



**Glenn Albrecht** is Professor of [Sustainability](#) at [Murdoch University](#) in [Western Australia](#) . In 2008 Albrecht finished as the Associate Professor in Environmental Studies in University of Newcastle in

[New South Wales](#)

. He has become known for coining the neologism *solastalgia*

[  
1  
1

## Solastalgia

Solastalgia is a [neologism](#) coined by the Australian philosopher Glenn Albrecht in 2003 with the first article published on this concept in 2005. [\[ 2 \]](#) It describes a form of psychic or existential distress caused by environmental change, such as mining or [climate change](#)

As opposed to [nostalgia](#) - the melancholia or homesickness experienced by individuals when separated from a loved home - "**solastalgia**" is the distress that is produced by environmental change impacting on people while they are directly connected to their home environment. A paper published by Albrecht and collaborators focused on two contexts where collaborative research teams found solastalgia to be evident: the experiences of persistent drought in rural

[New South Wales](#)

(NSW) and the impact of large-scale open-cut coal mining on individuals in the Upper Hunter Valley of NSW. In both cases, people exposed to environmental change experienced negative effects exacerbated by a sense of powerlessness or lack of control over the unfolding change process.

[

[3](#)

[1](#)

Conceptualising environmentally-induced distress as mental illness has been discussed by Seamus Mac Suibhne. [\[ 4 \]](#)

## References

1. [^](#) Smith, Daniel B. [Is There an Ecological Unconscious?](#) . NYTimes.com, January 27, 2010. A version of this article appeared in print on January 31, 2010, on page 36 of The New York Times Sunday Magazine. Retrieved 2010-1-31.
2. [^](#) G. Albrecht, *Solastalgia, a new concept in human health and identity*, Philosophy Activism Nature 3:41-44 (2005).
3. [^](#) Albrecht, G., Sartore, G-M., Connor, L., Higginbotham, N., Freeman, S., Kelly, B., Stain, H., Tonna, A., & Pollard, G. (2007). "Solastalgia: the distress caused by environmental change". *Australasian Psychiatry* **15** (1): S95-S98.
4. [^](#) Mac Suibhne, S. (2009). "What makes "a new mental illness"?: The cases of solastalgia and hubris syndrome". *Cosmos and History* **5** (2): 210–225.

## External links

- <http://www.sustainability.murdoch.edu.au/dirs/>