

Cold Fusion or the Low Energy Reaction

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This special issue of *fusion* calls for reactions to the globally depleted response to the discovery of limits first published in the Club of Rome commissioned report “Limits to Growth” [LTG] (Meadows et al. 1972).

As *fusion*'s mission statement asserts, the journal is concerned with the blending of different elements to form a larger nucleus with the simultaneous release of energy. Cold Fusion, an erratic technological possibility relegated to fantasy, is also known as a Low Energy Reaction, whose volatile output defies its scientific input. But there is one true and consistently reproducible low energy reaction—the response to the planetary crises defined by the limits first calculated half a century ago. As the culture of audit collides with actuarial saturation and the mercantile-spectacular, judging by our low energy reaction it is clearly evident the project of Capital is already trading the underlying qualities of the future as a risk called the derivative.

But we do not really even need to anticipate the future as risk—its limits have been reckoned. The actuarial evidence for how long any non-renewable resource will last, or what the authors of LTG called the ‘exponential reserve’, can be calculated to establish the number of years before resources run out. Recent recalibrations of the initial LTG ‘World3’ calculations illustrate how accurate the authors were (Turner 2014). Even knowing this we seem more willing to gamble with the limits than figure on any response and that is humanity’s Low Energy Reaction whose output already exceeds its input.

For this special issue of *fusion* the editors are not interested in exhausted remonstrations about sustainability, or ‘eco’ (as in green) this or that, or anticipatory plans couched as resilience, or excuses couched as transitions to ‘preferred states’. We are interested in calculated opinion as to what happened to the bearings of stewardship and care that characterised reactions to the first images from space of the ‘blue planet’—our common home. And as soon as we fathomed that the planet is alone in a sea of blackness the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence became the spectacular job of television. And after having landed men on the moon space exploration was relegated to blue-screen film studios, until a Dutch company signed up 200,000 people prepared to go one-way to Mars on the back of funding derived from televising the contenders knocking themselves out to be selected for the suicidal mission. If Mars One works it signals our preparedness for the future is more aligned with increasingly extreme mercantile-spectacular viewing habits than changing living habits.

This special issue of *fusion* asks:

- What remains of the elements necessary to remedy our Low Energy Reaction?
- What ingredients and techniques can we find in different cultures or societies to counteract our low energy inertia?
- Does there remain a space where the blurring of different disciplinary, cultural, local, national and global ideas and creative practices can flourish?

- As the disciplines go about disciplining is there ‘running room’ for transdisciplinarity, transculturalism and transnationalism to appreciate?
- What can we see through the lens of fusion and hybridisation?
- Is there such a thing as a dialogic fusion between the global and the regional?
- What happens when “what-might-become” turns out to be “what-might-not-become”?
- What is the future possible seen from the permanent present?

In fact, rather than the “Speculative Everything”, which is already the domain of Capital, this issue of *fusion* is looking for the speculative-anything.

When considering your reaction to this call for papers *fusion* encourages and accepts all forms of media. Please consult the journal website for details:

<http://www.fusion-journal.com>

References

Meadows, D.H., Meadows, D.L., Randers, J. and Behrens III., W.W. (1972) *Limits to Growth*, Universe Books, New York.

Turner, G. (2014) ‘Is Global Collapse Imminent?’, *MSSI Research Paper No. 4*, Melbourne Sustainable Society Institute, The University of Melbourne.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Please submit an expression of interest by 25 September 2017 to
Craig Bremner: cbremner@csu.edu.au

Your one page expression of interest should indicate the working title of your submission, a 250 word abstract including an explanation of how the work relates to the proposed theme, the names and affiliations of the authors, and the form of the submission.

Co-founded by the Faculty of Arts, Charles Sturt University (Australia), and the College of Arts, University of Lincoln (United Kingdom), *fusion* publishes refereed articles, creative works and other practice-led forms of production.

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