Abstract: Amanda Goldstein

BIO:

Amanda Jo Goldstein is an Associate Professor of English at UC Berkeley, where her research and teaching focus on Enlightenment and Romantic-era literature and science, with particular focus on pre-Darwinian biology and materialist theories of history, poetry, and nature. She is the author of *Sweet Science: Romantic Materialism and the New Logics of Life*(University of Chicago Press, 2017, winner of the MLA prize for a first book) and articles on epigenesis, biosemiotics, and utopian ecology from a poetic point of view.

ABSTRACT:

This article comes at the notion of "political ecology" avant-la-lettre by exploring the twinned themes of ecological retribution and ecological jubilee in Erasmus Darwin’s scientific poetry of the 1790s. I think seriously (but also comedically) about the revolutionary, decolonizing, and abolitionist partisanship of other-than-human natures in Darwin’s materialist epic. Such figures, I argue, both illuminate and begin to redress the symptomatic silence on the matter of race that too frequently marks newer materialist political ecology and Anthropocene theory.