

## **Genealogy and Epistemology of the Anthropocene as an Interdisciplinary Scientific Theory**

The word ‘Anthropocene’ has been used over the past two decades in a variety of different ways, in many scientific and non-scientific disciplines. While the Anthropocene Working Group strives for an official recognition of the notion within the Geological Time Scale, natural scientists from other disciplines adopt the term informally as an umbrella term describing the global-scale impact of anthropogenic activities. The research I undertake seeks to demonstrate that the Anthropocene is more than an academic buzzword, or simply a proposed epoch concerning only the geological community. It constitutes an *interdisciplinary scientific theory* based on a set of four major hypothesis or conjectures from four different disciplines: Earth system science (*Homo sapiens* as a biogeochemical force), geology (*Homo sapiens* as a geological force), stratigraphy (*Homo sapiens* as a stratigraphic marker in the Earth’s history), and ecology/biology (*Homo sapiens* as the driver of the sixth major extinction event). The research seeks to analyze and compare these hypotheses or conjectures from a genealogical and epistemological point of view, and provide an epistemically strong, consistent, and coherent theory of the Anthropocene for natural scientist and humanists alike.