

## *Can and Should We Go Beyond Anthropocentrism?*

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Among the diverse ways we value nature, there is a growing call for moving beyond anthropocentrism and adopting a worldview that gives more importance to nonhuman species and beings, which is expected to encourage more sustainable behaviours and decision-making. Anthropocentrism literally refers to the normative idea that places human survival and interests at the center of a worldview. Critiques of anthropocentrism range from researchers defending ecocentric theories to anti-speciesist activists who advocate the end of “discrimination based on species membership.” Yet, it remains unclear if such a shift beyond anthropocentrism would be pragmatically desirable or possible in the global context of a pluralism of worldviews.

My stay at the Rachel Carson Center is part of an 18-months postdoctoral grant by the Swiss National Science Foundation started in May 2021. This postdoctoral research project lies in the field of global environmental philosophy and ethics and draws on interdisciplinary research on the diversity of ways in which human beings value nature. It applies systematic philosophical reasoning that rests on consensual minimal premises based on current scientific knowledge. It aims at assessing the potential, limits, and dangers of anti-anthropocentric rhetoric in a global context. A first objective of my project is to shed light on the intercultural complexity of anthropocentrism through a dialogue with sciences and East Asian philosophies (see paper: <https://doi.org/10.3354/esep00200>). A second objective is to show the limitations and risks involved in attempting to move beyond the situated and limited human standpoint, which arise in particular when this move involves ethics and is confronted to the diversity of values and worldviews regarding humans and nature (see paper: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41599-022-01186-5>). A third objective is to develop a new perspective to go beyond anthropocentrism along findings in multispecies thinking. I will focus on this third objective during my stay at the Rachel Carson Center this summer 2022.

My research will continue to be nourished by exchanges with scholars approaching questions of values of nature in Europe and from Asian perspectives thanks to *the Network of Asian Environmental Philosophy* ([www.asiaenviphilo.com](http://www.asiaenviphilo.com)). This postdoc research project will contribute to the ongoing global exploration of how people value and understand nature, and to building a bridge between philosophical traditions that structure particular worldviews and multispecies research in sustainability science.