

Holmes, B. (2015) “Situating Scamander: Natureculture in the *Iliad*”, *Ramus* 44.1-2, 29-51 (Special Issue: Helen Morales and Sara Lindheim, eds., “New Essays in Homer: Language, Violence, Agency”).

This article argues for a reading of the relatively neglected episode in *Iliad* 21, when the river Scamander rises up to fight on behalf of the Trojans, in terms of Donna Haraway’s “natureculture,” which displaces the simple opposition between nature and culture in favor of attending to the manifold differences between human and non-human agents and the specific quality of Scamander’s agency. Reading Scamander’s power to annihilate the heroic body together with his will-to-protect the Trojans, it probes the river’s status as an ethico-social agent who registers the transgressive quality of Achilles’ violence and intervenes to counter it. The essay argues that this intervention marks a moment of resistance—bound to the mutual relations of care between the river and the Trojans; local and cosmic; and framed as a narrative disruption to the plan of Zeus—to the inevitability of Troy’s destruction.