The Unsustainable Estate: Imagining Nature in Jane Austen’s *Mansfield Park*

*Mansfield Park* makes us acutely aware of the passing of the seasons and of the normative weather conditions in England during the Little Ice Age (c. 1350-1850) – a period of shorter springs and growing seasons, longer winters, and violent shifts in weather patterns across northwestern Europe. The widespread perception during Austen’s lifetime that the climate of Britain was unstable, prone to abrupt shifts and dislocations, encourages us to think about how the novel’s vision of Nature both resists and responds to specific climatological conditions. Markley uses this literary text to explore how climatic variability shaped perceptions of nature, society, and self in the period.

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