

The Didactic Novel of the Anthropocene: *The Overstory* (2018, Richard Powers) and *Greenwood* (2019, Michael Christie)

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Abstract: *By drawing on the tradition of the didactic novel, forest-centric fiction highlights the significance of sustainability practices in coming to terms with a climate-altered future. Arboreal fictions aim to enhance public understanding of scientific knowledge regarding climate change. The Overstory (2018, Richard Powers) and Greenwood (2019, Michael Christie) are narratorial feats of the sort, offering insight into either the lead-up to or the aftermath of weather-related catastrophe. Both novels serve as cautionary tales, critically examining climate change scepticism and/or denial. They emphasize the need for readers, rather than characters, to learn how to navigate the consequences of human-induced global warming. Ultimately, their plots rework interpretive complexities related to contemporary experiences of environmental calamity into moralizing public narratives.*

Keywords: *arboreal fiction; didactic novel; Anthropocene; The Overstory; Greenwood;*