

This presentation examines recent attempts (by Latour and others) to rethink the political around the notion of the “death” of the nature/culture division by turning to Friedrich Hölderlin’s development of the motif of the Earth in his poetic theory. While this motif has largely be read in terms of his poetry’s focus on the withdrawal of the divine, I argue that it instead articulates a strange form of “political ecology,” one that yokes poetry and nature together around a shared indeterminacy. Hölderlin’s poetics, I claim, attempts to witness the “death” of one conception of nature, and the birth of another. In doing so, it gestures toward the possibility of a common world between human and non-humans, grounded in what Jean-Luc Nancy has called a “communism of non-equivalence.”