

System Failure: Oil, Insecurity and Disaster

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What are the dominant discourses through which we have narrated the coming end of oil? And which, if any, offer the imaginative resources to adequately deal with what will necessarily amount to a wholesale change in our political, social and cultural circumstances?

In this paper, I assess the three dominant narratives concerning what is to be done about the disaster of oil circulating today: strategic realism, techno-utopianism, and eco-apocalypse. One of the most significant sources of insecurity today is the fate of the energy source on which we rely. Beyond the demand that we modify our behaviour as consumers, this presentation will think through the potential futures that each discourse on the end of oil might allow us to conceptualize.