



ALAN BEWELL

November 22, 2010

“JOHN CLARE AND THE GHOSTS OF NATURES PAST”

No Romantic poet wrote more passionately than John Clare about the joy of experiencing nature in all its immediacy, and no poet argued more strongly for its permanence and continuity across generations, and yet few poets have conveyed in more poignant terms what it means to lose one's nature for good. This paper will consider Clare as a poet who talks about what it means to experience the end of nature and to live on long after the nature, which one had thought to be a fundamental given of life, was gone. Although for many people during the nineteenth century, such an idea was unthinkable, and yet for many others it was a fact of life. Alongside many new natures that were coming into being at this time, others were being destroyed or utterly changed. Clare's poetry gives us some insight into what it might mean to survive the death of one's enviroing nature.

2pm -- Room LB 646
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(1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West)

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**TECHNOLOGIES, MEDIA, AND
REPRESENTATIONS IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY
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