

Call for Papers

Narrating Hope: Voices and Images of Resistance against the Capitalocene *European Journal of English Studies*, volume 31 (2027)

Guest Editors: María Porras Sánchez (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain); Susana Nicolás Román (Universidad de Almería, Spain); Janet Wilson (University of Northampton, UK).

This special issue invites critical interventions on the ambivalent notion of hope as a mode of resistance in the context of the Capitalocene. Jason Moore's concept of the Capitalocene frames ecological and social crises as systemic outcomes of capitalism understood as a "world-ecology" that organizes nature and restructures life itself. Within this context, vulnerability, its "politically induced" precarity and ecoprecarity, as highlighted by Judith Butler and Pramod Nayar respectively, are distributed across species, communities, and geographies, albeit disproportionately affecting marginalized communities and the Global South. The Capitalocene permeates all domains of possibility, rendering humans, nonhumans, and environments increasingly vulnerable while constraining our capacity to imagine alternative futures. These conditions do not merely anticipate bleak prospects; they also operate as sites where resistance, creativity, and imagination can emerge. This issue builds on Ernst Bloch's theorization of utopian desire, Lauren Berlant's articulation of "cruel optimism", Rebecca Solnit's framing of hope as an ethical stance, Jonathan Lear and Katie Stockdale's reflections on radical and fearful hope, Goutam Karmakar's notion of decolonial hope, and Mark Fisher's observation that capitalism has colonized the dreaming life of the population. It situates hope not just as optimism or resilience, but as a profoundly ambivalent cultural force—one that registers past traumas, the complexities of the present, and the uncertainties of the future, while fostering imaginative and political horizons. These perspectives illuminate how hope oscillates between possibility and constraint, enabling transformation and reflecting existing structures of domination. Its multiple forms—from radical and fearful to decolonial articulations—underscore its role as a contested and generative force across contemporary cultural, political, and aesthetic practices.

We welcome contributions exploring how contemporary narratives—literary, graphic, cinematic, testimonial, and activist—deploy hope as a counter-discourse to neoliberal resilience, hollow optimism, and capitalist fatalism. While science fiction has been recognized for enabling utopian critiques of capitalism (Fredric Jameson), we also acknowledge that non-speculative forms such as memoir can embody "decolonial hope," offering epistemologies that contest colonial and neocolonial modes of development (Karmakar). We therefore invite explorations across different genres. By integrating insights from literary and cultural studies, ecocriticism, political philosophy, comic studies, postcolonial theory, and related fields, this issue will showcase how hope functions within the triad of resistance and the Capitalocene, as both a conceptual and practical resource. At a time when systemic pressures appear to exhaust our capacity to imagine alternative futures, hope persists as a site of critical reflection, ethical engagement, and imaginative possibility. By highlighting its aesthetic, political, and

ethical dimensions, the special issue will illustrate the diverse ways in which hope can guide interdisciplinary scholarship and inspire approaches to envisioning more just, sustainable, and decolonial futures. We invite submissions from diverse academic fields that address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- hope, resistance, and the Capitalocene: cultural and political articulations
- precarity, vulnerability, and ecologies of hopeful resistance
- speculative genres (cli-fi, ecohorror, science fiction) and utopian/dystopian imaginaries
- realist and testimonial genres, life-writing, and wish-landscapes of hope
- feminist, queer, and decolonial reconfigurations of hope and resistance
- grief, mourning, and ecological loss as pathways to hopeful politics
- little utopias, everyday practices, and grassroots imaginaries of transformation
- art, comics, and visual cultures as counter-discourses to neoliberal resilience
- activism, protest aesthetics, and the affective politics of hope
- postcolonial, indigenous, and decolonial epistemologies of hope and environmental justice
- wish-landscapes, narrative form, and speculative social thought
- digital media, networks, and the circulation/mediation of hopeful resistance (social media, participatory platforms)
- futurity, temporalities, and anticipatory politics in the Capitalocene

Detailed **proposals** (up to 1000 words) for full essays (6000-8000 words), as well as a short biography (max. 100 words) should be sent to the guest editors by **15 January 2026**: María Porras Sánchez, m.porras@ucm.es; Susana Nicolás Román, snroman@ual.es; Janet Wilson, janet.wilson@northampton.ac.uk

Selected authors should be able to submit a full-length draft by the end of May 2026, and a final version by mid-September. This issue will be part of **volume 31 (2027)**. All inquiries regarding this issue can be sent to the three guest editors.

Procedure

EJES operates in a three-stage review process.

1. Contributors are invited to submit proposals by **15 January 2026**. The guest editors make a selection of proposals in consultation with the editorial board and invite shortlisted authors to **submit a full-length version by 31 May 2026**.
2. The contributors' full-length drafts are reviewed by the special issue editors, who may ask for revisions, and retain the right to reject an article if it does not meet the standards of the journal. Contributors are expected to **submit a revised text by 15 September 2026**.

3. The revised articles are subject to a double-blind peer review (carried out on ScholarOne, the Taylor & Francis platform). On the basis of the peer review, editors formulate final advice (accept, minor revisions, major revisions, reject). In case revisions are called for, authors should be able to **provide their final, fully revised version by 15 January 2027**, for publication in the same year.

EJES employs Chicago Style ([T&F Chicago AD](#)) and British English conventions for spelling. For more information about EJES, see: <http://www.essenglish.org/ejes.html> and <https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/neje20>