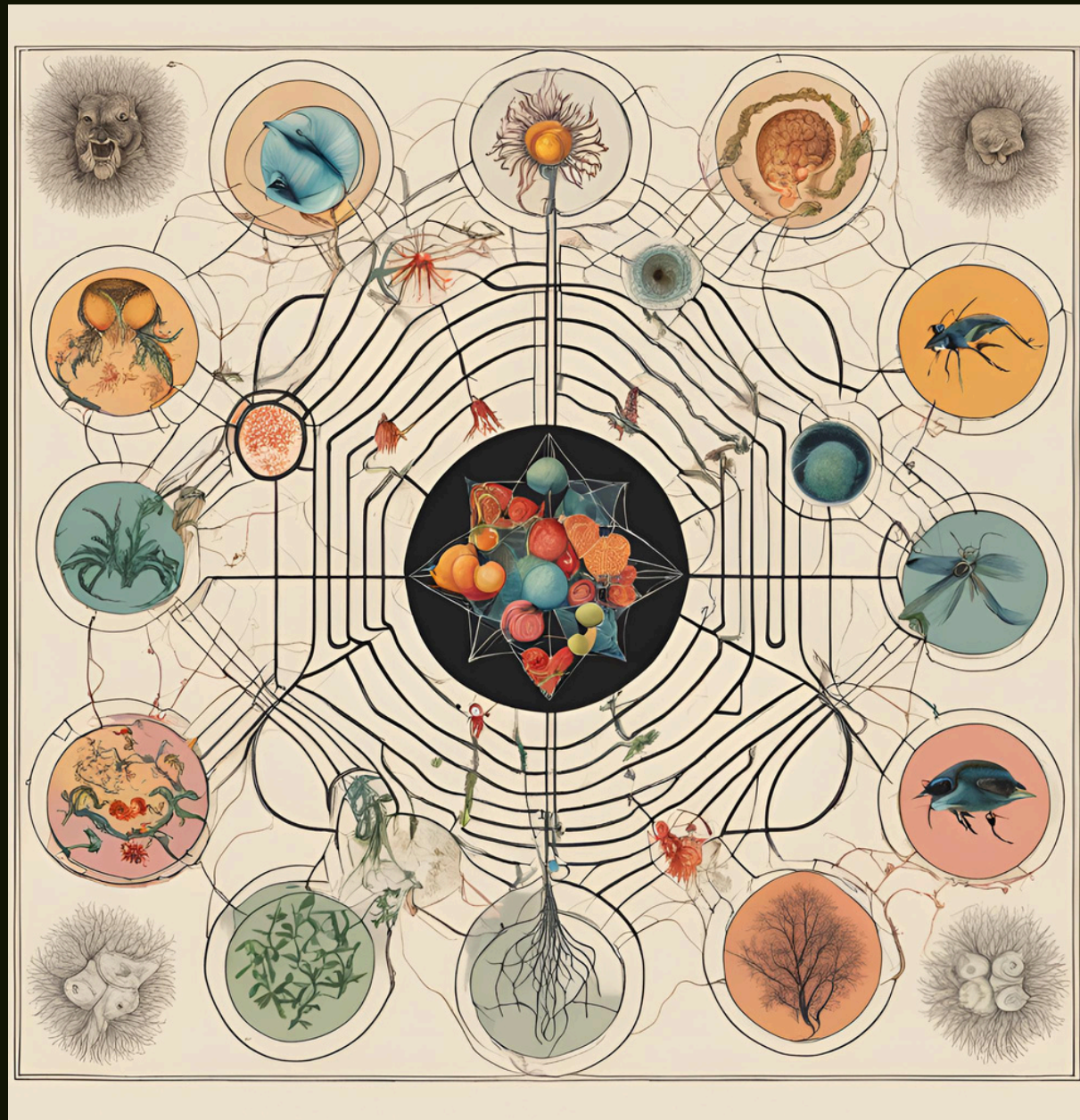
- expanded notions of value
- multispecies perspective
- semiotic translation mechanisms



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Conclusion

- human semiotic systems' ability to comprehend nonhuman "given ways of life"
- reimagining economic relationship with more-than-human world



AI-generated "Web of interconnected organisms with semiotic symbols between them"

Future Directions

- deeper analysis of economic frameworks
- exploring biosemiotic attunement
- multispecies semiotics in ecosystem design

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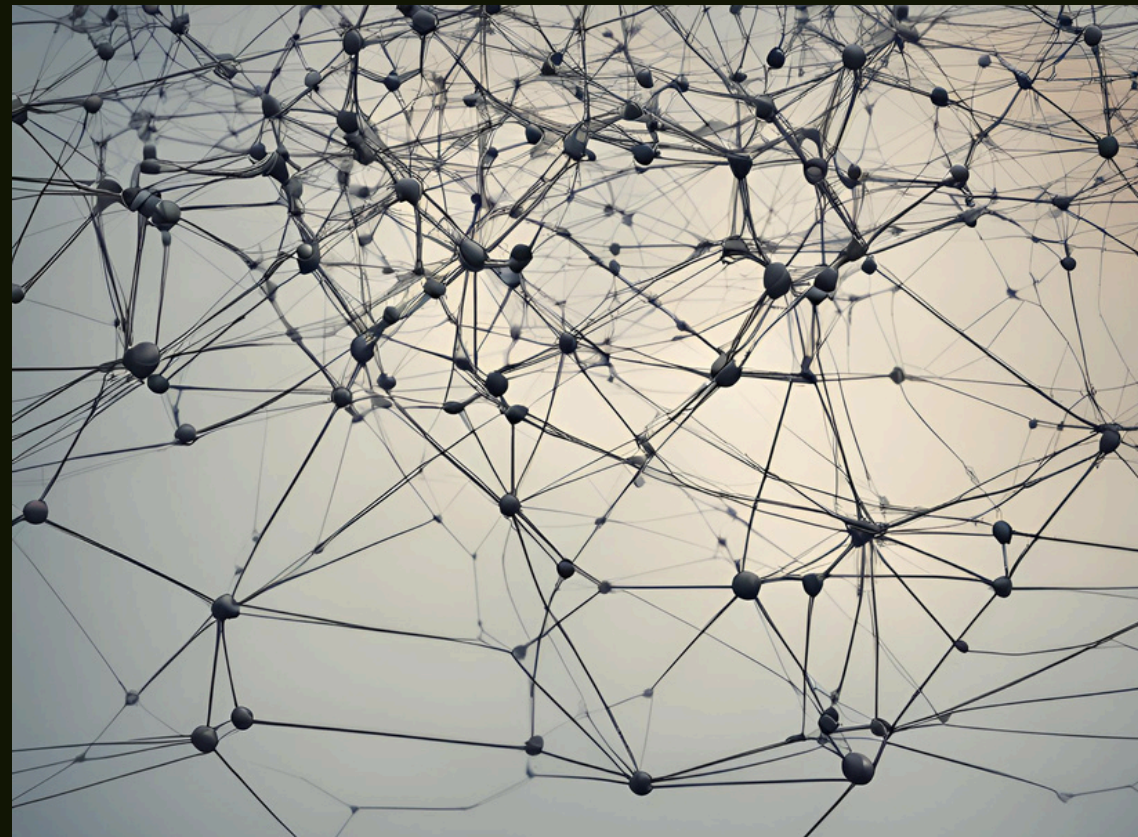
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Questions & Discussion



AI-generated "interconnected nodes representing communication"

Thank you!

gwendolyn2015@tamu.edu
Texas A&M University-USA

