

The Goose


Volume 15 | No. 1

Article 45

9-1-2016

The plus nines of climate change

Lucy Burnett
Leeds Beckett University

 Part of the [Critical and Cultural Studies Commons](#), [Literature in English, North America Commons](#), [Nature and Society Relations Commons](#), and the [Place and Environment Commons](#)
Follow this and additional works at / Suivez-nous ainsi que d'autres travaux et œuvres:
<https://scholars.wlu.ca/thegoose>

Recommended Citation / Citation recommandée

Burnett, Lucy. "The plus nines of climate change." *The Goose*, vol. 15, no. 1, article 45, 2016,
<https://scholars.wlu.ca/thegoose/vol15/iss1/45>.

This article is brought to you for free and open access by Scholars Commons @ Laurier. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Goose by an authorized editor of Scholars Commons @ Laurier. For more information, please contact scholarscommons@wlu.ca.

Cet article vous est accessible gratuitement et en libre accès grâce à Scholars Commons @ Laurier. Le texte a été approuvé pour faire partie intégrante de la revue The Goose par un rédacteur autorisé de Scholars Commons @ Laurier. Pour de plus amples informations, contactez scholarscommons@wlu.ca.

The plus nines of climate change

The clitoris chaplain must be limited
to two deliberations
if appeasement is to be avoided:

I hope that pensioners don't die out
and that our icons might stop melting.
The search continues rising.

You know there is no songbird
where there is no engine
and all our Wednesdays still travelling.

Note on the Text

The plus nines of climate change takes as its starting point the belief that new perspectives on climate change are needed from the futuristic, apocalyptic norms which seek to persuade us of the urgent and instrumental need to 'solve' climate change before it is too late. Viewing climate change as more of an ongoing journey which we are constantly in the process of negotiation, this poem uses chance procedures as a means of helping us view climate change and its discourses in surprising ways. The OULIPO group of writers sought out new patterns and structures for writing, similar to my own quest for new patterns or structures for approaching climatic change. This poem takes the following climate change tropes as its starting point and applies an N+9 procedure on them - replacing every noun in the poem with the noun nine places further on in the dictionary: "Climate change must be limited to two degrees if apocalypse is to be avoided. I hope that penguins don't die out and that our ice caps might stop melting. The sea continues rising. You know there is no solution where there is no end and all our weather still travelling."

LUCY BURNETT's first poetry collection, *Leaf Graffiti*, was published by Carcanet Press in 2013. Her second hybrid novel, *Through the Weather Glass* (Knives Forks Spoons 2015), combines fantasy travel writing, poetry and documentary photography to tell a fictionalised version of a 2500 mile cycle expedition from Salford to Icaria which the author undertook in the persona of Icarus as a means of working through her struggles to respond to environmental change. An interactive art installation version of this book is currently on UK tour (www.throughtheweatherglass.com) with the support of Arts Council England, and Leeds Beckett University, where Lucy works as a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing. www.lucyburnett.net