18-20 May 2026
Stockholm University

The Ordinary Anthropocene

Biodiversity in the other 70%!

In 2022, the UN's Convention on Biological Diversity committed to set aside 30% of the earth's surface for protected areas. In this conference we ask, what about the biodiversity in the other 70%? While the Anthropocene is framed as a spectacular rupture and a catastrophic loss that demands protection for the remaining Holocene patches, we are interested in the life going on beyond the confines of these patches: the ordinary Anthropocene. As the concluding conference for the research project *BIOrdinary*: *Biodiversity Dilemmas in Ordinary Places*, we invite participants to join us in exploring the latent possibilities found in regular sites of more-than-human habitation, outside the spectacular.

Taking Roland Persson's 'Uninvited Guest' as our totem, we encourage participants to consider how to live alongside and responsibly dwell with the biodiversity that flourishes in the acuminated debris and detritus of deep histories of human mobility, habitation, agriculture and industrial activities. What happens if we explore the epoch outside the register of the spectacular, and hone in on the life that unfolds in ordinary places; in homes, across the city, in farms and plantations, and along coastlines, where more-than-human peregrinations and unruliness are the norm? How do people, animals, plants and microbes produce and encounter the Anthropocene in common spaces and through mundane entanglements, and how do they make diverse ways of life in the ordinary possible? How can we critically engage with the concept of biodiversity beyond apocalyptic and salvage frameworks to imagine future scenarios that focus not only on the survival of species labelled as endemic, but also on making room for future natives?

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"Uninvited guest" by Roland Persson (2025)
Photo: Jussi Tiainen