Over the past five decades scholars in the social sciences and humanities have mounted a sustained assault on anthropocentrism and the ‘Cartesian’ separation of humans from nature. Yet with the arrival of the Anthropocene these well-meaning attempts to cut humans down to size are beating against an immovable fact: humans have become so powerful that we have shifted the planet’s geological arc. Post-humanism and the ontological turn set themselves the task of deflating human ambition by distributing human agency into networks and non-human nature; but they did so just at the time that humankind was accumulating and centralizing more agency than ever before.

Clive Hamilton:
Prof Dr Clive Hamilton is Professor of Public Ethics at Charles Sturt University in Canberra (Australia). His books include *Requiem for a Species: Why We Resist the Truth About Climate Change* and *Earthmasters: The Dawn of the Age of Climate Engineering*. He was the founder and executive director of the Australia Institute, the nation’s leading progressive think tank. He has held various visiting academic positions, including at Yale University and the University of Oxford.