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"The Affective Legacy of *Silent Spring*"

Lockwood, Alex

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In the fiftieth year since the publication of *Silent Spring*, the importance of Rachel Carson's work can be measured in its *affective* influence on contemporary environmental writing across the humanities. The ground broken by *Silent Spring* in creating new forms of writing has placed affect at the very center of contemporary narratives that call for pro-environmental beliefs and behaviors. A critical public-feelings framework is used to explore these issues and trace their passage from the private and intimate, where they risk remaining denuded of agency, and into the public sphere. Carson's narrative procedures mobilized private feelings, particularly anger aimed at environmental destruction, into political action. Thus *Silent Spring* is shown to occupy a foundational position in the history of the environmental humanities, and a cultural politics concerned with public feelings. (Adapted from the author's abstract.)

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- Environmental Humanities journal
  http://environmentalhumanities.org/
- Environment & Society Portal exhibition on the global reception of *Silent Spring*
  http://www.environmentandsociety.org/exhibitions/silent-spring/overview
- Environmental Humanities - complete volume 1
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