The Anthropocene presents challenges to all academic fields. As a new geochronological epoch it redefines the human relationship to the planet in ecological terms with consequences that are also historical, social, and ethical. Bringing together the humanities and the sciences, our network comprises scholars from geology, geography, the life sciences, history, philosophy, political science, literary and cultural studies, STS, anthropology and a range of area studies. Drawing on this broad interdisciplinary base, we will explore the new perspectives on nature, culture, society, and technology that the Anthropocene urgently solicits. We furthermore aim to convey an understanding of the significance of the Anthropocene to a wider audience of policy makers, teachers, journalists and the public at large.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>Faculty of Earth Sciences, Geography and Astronomy and Faculty of Philological and Cultural Studies</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Timeframe</td>
<td>01.04.2019 - 31.03.2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding</td>
<td>University network</td>
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</tbody>
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**Research basis**

The Anthropocene, a term coined by the natural sciences, sparked broad scientific and scholarly debates across disciplinary boundaries. Thereby, it fosters interdisciplinary research and reunites increasingly specialized and fragmented scientific disciplines by defining a space for collaborative projects involving the natural and social sciences as well as the humanities. For the geosciences, the definition of the Anthropocene poses the main challenge within the framework of stratigraphy. Meanwhile, the humanities are tasked with rethinking and repositioning the 'anthropos' in this age of humans. The Anthropocene thus finds its place in Earth history but also stands symbolically for today’s anthropogenic changes to the Earth system as a whole.

**Social/economic relevance**

We aim to convey an understanding of the significance of the Anthropocene and its impact to a wider audience of policy makers, teachers, journalists and the public at large. This involves raising awareness for the major global challenges of our time - such as climate change, biodiversity decline and the dangers of breaching planetary boundaries.

**Integration into academic teaching/the curriculum**

New in SS2021: Ringvorlesung/lecture series 'Anthropozän-Anthropocene'

**Impact**

We explore the new perspectives on nature, culture, society, and technology that the Anthropocene urgently solicits.

**Transfer aspect of the activity**

The Anthropocene concept symbolizes the urgency of climate change and other risks human activities pose to the Earth system. We therefore believe that it lends itself to communicating these issues to a broader public, and to making scientific debates more accessible and immediately relevant to society.

**Future orientation & sustainability**

To highlight the relevance of the Anthropocene for research as well as political and social agendas, means to promote activities directly linked to a sustainable future of the Earth System.
**Achievement of objectives**  
Several workshops and open activities for the public have been organized, including discussion panels, book presentations and conferences, e.g. 'Vanishing Ice' (panel discussion and workshop).

**Measures to sustain this activity over the long term/expand it**  
Lecture series and workshops on various topics, network meetings and discussions

**Visibility**  
Website, social media initiative for 2021

**Links/Publications**
- [https://anthropocene.univie.ac.at/](https://anthropocene.univie.ac.at/)