



## **Ecowomanism and Literature**

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### **Message from the Guest Editors**

This year, 2023, marks the 44th birthday of womanism. The term “womanist” was first used by Alice Walker in her short story “Coming Apart” in 1979. Since then, the seed of womanism has germinated and grown into a lush intellectual landscape through the care and tending of writers, theologians, artists, activists, and scholars. Besides Alice Walker, countless African American women writers address interconnected issues of nature and its intersection with race, gender, sexuality, and environmental crises. Ecowomanism continues to grow and draw interest in the twenty-first century in the midst of the increasing climate crisis and social unrest.

The editors of this Special Issue Xiumei Pu and Melanie Harris invite interdisciplinary, intersectional, inter-cultural, and interreligious essays engaging ecowomanist literature. Questions include, but are not limited to, what new light can ecowomanism help shed on the challenges and possibilities of the unfolding Anthropocene and or what Joanna Macy calls “The Great Turning” in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? How can ecowomanist literary imagination help envision paths forward to a more livable and just future?

