

# Call for Papers

## The Ecological Eye/I in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Sustainability in North American Non-Fiction

Special issue of *Polish Journal for American Studies* (2026)

The look offered by the ecological I/eye has never been more urgent than today. The need to see, show, and reflect on the global ecological catastrophe remains one of effective responses to the ongoing crisis, as demonstrated by the surge of non-fiction comics (Steve Duin and Shannon Wheeler's *Oil and Water* (2011), Joe Sacco's *Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt* (2012), Rachel Hope Allison's *I'm not a plastic bag* (2012), Richard McGuire's *Here* (2014), Mark Kurlansky and Frank Stockton's *World Without Fish* (2014), Kate Beaton's *Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands* (2014/2022), Joe Sacco's *Paying the Land* (2020)) and non-fiction narratives (Ernestine Hayes's *Blonde Indian* (2006) and *The Tao of Raven* (2016), Grant J. Merritt's *Iron and Water* (2018), Terry Tempest Williams's *Erosion* (2019), Heather Durham's *Wolf Tree* (2022)) devoted to our ecological pasts and futures.

The notion of the ecological eye/I that we have chosen as our conceptual framework both refers to the types of texts we are interested in – visual (graphic novels, comics) and verbal non-fiction narratives – and provides a productive link to the Emersonian eye/I with its ecological sensibility, showing that North American writers and artists have been exploring the questions of sustainability.

We invite contributions from American scholars and academics to submit their original research articles that explore the complex relationship between the ecological eye/I and sustainability in contemporary North American non-fiction, with particular emphasis on graphic narratives (comics non-fiction, comics journalism, etc.), verbal narratives (life writing, essays, memoirs, etc.), and hybrid forms.

Specifically, but not exclusively, we invite articles on the following topics:

- Medium/genre and the ecological thought
- Non-fiction as testimony and activism
- Land ethic, ethics of inhabiting, and ethics of consuming
- Sense of place, sense of belonging in (graphic) narrative
- Nostalgia for the disappearing world and familiar territory
- Individual, community, and collective survival
- Practitioner's memoir; academic memoir (interrelation of theory and practice)
- Environmental politics and resource management
- Imagining and creating sustainable futures

### Selected references:

- Adamson, Joni, and Kimberly N. Ruffin, eds. 2012. *American Studies, Ecocriticism, and Ecology: Thinking and Acting in the Local and Global Commons*. London: Routledge.
- Buell, Lawrence. 2005. *The Future of Environmental Criticism*. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Buell, Lawrence. 2003. *Writing for an Endangered World: Literature, Culture, Environment in the US and Beyond*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP.
- Heise, Ursula. 2008. *Sense of Place and Sense of Planet: The Environmental Imagination of the Global*. Oxford UP.
- Morton, Timothy. 2018. *Dark Ecology*. New York: Columbia UP.
- Morton, Timothy. 2018. *Being Ecological*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Nixon, Rob. 2013. *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP.
- Patrizio, Andrew et al. (eds.). 2018. *The Ecological Eye: Assembling an Ecocritical Art History*. Manchester UP.

### Important dates:

Submission of complete articles by December 31, 2024

Final drafts by December 31, 2025

Publication date – special issue Autumn 2026

**Submission guidelines:**

Full articles should be approximately **6,000-7,000 words** (including references and footnotes).  
MLA 9TH edition, Times New Roman, Font Size 12, Spacing 1.5.  
Both British and American English are accepted. Please use them consistently, though.  
Please include a brief author/s biography (150 words) with your submission.

**Publication:**

A special issue of *Polish Journal for American Studies* (to be published in 2026).

All contributions will undergo a peer-review process.

*Polish Journal for American Studies* is a yearbook of the Polish Association for American Studies. PJAS publishes scholarly work in such fields of American Studies as literature, culture, the arts, the media, history, politics, foreign affairs, social sciences and others. PJAS appears in print format as well as a free-access on-line publication.

Copyright note: Copyright by the authors. Articles published in PJAS are Open-Access and are distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0). PJAS is hosted on the website of the Polish Association for American Studies which guarantees the preservation of access to the journal's content. There is no article processing fee.

**Contact:**

For inquiries or further information, please contact both editors at [pjas2026@gmail.com](mailto:pjas2026@gmail.com)

**Editors:**

Dr. Katarzyna Macedulska (she/her), PhD, is assistant professor at the Faculty of English at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. She is author of *Remembering Oneself, Charting the Other – Memory as Intertextuality and Self-Reflexivity in the Works of Paul Auster* (Trier: WVT, 2012), editor of *Cultural Dynamics of Play* (Oxford: Inter-Disciplinary Press/Brill, 2013), co-editor of *Storying Humanity: Narratives of Culture and Society* (with Richard Wirth and Dario Serrati, Oxford: Inter-Disciplinary Press/Brill, 2015). She has co-authored (with Agnieszka Rzepa and Dagmara Drewniak) the monograph *The self and the world. Aspects of the aesthetics and politics of contemporary North American literary memoir by women* (Poznań: Wydawnictwo Naukowe UAM, 2018). Currently, her research concerns memory, narrative, and identity in American autobiographical writing.

Dr. Małgorzata Olsza (she/ her) is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of English at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland. Her Ph.D. thesis was devoted to the poetics of the contemporary American graphic novel. She also holds an M.A. in Art History. She has published on different aspects of comics in *Polish Journal for American Studies*, *ImageText*, *Image [&] Narrative*, and *Text Matters* and contributed chapters to the edited collections *Comic Art and Feminism in the Baltic Sea Region* (Routledge, 2021), *Drawing the Past, Volume 2: Comics and the Historical Imagination in the World* (Mississippi UP, 2022), and *Seeing Comics through Art History: Alternative Approaches to the Form* (Palgrave Macmillan 2022).