

Abstract

Several decades of futile efforts to eradicate the giant hogweed, categorized as an invasive alien species, raise questions about the relationship between plans of a modern Man and the unruliness of the non-human world, and thus the nature of Anthropocene dynamics. Around the menacing vitality of the hogweed in the West Bohemian borderlands, a power apparatus based on a necropolitical form of governance, imbued with a collective warlike atmosphere, was established over time. In my ethnography, I follow the workings and operations of this apparatus, built on a logic of discursive figures, static boundaries and areal vision. However, the prism of human failings that this mode of governance generates is not the whole story, explaining why necropolitics fails to live up to its commitments. It is also undermined by the very vitality of the hogweed, proliferating amidst the spatiotemporally specific naturecultural entanglements of the (post-)socialist borderland and shaped by an essentially corporeal movement along dynamic lines. Tracing both these contexts, power and its 'refusal', will subsequently help me to think through the limits of anthropological discourse of more-than-human entanglements that may encounter systematic and productive efforts towards disconnection.