

# Arts of Scholaring on a Damaged Planet

*A step towards building the academy we want  
in the Anthropocene*

This story was co-created in the workshop ‘Arts of Scholaring on a Damaged Planet’, which took place on November 12 of 2024 at Solidaritetshuset (Södermalm, Stockholm).

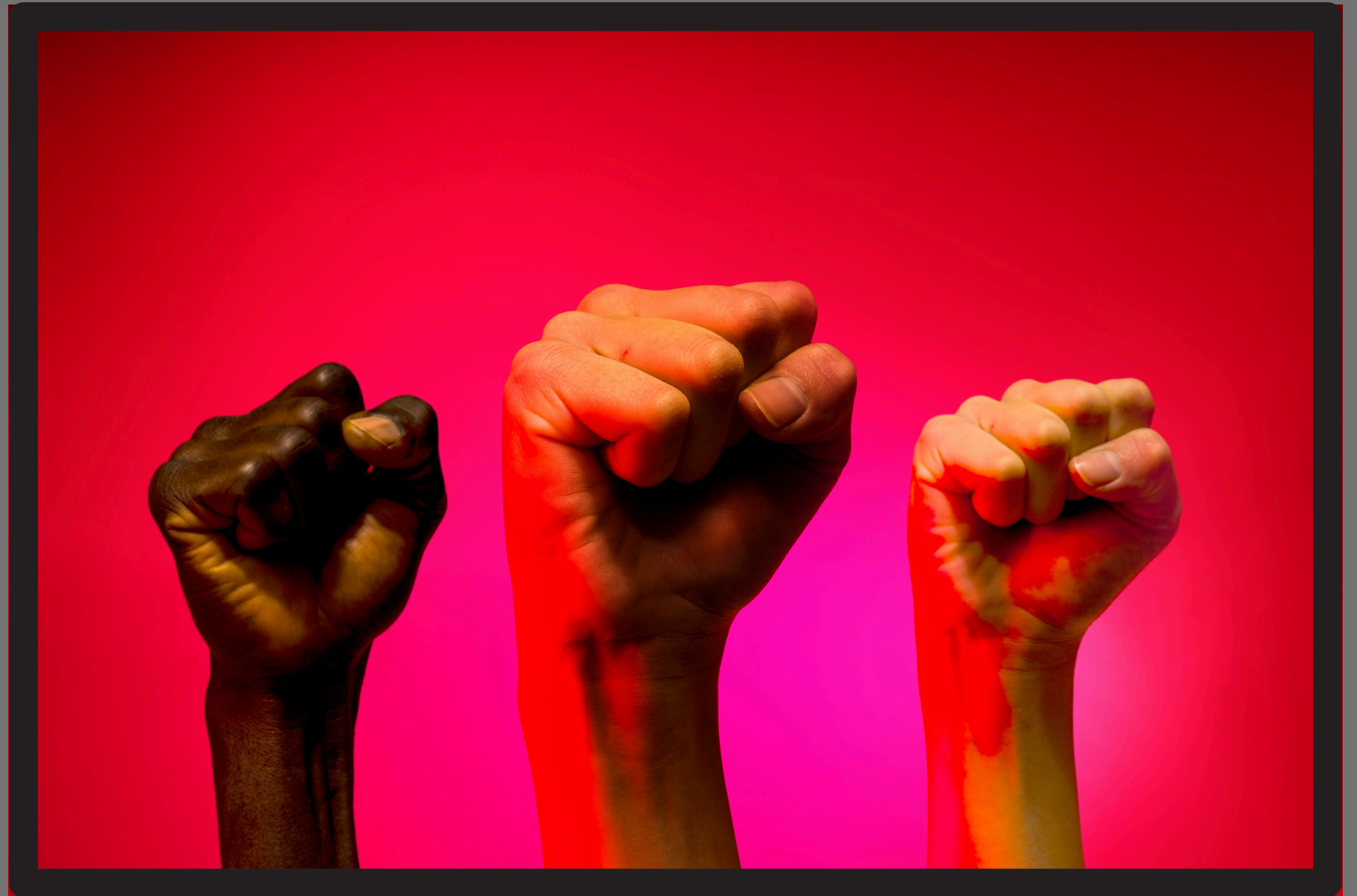
We were aiming to share our concerns regarding the roles of academia in the current historical epoch – the Anthropocene – and to co-create some material artifacts which could help us move forward towards the horizons we are demanded to achieve as part of our wider struggles. If you want to read more, see the full comment on the Anthropocene History Centre website [here](#).

You can access the rest of the stories and share them in order to spread initiatives and networks for another possible academia.

All photos and graphic elements are open-access from [canva.com](https://www.canva.com)

We struggled quite a bit because we stuck a bit too close to reality in the beginning, but this is what has been created in the very last moment, so we'll see how that goes.

The scenario we are envisioning is a Sweden that is quite a few years in the future, quite a few being very many, and there's very few trees left. So a scenario that is quite realistic with where we're heading currently, and we're basically pretty close to the end of that scenario. And in that scenario, we have an academic that wants to create an organization to represent the rights of the last few trees in Sweden while still being part of a government organization to an extent, since the universities are still run by the state. So she wants to represent these non-human actors, and she thinks that it's quite a good tactic. She proposes this to other higher institutions, and they can solve the problems of tree cutting, but they are quite reluctant. So they decide to do a protest in favor of conserving these trees. And they go there and she gets arrested by the state that she actually works for, from which she wanted to do something good. And she doesn't really know what to say, because she thought that the idea of that state she was working for was to work for the greater good, but they are now the ones stopping her.



In prison she meets someone who was at the protest she organized as well. They come from a very different background. They were sort of the classic blue-collar worker and they were also engaged in their own kind of academia writing theory about radical action and how to save... so they were very much fighting for the same cause. They were both part of a kind of academia but a very different one, because in one of them the state still had the control, and the other one was very much a grassroots movement. They sort of understand that they hadn't consulted or talked to each other before, and they try to weave together to create institutional change and dissection, and working together they can work towards this greater goal they are all fighting for.



They didn't have a way to interact in this organization if the state were to refuse, but they're trying these radical tactics and the grassroots organizer didn't have the theoretical vision yet; but together they try to accomplish this. So they decide to meet and start working at this project at the edge of academia and grassroots together, and eventually succeed in protecting the forest and re-establishing the ecosystem.