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**Interdisciplinary Approach Rejuvenates Branch of Southern Studies**  
*LSU Press to publish Ecocriticism and the Future of Southern Studies in August*

“If this luminous, readable, and often entertaining collection is any indication, the future of southern studies is bright, and environmental studies will be a driving force in realizing that promise.”—from the afterword by Jay Watson

**Baton Rouge, LA**—As the planet faces ever-worsening disruptions to global ecosystems—carbon and chemical emissions, depletions of the ozone layer, the loss of biodiversity, rising sea levels, air toxification, and worsening floods and droughts—scholars across academia must examine the cultural effects of this increasingly post-natural world. That task proves especially vital for southern studies, given how often the U.S. South serves as a site for large-scale damming initiatives like the TVA, disasters on the scale of Hurricane Katrina and the *Deepwater Horizon* spill, and the extraction of coal, oil, and natural gas.

*Ecocriticism and the Future of Southern Studies* is the first book-length collection of scholarship that applies interdisciplinary environmental humanities research to cultural analyses of the U.S. South. Sixteen essays examine novels, nature writing, films, television, and music that address a broad range of ecological topics related to the region, including climate change, built and natural environments, the petroleum industry, food cultures, waterways, natural and human-induced disasters, waste management, and the Anthropocene. Edited by Zackary Vernon, this volume demonstrates how the greening of southern studies, in tandem with the southernization of environmental studies, can catalyze alternative ways of understanding the connections between regional and global cultures and landscapes.

By addressing ecological issues central to life throughout the South, *Ecocriticism and the Future of Southern Studies* considers the confluence between region and environment, while also illustrating the growing need to see environmental issues as matters of social justice.

**Zackary Vernon** is assistant professor of English at Appalachian State University and the coeditor of *Summoning the Dead: Essays on Ron Rash*.

**Jay Watson** is the Howry Professor of Faulkner Studies at the University of Mississippi, where he directs the annual Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Conference. He is the author of several books, including *Reading for the Body: The Recalcitrant Materiality of Southern Fiction, 1893–1985*.

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Scott Romine, Series Editor

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