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Preface to Nihilism

We're very fortunate in this issue to be able to publish what began its life as an op-ed following the horrendous 2015 massacre in Paris. The piece was written by Bruno Latour, a *maître à penser* of our day.

Both Latour's op-ed and the article by Henry Giroux and Brad Evans use the word 'nihilism.' Taking off from that term, Latour uses it to move on to the Paris climate-change talks that followed hard on the attacks. Giroux and Evans do so to describe both the ideology of the terrorists and that of the security state's grim response. The failure of will, intellect, and compassion on all sides involved in these struggles is clear.

We decided to present these significant pieces of tendency, which had been published in popular outlets, in this scholarly venue both to give them an archive and to acknowledge their potential value in academic debate.

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