

## **Editorial**

The editors of *Ikhtilaf, Journal of Critical Humanities and Social Studies* are pleased to present to the readers the first issue which we chose to devote to what is probably the most crucial problem humanity has ever had to address, i.e. the Environmental Crisis. The theme of this issue was prompted by the 22<sup>nd</sup> UN Conference of Parties (COP) held at Marrakech in 2016, and it's also very significant that the journal appears at the same time that the 23<sup>rd</sup> COP is taking place at Bonn, Germany. This is our tribute to the international campaign to do something about the Environment, for as scientists maintain, we are the last generation that can still do something to stop global warming. And if we go on acting as if nothing is going on, we are undermining the future of our children and that of humanity. Chances are it's already too late.

Here then is our modest contribution to the debate. At a time of global environmental and economic challenges, there is an urgent need for the humanities to address the question of climate change, to explore the ways the intersections of history, culture, science, politics, literature and art can help us address the complex question of the dramatic global changes, euphemistically referred to as 'climate change' and open up new ways of thinking about the subject. Indeed, only the cross-disciplinary endeavor that is at the heart of the humanities can give some confidence so that the men and women of our generation take the ultimate leap of faith, and accept that unless we change our ways, we are going at high speed on a collision course. Contrary to the general assumption, climate change is not just a matter of sciences, economics, or politics; it is also closely related to our ontological connection with the world. It is urgent to consider the close link between global corporate capitalism, the generalized and standardized consumerism and the dramatic global changes of the recent decades. The utilitarian relation we have with time and space has largely contributed to damaging the environment by using up resources at an extremely high rate. Enormous environmental and spatial injustices have been generated by many decades of economic restructuring and neoliberal globalization. To confront climate change and its dangerous consequences, like global warming, desertification, rising sea levels, increased frequency of severe storms, droughts, alteration of species, spreading of disease, we must reconsider our relationship with nature and face our material and moral responsibility in bequeathing disaster to our own descendants.