

What is the Anthropocene ?

Dr. Laté Lawson-Hellu | Department of French Studies | llawsonh@uwo.ca



A prime definition

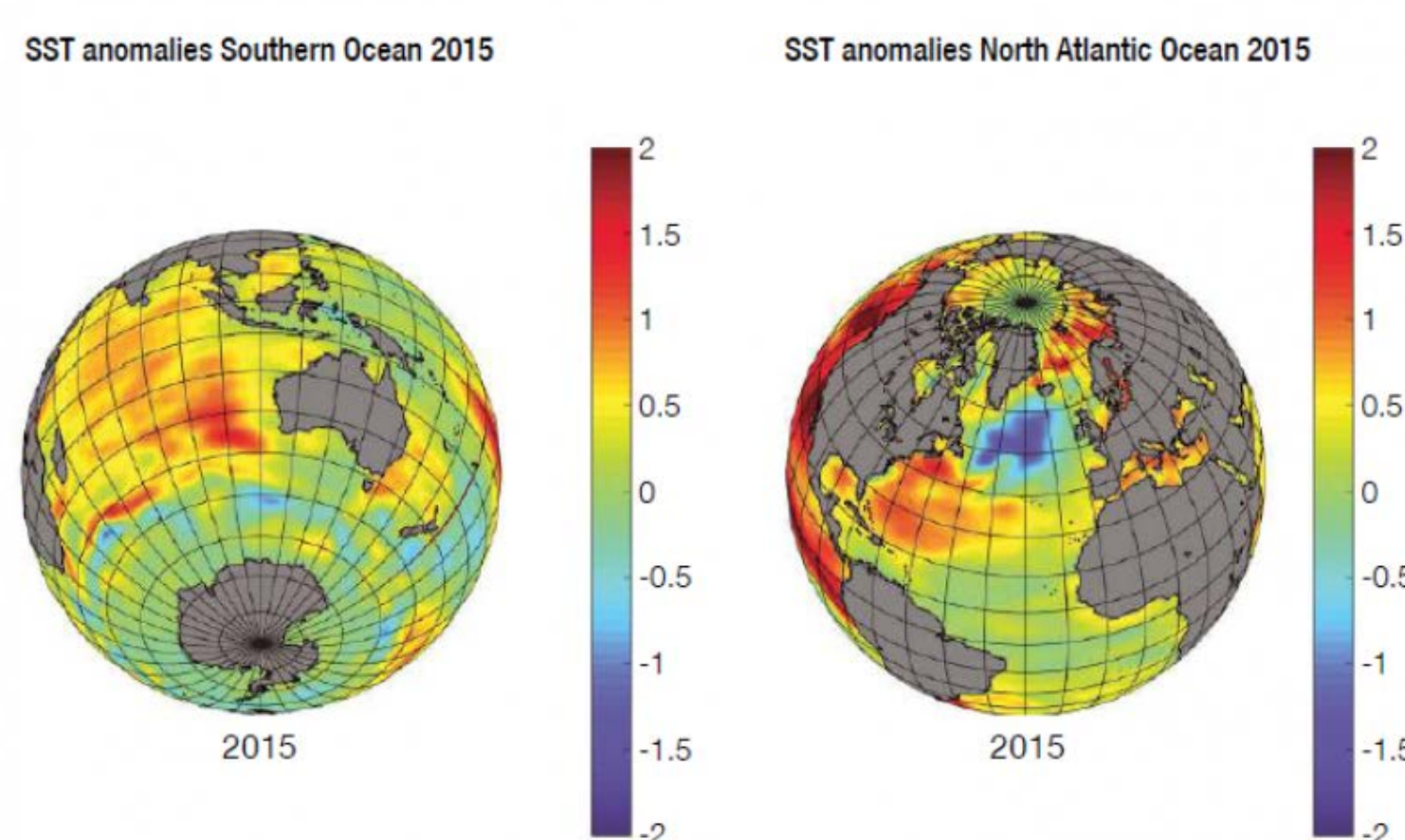
A concept for describing the current state of the Planet Earth following the “bad” actions attributed to humankind (Simon L. Lewis & Mark A. Maslin, *The Human Planet. How We Created the Anthropocene*, London, Routledge, 2018)

A debate

A revision of that prime definition, where the Anthropocene is rather the result of Modernity itself as “System”, along with its working structures, namely Capitalism, Colonialism, Modern State, etc., and the general overuse of the Planet natural resources (Remi Beau et Catherine Larrère, *Penser l’Anthropocène*, Paris, Presses des Sciences Po, 2018)



scitecheuropa.wu



Ocean Warming | IUCN | Iucn.org

Global Consequences

- A rise in temperatures on the Planet
- A rise in oceans levels on the Planet
- A shortage in resources that support life on the Planet
- A planetary health crisis like the coronavirus one

Our Contribution

Since colonialism is part of the Modernity System that generated the Anthropocene crisis, a solution could be brought in from the work of Francophone writers who were dealing with Colonialism, at both symbolic and socio-discursive levels, for at least a century now. That is the basis of my current re-reading of Francophone Literary works from the perspective of the Anthropocene

