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The Flora and Fauna of Fictional Taipei

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Urban Ecologies: The Flora and Fauna of Fictional Taipei

"Now more than ever, nature cannot be separated from culture"

Félix Guattari

Just as urban gardens have become shelters for bees, birds and other wildlife threatened by industrialized farming and the disappearance of habitats,[1] so does Taiwanese urban fiction harbour an unexpected richness of flora and fauna significant not only for the future of environmental protection, but for the local identity and place-based imagination of its citizens as well.

Through a comparison of the Taipei-focused works Chu Tien-hsin and Wu Mingyi,[2] this paper argues that the fictional city is a highly relevant biotope when it comes to exploring what Félix Guattari refers to as the "interchangeable lenses or points of view of the three ecologies [mental, social and environmental]."[3]

Astrid Møller-Olsen is a doctoral candidate at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University, Sweden. She has published on literary drinking cultures, allegorical cannibalism, fictional dictionaries and Daoist commensality in Chinese fiction. Current research focuses

[1] See for example Goddard, Mark A.; Dougill, Andrew J.; Benton, Tim G. (2010): 'Scaling up from gardens: biodiversity conservation in urban environments.' *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* 25(2):90-98.

[2] 《古都》 (Old Capital) and 《獵人們》 (The Hunters) by Chu Tien-hsin 朱天心 ;《金魚》 (The Goldfish) and 《鳥》 (Birds) by Wu Mingyi 吳明益.

[3] Guattari, Félix (2014): *The Three Ecologies*. Translated by Ian Pindar and Paul Sutton. London: Bloomsbury, 42.