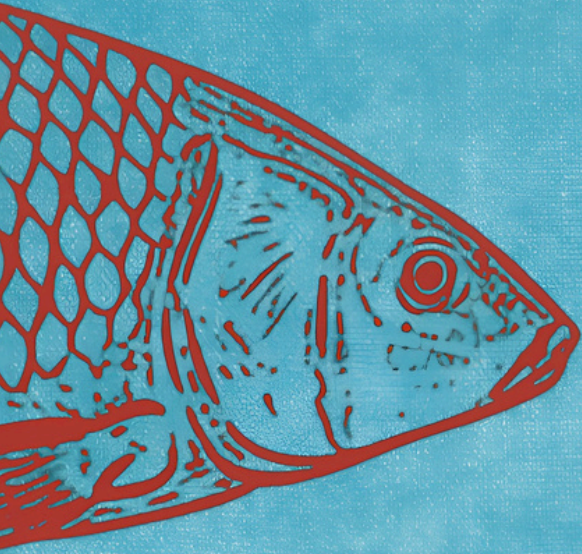


The Apollonian



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

For Volume I, Issue 3

Theme: Blue Humanities

Academic Essay | Short Essay

Short Fiction | Poetry

Translation | Photo Essay

Personal Essay | Book Review

Interview

LAST DATE:
15TH NOVEMBER, 2025

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Blue Humanities: Oceans, Water, and Cultural Futures

Over the past two decades, the Blue Humanities has emerged as one of the most dynamic and generative areas within the environmental and cultural humanities, foregrounding the ocean and water as critical sites of knowledge, imagination, and politics. Early scholarship such as Steve Mentz's *At the Bottom of Shakespeare's Ocean* (2009) and *Shipwreck Modernity* (2015) positioned the sea as a space where ecological crisis, literary imagination, and cultural memory converge. More recently, works like Hester Blum's *The View from the Masthead* (2008), Stacy Alaimo's explorations of trans-corporeality in *Exposed: Environmental Politics and Pleasures in Posthuman Times* (2016), and Christina Sharpe's *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being* (2016) have expanded the field, establishing the ocean as a space not only of ecological and material reality but also of philosophical depth, postcolonial critique, and affective resonance.

The rising significance of the Blue Humanities is visible in the proliferation of research clusters, edited volumes, and symposia dedicated to oceans and watery ecologies. Volumes like *Blue Humanities Reader* (ed. Mentz, 2021) and *Oceanic New York* (ed. Mentz, 2015) serve as foundational primers, while recent collections such as *Hydrohumanities: Water Discourse and Environmental Futures* (2023) demonstrate the interdisciplinarity of the field, drawing on literature, cultural studies, anthropology, STS, and political ecology. In tandem, postcolonial and Indigenous scholarship (e.g., Epeli Hau'ofa's *Our Sea of Islands*, Elizabeth DeLoughrey's *Routes and Roots*) has foregrounded how oceans and archipelagic worlds challenge land-based paradigms of history, culture, and ecology.

This special issue of *The Apollonian* seeks to act both as a primer for readers new to the Blue Humanities and as a platform for advancing future directions in the field. Contributors are invited to consider the oceans, rivers, and waterbodies as an archive, a medium, a stage of ecological devastation, and a horizon for cultural and political imaginaries. Essays may take the form of critical overviews of specific strands of oceanic thought, close readings of texts, films, and other cultural media, or explorations of methodological innovations at the intersection of the Blue Humanities and other disciplines.

By drawing together contributions from literature, history, philosophy, cultural geography, political ecology, Indigenous studies, and beyond, the issue will underscore the urgency of the oceanic turn in the humanities, especially at a time when rising seas, acidification, and extractive capitalism are reshaping not only planetary ecosystems but also human futures.

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Submissions may include but are not limited to:

- Theoretical foundations and futures of the Blue Humanities.
- Oceans, rivers, and waterbodies as archives of memory, trauma, and history.
- Shipwreck, ruin, and salvage as literary and cultural tropes.
- Postcolonial and Indigenous oceanic epistemologies (e.g., “our sea of islands”).
- Oceans, rivers, and waterbodies in climate change discourse and Anthropocene studies.
- Maritime labour, migration, and histories of displacement.
- Transoceanic imaginaries in literature, film, and visual arts.
- The politics of deep-sea mining, marine extraction, and blue economies.
- Intersections of the Blue Humanities with Ecofeminism, STS, and Posthuman theory.
- The affective registers of water: immersion, drowning, fluidity, buoyancy.
- Oceans, rivers, and waterbodies in speculative fiction, video games, and popular culture.
- Blue Humanities and pedagogy: teaching waterbodies in the humanities classroom.



Call for Papers

Volume I, Issue 3

[*The Apollonian* is an open-access, peer-reviewed journal published biannually.]

The Apollonian: A Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies seeks submissions for its third issue (since its revival). The journal welcomes **Academic Essays** (within 5000 words), **Short Essays** (within 1500 words), **Translations** (within 3000 words), **Book Reviews** (within 2000 words), as well as **Photo Essays**, **Poetry**, **Short Stories**, **Interviews**, and **Personal Essays** submissions. For the forthcoming issue, the submissions can be interdisciplinary, but must fall within the broader definition of humanities (and this also includes areas such as STEM and medical humanities, new media, visual cultures etc).

Book Review:

Reviews of books not older than two years are invited. We may consider submissions of book reviews on fiction, non-fiction, academic volumes (monographs/edited volumes/anthologies), or poetry volumes provided they are written by our stylistic requirements. The book review should be no longer than 2000 words.

Poetry:

Please submit 3-5 poems. We will be publishing unpublished poems only. However, poems that have been shared on the author's social media are acceptable.

Short Fiction:

Submit short fiction of length between 500-3000 words. We are also open to works of genre fiction that push boundaries and offer new perspectives. You can also send us micro-stories with inventive storytelling.

Translation:

Submit at least 3 poems or a short fiction ranging from 500-3000 words for consideration. The translation should be submitted alongside the source text. Please ensure that you have the original author's consent and mention the same in your submission. If the work is in the public domain and out of copyright, you should mention it as well. Include the original author's short bio alongside your bio.

Interview Submission:

The interview piece should have at least 10-15 questions. Kindly mention whether you have taken the interview in person, by any virtual tool, or through questionnaires. Kindly include a short description of 100 words, highlighting what made you choose the individual and their introduction. We give preference to the interviewee if they are a prominent personality or if they belong to a marginal section of society.

Personal Essay:

We expect the submitters to write a personal, exploratory essay. The submission must be original and offer a lively engagement with experience. The suggested range is about 1500-2500 words. The entry must be original and unpublished.

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Photo Essay:

Since the theme of our upcoming issue is the emergent field of Blue Humanities, we are expecting photo essays focussing on this field along with those centring on the larger area of environmental concerns. However, Photo essays dealing with other topics are welcome too. We are looking for a collection of curated images accompanied by captions and a text that coalesces the body of the essay.

General guidelines:

- We are looking for photo essays with a range of 6-12 photos per essay.
- Images should be in JPEG, PNG, or TIFF formats at a minimum of 300dpi.
- Images should be optimum for print production.
- The images should be free of watermarks.
- The images should have EXIF data and any other relevant metadata intact.

Submission materials:

- The photo essay should be submitted as a PDF file that contains the text, photos, and their captions, along with separate image files attached.
- A cover page should contain photographer's name, contact information, affiliation, a clear and concise title, write-up not exceeding 400 words, and a short bio within 150 words.
- Add any reference, acknowledgement, and model release if applicable.

Editorial criteria:

- All submissions, including the text, must be original and previously unpublished.
- The photo essay should maintain consistency of style, tone and must provide creative or documentary value.
- The photographs should be ethically obtained, showing respect to the subjects depicted.

General Guidelines

We follow MLA 9th Edition guidelines for citations. Font to be used is Times New Roman, size 12, spaced at 1.2 pt, and only unlinked endnotes (no footnotes). The submission must be done by email. We only accept Word Files (.doc or .docx).

Submissions should be prepared for blind peer review (cover page containing abstract, keywords, and bio with no identifiers from the second page onwards). Submissions should only be adjudged if all submission criteria are fulfilled successfully. We regret to inform you that minor edits cannot be accommodated once an issue has been published. Only in the case of major errors may you contact our editors via email.



Deadline for final submission: 15th November, 2025

For enquiries and submissions please e-mail: apollonianjournal@gmail.com

Our Website: <https://theapollonian.in/>

Instagram: @apollonian_journal

