**Key Concepts**

**1. Anthropocene**

* A proposed geological epoch marking humanity’s large-scale impact on Earth’s climate, ecosystems, and geology

**2. Patchy Anthropocene**

* Emphasizes that Anthropocene processes (climate change, biodiversity loss, land-use change) are **ubiquitous yet uneven**, appearing differently in each place.
* Encourages scholars to attend to **local specificity** while recognizing **global interconnections**.

**3. Plantationoene**

* Refers to the socio-ecological model of the **plantation**: simplification of ecosystems tied to colonialism, racial hierarchies, and capitalist accumulation.
* Symbolizes the destructive roots of industrial agriculture, linked to **deforestation, climate change, biodiversity loss, and inequality**.

**4. Regenerative Agriculture**

* A farming movement that seeks to **restore ecosystems** rather than deplete them.
* Core principles:
  + **No-till** farming (minimize soil disturbance).
  + **Cover cropping** (keep soil covered with living plants).
  + **Crop diversification** (beyond standard rotations).
  + **Livestock integration** (ruminants cycling nutrients through manure and grazing).
  + **Biodiversity enhancement** (both agricultural and ecological).
* Seen as a **positive alternative** to plantation logics, aiming to **sequester carbon, restore soils, enhance biodiversity, and foster multispecies justice**.

**5. Spatial Imaginaries**

* Ways of **thinking about space and relationships across space**.
* In the study, regenerative farmers rely on three imaginaries to situate local practices in global contexts:
  1. **Vertical (Nested Scales)** – from soil microbes → fields → farms → regions → planet.
  2. **Horizontal (Networks)** – connections across distance, e.g., feed supply chains linking UK farms to Amazon deforestation.
  3. **Volumetric (Depth)** – 3D thinking about soil as a living, carbon-storing volume.
* Farmers often **overlay** these imaginaries, creating a **“polymorphic” view of space**.

**6. Polymorphic Spatial Imaginaries**

* Means **multiple ways of conceptualizing spatial relations** (vertical, horizontal, volumetric) are held together.

**7. Multispecies Justice**

* Ethical recognition that farming affects not only humans but also **soils, plants, animals, microbes, and ecosystems**.

**Summary**

* The **Anthropocene** concept highlights humanity’s impact, but its species-level framing often overlooks **uneven geographies of harm, responsibility, and justice**.
* Alternatives like the **patchy Anthropocene** stress that climate change, biodiversity loss, and land-use change are **spatially ubiquitous but context-specific**.
* **Plantation agriculture** (big monocrop farms) is used as a key example because it shows how farming can: **Simplify nature**, **Exploit people and land**, **Harm the environment**

In other words: plantations prioritize profit by stripping away diversity and causing social and ecological harm.

**Aims**

1. To explore how **regenerative farmers** conceptualize their responsibilities to humans and nonhumans **through spatial thinking**.
2. **To show a positive alternative to plantation-style farming**, by examining regenerative agriculture
3. **To strengthen the idea of the patchy Anthropocene** by connecting it with geographical ideas about how space works at different levels (scales), across places (networks), and in three dimensions (volume).

**Methods**

* Based on **42 interviews** with regenerative farmers in England.
* Supplemented with **farm visits, field events, and expert interviews**.
* Data analyzed inductively (grounded theory), focusing on how farmers themselves use **spatial categories**.

**Key Findings: Three Spatial Imaginaries**

Regenerative farmers employ three **spatial imaginaries** to connect their local practices to global socio-ecological issues:

1. **Vertical (Nested Scales)**

They look at their land vertically, **moving between different levels of scale**. Each field is treated as a small patch where sunlight, water, and nutrients interact. **What they learn in one field is then applied to the whole farm**, shaping strategies like crop rotations, integrating animals with crops, or combining several farm activities together. In contrast to plantations, which spread one simplified crop over large areas, **regenerative farmers prefer diversity across fields**, using it to make their farms **healthier and more resilient**.

1. **Horizontal (Networked Connections: Livestock Stomachs)**

They think horizontally, paying attention to the connections between their farms and distant places. One important example is the food animals eat. If cattle or pigs are fed imported soya, the farm becomes tied to deforestation in places like the Amazon. To avoid this, regenerative farmers try to raise animals on local grass, hay, or crops, so they are not dependent on harmful global supply chains.

1. **Volumetric (Depth: Soils)**

They think volumetrically, that is, in terms of depth. Instead of viewing soil as just a flat surface to grow crops, they imagine it as a living, three-dimensional world full of roots, microbes, and organic matter. By using practices like no-till farming, cover crops, and deep-rooted plants, they aim to make soils deeper, richer, and better at storing carbon. Farmers see this as part of their contribution to slowing climate change, even though some are cautious about whether carbon markets can fairly measure and reward this work.

**Conclusions**

Regenerative agriculture offers an **alternative to plantation logics** by fostering **multispecies resurgence** and **justice-sensitive spatial practices**.

Farmers become “model citizens for the patchy Anthropocene,” linking **local specificity** with **global responsibility**.

Conceptually, the paper advocates for a **polymorphic grammar of space**—attending to vertical, horizontal, and volumetric relations simultaneously—to better grasp the **complex, uneven geographies** of the Anthropocene.

The paper shows how regenerative farmers imagine and practice farming through **fields (vertical scales), livestock (horizontal networks), and soils (volumetric depth)**. These imaginaries allow them to connect local farm management to planetary socio-ecological challenges, providing a hopeful and justice-oriented model of food production **for the patchy Anthropocene**

**Critical Evaluation of Findings**

* **Novelty**: Shows how farmers’ own spatial reasoning provides conceptual tools for Anthropocene scholarship—bridging geography, anthropology, and agrifood studies.
* **Contribution**: Enriches the **patchy Anthropocene** framework with more precise spatial grammars (vertical, horizontal, volumetric).
* **Implications**:
  + Academic → Calls for a **polymorphic approach to space** in socio-ecological analysis.
  + Practical → Suggests regenerative agriculture offers an **alternative to plantation logics** through multi-scalar, justice-sensitive practices.