

# Voice of the Voiceless: Analysis of Anthropocene in Zhao Liang's *Behemoth* and Ellen Marie Wiseman's *Coal River*

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## **Abstract**

This paper is an attempt to study the Chinese documentary *Behemoth* (2015) by Zhao Liang. It is a contemporary masterpiece that depicts the social and environmental injustice that is happening in the coal mines of Inner Mongolia. It is filmed in an unconventional manner by using poetry and silence as a tool to revolt against the sounds of mining machinery and vehicles that suppress the voice of the mining workers. This paper aims to analyse the notion of Anthropocene by examining the environmental injustice, its effects and how Liang uses his documentaries as a form of 'artistic activism' that has the potential to be the voice for the voiceless. The paper also compares American novelist Ellen Marie Wiseman's *Coal River* (2015) to substantiate the research.

**Keywords:** Anthropocene, Behemoth, artistic activism, environmental injustice, Ellen Marie Wiseman