

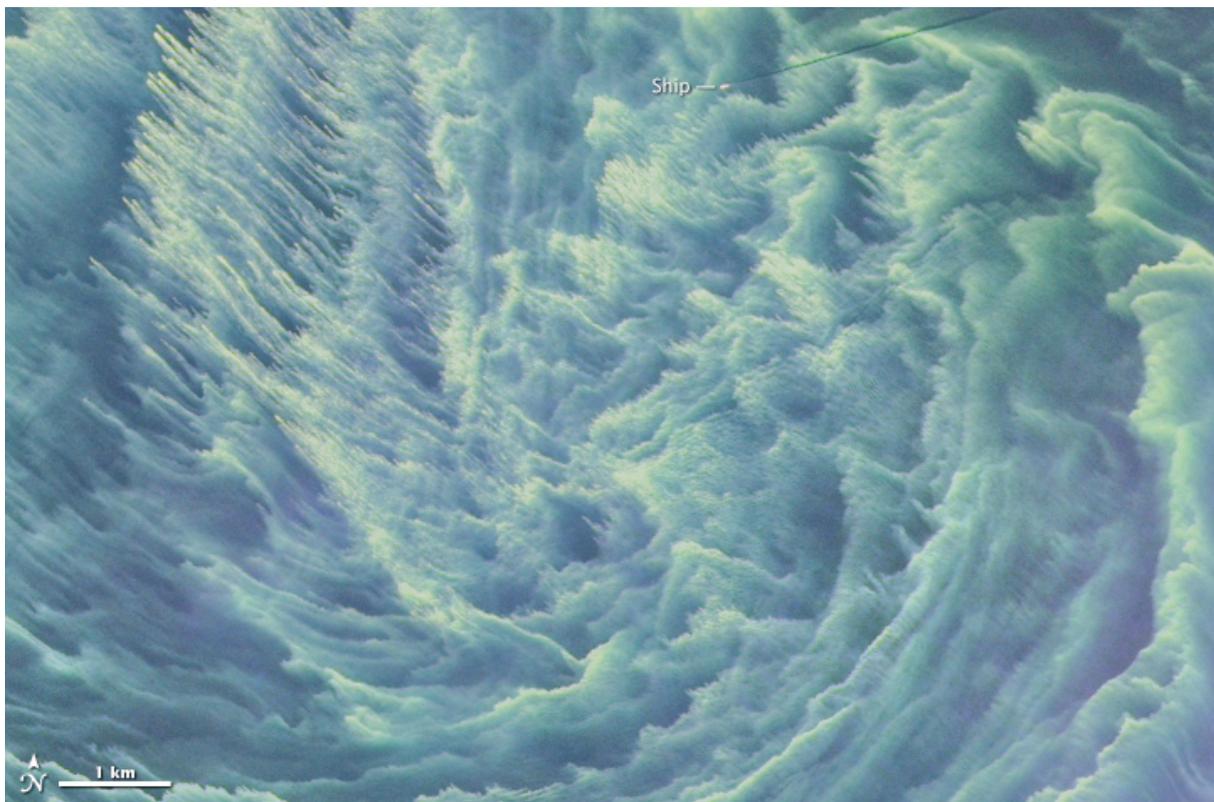
## Theory of Plankton

Do you know what the paradox of the plankton is? In aquatic biology, the paradox of the plankton describes the situation in which a limited range of resources supports an unexpectedly wide range of plankton species, apparently flouting the competitive exclusion principle which holds that when two species compete for the same resource, one will be driven to extinction.

Similarly, our project is driven not by a single concept but by various interests, some of them also coming from the Baltic-Scandinavian region:

*Post-humans.* If we, humans, consist 90 percent of the cells that are filled with the genomes of bacteria, fungi, protists, and such, how we, artists, curators, designers, audience, etc. see our bodies, how do we need to shift the perspective we are dealing with art, ourselves as a set of multiple biological construction?

*Toxicity.* Why the Baltic Sea might be quite dangerous and toxic on a bacterial level and parts of it becoming dead?



Blooming Baltic Sea to the west of Gotland, on August 11, 2015. Cyanobacteria are an ancient type of marine bacteria that, like other phytoplankton, capture and store solar energy through

photosynthesis. Some are toxic to humans and animals. Moreover, large blooms can cause an oxygen-depleted dead zone where other organisms cannot survive. Credit: NASA images.

*Unrepresented.* As philosophers from Object Oriented Ontology publicly complain, there is always something or someone being left unmentioned. Who represents recycled or flushed plastic bags in the Parliament of Things? Who represents the edited out letters from the screens of lover's mobile phones? Damaged voting ballots from the last elections? The bodies of never found immigrants at the bottom of the sea or in the nameless mass graves? Dead neurons of a corrupt political brain? The billions of neutrinos that move through us at every second? What represents a second? Lost seconds from stolen watches or all the hot sand in the dunes?

*The importance of becoming sensitive.* What does it mean that Latourian maxima "becoming sensitive," the one he uses to describe his idea of aesthetics? There is a chance Karen Barad explains it in her writing "Meeting the Universe Halfway":

"A delicate tissue of ethicality runs through the marrow of being. There is no getting away from ethics—mattering is an integral part of the ontology of the world in its dynamic presencing. Not even a moment exists on its own. [...] We need to meet the universe halfway, to take responsibility for the role that we play in the world's differential becoming" (p. 396).

Or Vinciane Despret who argues that to have a body is to learn to be affected, meaning 'effectuated', moved, put into motion by other entities, humans or non-humans. And Rosi Braidotti who reminds us in her book "Post-Human" of the importance of being Post-Human, inhuman, antihuman, that "Dolly the sheep is real, not a science fiction character but the result of our scientific research, an active social imaginary and major financial investments."

*Colours.* In military terminology, a *black site* is a location at which an unacknowledged black project is conducted. Vilnius detention centre site was called *violet*.

*Chaos, Crowd behaviour.* "Bitter Lake" is a 2015 BBC documentary film by filmmaker Adam Curtis. It argues that Western politicians keep simplifying the stories they tell, into a simple-to-digest by the public "good" vs. "evil" argument, due to society's overwhelming chaos and disorder, which they neither grasp nor

understand. The linear narrative making isn't enough to reveal ambiguous and controversial stories of today politics.

*The sky above, plane spotting.* 'Between 2001 and 2006, the skies over Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East were crisscrossed by hundreds of flights whose exact purpose was a closely held secret. Sometimes the planes were able to use airports near major capitals, while on other occasions the mission required the pilots to land at out-of-the-way airstrips. The planes were being used by the CIA to shuttle human cargo across the continents, and the shadowy air traffic was the operational side of the U.S. government's anti-terrorist program that came to be known as "extraordinary rendition."<sup>1</sup>

*Structure.* In 2009 an exclusive ABC News report revealed that the CIA had built one of its secret "black site" prisons inside an exclusive riding academy outside Vilnius, Lithuania. Where affluent Lithuanians once rode show horses and sipped coffee at a café, the CIA installed a concrete structure where it could use harsh tactics to interrogate up to eight suspected al-Qaeda terrorists at a time.<sup>2</sup>

*Recognition.* "Lithuania is not the only European country to avoid proper investigations of complicity in the CIA renditions program. Eleven other countries – Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, and the UK – are also alleged to have taken part to various degrees. Of these, only Italy has prosecuted anyone in relation to the program – convicting two Italians and, in absentia, 23 US agents for the abduction of an Egyptian man."<sup>3</sup>

*Ghosts and the Baltic.* "Wikipedia explains that neutrinos are elementary particles, electronically neutral, that travel close to the speed of light, almost without hitting anything. That is, they interact very weakly with ordinary matter. That helps, a bit. I see now why they are ghostly particles. They move through us "as if we were transparent." Perhaps then it is we that are ghosts," says indigenous techno-scientist Kim TallBear.

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1 <http://detaineetaskforce.org/read/files/assets/basic-html/page180.html>

2 <http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/cia-secret-prison-found/story?id=9115978>

3 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2013/06/25/lithuania-reopen-investigation-secret-cia-prisons>