



EASLCE

Vol. 11.2. Winter 2016/17

newsletter

A Biannual Publication of the European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture and Environment

Dear EASLCE Members,

I hold the honor of addressing you as the 7th President of EASLCE. Seven is considered a magic number in many Earth cultures and spiritual traditions. The bearer of glad tidings, it is believed to bring good luck, hope, and positive energies, which need to be anchored more than ever now in all layers of our beautiful planet undergoing so much stress with environmental and social tragedies. Although experienced differently at regional scales, refugee crises, terrorism, violence against women, political instabilities, environmental injustices, and the processes of climate change affect all of us with deeply felt tremors, like the 6.6 magnitude earth-quake that struck southern Italy on 30th of October, 2016. But, rather than highlighting these tangled circumstances, I want to foreground the positive energies we have collectively engendered in the heart of Europe, Brussels, the venue for the 7th Biennial EASLCE/BASCE conference ("Wildness without Wilderness: The Poiesis of Energy and Instability"), hosted by the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) between 27-30 October, 2016. On behalf of EASLCE, I extend my warmest thanks to Franca Bellarsi and Isobel Hoving, and of course to Franca's amazing graduate students for organizing such a dynamic conference, enriched by three brilliantly delivered keynotes held by Hubert Zapf, Franz Vera, and Adam Dickinson, thirty-two thought-provoking panels, a choice of excursions to Brussel's natural-cultural sites, poetry performances, documentary evenings, and the closing banquet in the historic restaurant La Rose Blanche, which turned out to be a highly joyous event.

Enlivened by the intellectual energies, transformative ideas, warm collegiality, and fond memories of this conference, I first would like to express my deep gratitude to the past presidents of EASLCE (Axel Goodbody, Sylvia Meyer, Serenella Iovino, Carmen Flys Junquera, Hannes Bergthaller, and Nacho Oliva) and to the former Executive Committees for their invaluable service to EASLCE.

I also thank the past and present Advisory Board members, Webinar facilitators (Michaela Castellanos and Hanna Strass who will be so much missed), translators of Minutes and Annual Reports, our webmaster Michael Markwick, who is not only a web-design virtuoso, but also an acknowledged artist (michaelmarkwick.com), as well as all the members of EASLCE. Last, but not least I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Sylvia Meyer who has been in charge of our Newsletter for many years, for her impeccable skills and expertise in making it a sought-after publication in the scholarly community of EASLCE. I also wish to extend my warmest thanks to Carmen Flys Junquera as the editor-in-chief of our flagship journal *Ecozon@*. With her commitment to make the journal one of the most prestigious ones in our field, Carmen was quite versatile in identifying databases in order to facilitate the indexing process. And I want to thank the seven former members of the Advisory Board who had to step down after serving four years, during the Annual General Membership Meeting in Brussels: Isabel Fernandez Alves, Franca Bellarsi, Catrin Gersdorf, Peter Mortensen, Carmen Flys Junquera, Isabel Hoving, and Diana Villanueva.

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Vol. 11.2. (Winter 2016/17)

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the EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE STUDY OF
LITERATURE, CULTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT

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For further information
contact: Alexa Weik von
Mossner:
treasurer@easlce.eu

Please note the editorial
deadline for the next issue:
June 15, 2017

I now take this opportunity to welcome the new board members: Felicitas Hand, Reinhard Henning, Katie Ritson, Anne Rachel Hermetet, Irene Sanz, and Hubert Zapf.

EASLCE's significance in establishing a recognizable frame for those working in the environmental humanities and ecocriticism is undeniable. This is a site where interdisciplinary and international conversations are reinforced through collaborations, making EASLCE a privileged place for environmental discourses to flourish in Europe and beyond. It was this framework that prompted me to join our Association in 2010. Let me state on a more personal note that when I did, little did I know that I would be so fortunate to serve on the Advisory Board, get elected as Vice President in 2014, and become the 7th president in 2016. EASLCE not only offered me scholarly gratification, but also abiding friendships that continue to enrich me, and who most benefits? No need to make a wild guess: my graduate students in my department at Hacettepe University, Ankara, as well as others from around the world who seek guidance through EASLCE's admirable academic environment. In the upcoming two years, our newly-elected Vice-President Uwe Kuchler, our treasurer Alexa Weik von Mossner, and I will be in the driver's seat of our Association. The road was already made smoother by the former president Nacho to whom I owe special thanks for being a good friend and for his wise counsel during the last two years. I initially suspected our Mediterranean cultural genes that brought us in tune, but what really enabled us to serve in perfect solidarity was the congenial spirit of EASLCE itself.

It is with the same spirit that I welcome our new Vice-President Uwe Kuchler from Tübingen University, Germany, who will be in charge of EASLCE's Newsletter. With his tranquil personality, Uwe is indeed ideal for this job. Surely the Mediterranean temperament won't be the connecting thread for us, but perhaps German discipline will, which I also share as a Turkish scholar, even if this might sound a little amusing to your ears.

So, do not hesitate to contact us (Uwe, Alexa, and me) whenever you need to consult our opinion in EASLCE affairs, or share your opinions. There is much work to do for EASLCE, which is unique in offering European perspectives to the entangled ecological urgencies and ethical and social problems surrounding this fragile planet. However diverse and multifarious they may be—as can be seen in the special issues of *Ecozon@*—these perspectives represent a common and flexible platform to work together as a unified body to achieve desired ecological outcomes. We will be discussing all this and more at our next Annual General Membership Meeting during the 12th Biennial ASLE conference, June 20-24, 2017, at Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. Let me also announce the good news that our next conference will be hosted by Catrin Gersdorf and her colleague Roland Borgards in Würzburg, Germany on September, 24-28, 2018. On behalf of EASLCE, I extend my thanks to them both, and send you all my best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Serpil Oppermann, EASLCE President

Call for Papers

Second Call for Papers:
"Mediating Climate Change"
4-6 July 2017, University of Leeds, UK

Our experience of climate change is always mediated. Its effects are encountered through changing weather patterns, including the storms, floods, and droughts that afflict communities across the world. They are also encountered through different forms of representation: a novel imagining a desiccated future Earth; a television documentary about coral bleaching; a graph of rising global temperatures. Researchers increasingly understand climate change as a cultural and political issue, and are concerned with the ways in

which it is mediated in different contexts, and to different audiences.

This major environmental humanities conference will cross disciplines and periods to analyse the ways in which human beings have tried to make sense of climate change. What difficulties are there in representing climate change? How has it been debated in the past? What new ways of exploring and mediating climate change are emerging as we face an uncertain future?

We welcome proposals of around 250 words for twenty-minute papers suitable for an interdisciplinary audience.

Topics might include, but are not limited to:

- Representations of climate change in literature, film, the media, and the arts
- Climate change and cultural theory (e.g. posthumanism, new materialism)
- Historical constructions of climate change
- Climate change and the Anthropocene
- The mediation of climate science
- Scales of mediation/climate modelling
- Climate change as a culturally mediated and contingent concept
- The construction of climate change within academic discourse
- Climate change and consumerism (e.g. greenwash)
- The psychology of climate change (e.g. disavowal, denial, scepticism, affirmation, optimism)
- Climate change in political discourse
- Climate change and the ethics of representation
- Mediation and climate change activism

We also welcome proposals for complete panels and for presentations/panels using non-standard formats. The deadline for proposals is **15 January 2017**. Please use the conference email address for all correspondence and proposals:

mediatingclimatechange@leeds.ac.uk

Confirmed speakers:

Professor Wändi Bruine de Bruin (Leeds); Professor Nigel Clark (Lancaster); Professor Alexandra Harris (Liverpool); Professor Mike Hulme (King's College London); Dr Adeline Johns-Putra (Surrey); Professor Toby Miller (Loughborough); Professor Gillen D'Arcy Wood (Illinois)

Conference organisers:

David Higgins and Tess Somervell

Conference advisory team:

Jeremy Davies, Dehlia Hannah, Graham Huggan, Sebastien Nobert, Chris Paterson, Lucy Rowland, Stefan Skrimshire, Kerri Woods

This conference is supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council through a Leadership Fellowship awarded to Dr Higgins.

Call for Papers:
"Crime Fiction and Ecology"
Green Letter: Studies in Ecocriticism 22.1 (2018)

Green Letters: Studies in Ecocriticism is the journal of ASLE-UKI (the UK-Ireland branch of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment). It is a peer-reviewed journal published by Routledge and supported by Bath Spa University and the University of Worcester. *Green Letters* explores interdisciplinary interfaces between humans and the natural and built environment. Submissions are now invited for a themed issue 'Crime Fiction and Ecology' to be edited by Joseph Walton (University of Surrey) and Samantha Walton (Bath Spa University).

*'The noir narrator begins investigating a supposedly external situation, from a supposedly neutral point of view, only to discover that she or he is implicated in it.'*¹

This special edition of *Green Letters* invites ecocritical readings of crime and detective narratives, and reflections on ecocritical theory and environmental philosophy informed by detective fiction. Patrick Murphy has urged ecocritics to study "nature-oriented mystery novels—with or without detectives, and perhaps even without murders—in order to understand the degree to which environmental consciousness and nature awareness has permeated popular and commercial fiction".²

¹ Timothy Morton, *The Ecological Thought*. Cambridge: Harvard, 2010. pp.16-17.

² Patrick Murphy, *Ecocritical Explorations in Literary and Cultural Studies*, Plymouth: Lexington, 2009. p.143.

But crime fiction is not only a benchmark of how effectively a specialist knowledge has been popularised: it is also a form of specialist knowledge in its own right, with its own distinct contributions to make to our understanding of human-nature relations and environmental crisis.

Since its rise in the 19th century, detective fiction has been highly responsive to developments in science and technology, including forensics, photography, and telecommunications. The quintessential detective figure has been invested with authority to wield new technologies and new ways of knowing, in order to contain social deviancy and quell fears caused by the threat of crime.³ In the long history of detective fiction, these threats, powers and responsibilities have necessarily changed. Now, in the context of massive environmental crisis, the detective's functions may need, once again, to be reconsidered. Faced with the traumatic possibility of being the lone figure capable of understanding global connectivity, the 'figure' of the detective may splinter into distributed and collective forms of agency. This 'figure' may be called upon not only to restore and to reassure, but also to bear witness, diagnose, critique, mourn, protest, disrupt, and act in the pursuit of ecological justice.

Particular incarnations of the detective figure offer ecocriticism opportunities to reflect on how the production of knowledge and the pursuit of ecological justice can be situated and embodied. These incarnations include the maverick, the inscrutable hardboiled PI, the by-the-book cop, the amateur sleuth, the feigned incompetent, the genius, the undercover operative, the reluctant detective and the odd couple. Likewise, other figures and tropes of crime fiction—such as the villain, the witness, the crime scene, the interview, the false solution, the gathering, the unmasking—provide opportunities to reflect on the forms and functions of environmental criticism, and on ecological narratives more generally. How can the narrative structures characteristic of the crime genre—mystery, investigation, denouement—and its ways of theorising knowledge, agency and responsibility be extended, for instance, to consider questions of systemic and slow violence in a global context? How can justice be conceived and enacted when antagonistic actors and agencies are no longer the 'evil geniuses' of classic detective fiction, but corporations, governments, communities, or even systemic dynamics that have no clear personal or institutional form or locus of legal and moral responsibility? We welcome articles which draw on crime fiction in order to challenge and

refresh the theoretical perspectives of ecocriticism, new materialism, and the environmental humanities. We seek articles which address overtly ecologically-oriented crime fiction, such as eco-thrillers. We are also interested in scholarship which addresses not obviously ecologycentric detective fictions, and which locate these works in their historical and ecological contexts. Not-obviously oriented detective fictions may include golden age whodunnits, espionage, hardboiled fiction, police procedural, contemporary cosy mysteries and others. In this respect, we are particularly interested in seeing proposals which attend to literary or other cultural productions of the Global South, and/or which address the transnational reception of crime narratives.

Authors are encouraged to consider, but are not limited to, the following topics:

Scenes. Crime scenes, edgelands and criminality, liminal spaces, gendered landscapes, othered places, traces, clues, the materiality of the crime scene, the temporality of the crime scene, cold cases.

Nature tropes in crime narratives. Country houses, islands, weather, wildernesses, moorlands, marshes, edgelands, beaches, waterways, country and city, anti-pastoral, postcolonial space, conflict zones, deathscapes.

Bodies and beings. Embodiment, ecofeminist readings, animality and criminality, criminology, atavism, degeneration, toxicity and transcorporeality, assemblages, pathogens, human and non-human agency, animal and other non-human villains, victims, witnesses and detectives.

Epistemology. Ways of knowing, subterranean knowledges, agnotology, red herrings, climate change denial, standards of proof, complexity and opacity, sciences of detection, forensics, reification, ecosystem services.

Responsibility. Criminal responsibility, the detective's responsibility, corporate social responsibility, slow violence, distributed responsibility, carbon trading, financial forensics, accountability, green accounting.

Security. Environmental security, energy security, energy conflict, risk, military technologies and detective work, surveillance and detection, petrofictions.

³ Cf. Stephen Knight, *Form and Ideology in Crime Fiction*. London: Macmillan, 1980.

Green activism and its criminalisation. ‘Eco-terrorism’, environmental legislation, rule of law, resistance to occupation of indigenous land, green activists on trial, self-defence as a legal defence, Greenpeace, Earth First!

Systematicity and totality. ‘Theories of everything,’ interconnection, meshworks, networks, nets, webs, hyperobjects, assemblages, markets, locked rooms, strange strangers.

To have a submission considered, please send an abstract (approximately 500 words) to Joseph Walton (j.walton@bathspa.ac.uk) and Samantha Walton (s.walton@bathspa.ac.uk). The abstract itself should be attached as an anonymous document in Word with a covering email that should give your name, address and institutional affiliation.

The deadline for abstracts is **Friday 20 January, 2017**. A decision as to which articles will be commissioned will be made by the end of February, 2017. The deadline for first draft essays will be **31 August 2017** with publication due in March 2018.

Workshop & Conference Reports

Postgraduate Forum *Environment, Literature, Culture* “Figuring Animals – Images and Imaginaries in Anglophone Literary and Media Texts” 15-16 August 2016, Mid-Sweden University, Campus Sundsvall

The 4th annual workshop of the Postgraduate Forum *Environment, Literature, Culture* took place and drew together seven junior scholars from diverse fields, whose work intersected along the lines of animal studies, post-humanism and literary and cultural studies.

The workshop began with an introduction from the organizers, Michaela Castellanos (Mid Sweden University) and Hanna Straß (LMU Munich). The first discussion of the day, led by Concepción Cortés Zulueta (Madrid), addressed the concepts of *animal*, *art* and “*anti-anti-anthropomorphism*”, first in comparing artists Hubert Duprat and Liang Shaoji’s collaborations with insects, and then in examining animal art, as in the case of Congo, the painting chimpanzee. It was followed by the keynote lecture by Dr Roman Bartosch (Cologne), “Making Kin in a More-than-Human World”, which drew on Donna Haraway’s resistance to the term *anthropocene*, and debated the potential of literary text to establish ethical creaturely relationality from posthuman perspectives. The concerns raised by both Bartosch and Zulueta – pitting aesthetics against ethics, affect against agency, form over representation and intra-action rather than interaction – set the tone for the rest of the workshop.

The vast array of themes included ambiguity tolerance arising from categorisations of human/non-human in British media, animal rights, vegan theory, race and non-neocolonial ethics,

animal therapy, natural history museum display, empathy in curatorial and art practice, and intercultural, interspecies encounters. Common ground and concerns were easily found, particularly over ethical implications in the cultural representations and readings of diegetic, symbolic and real-world animals. Discussions circled around limitrophy, estrangement, shared vulnerabilities, the complexities of empathy, and the inevitable impossibility of resolving any of these concerns neatly.

I am very grateful to the University’s English subject for providing the means for me to attend the workshop. I appreciated the diversity of participants’ texts and research, the spirit of the discussions, and the organisers’ commitment to providing a safe, supportive space for young academics to present and explore their work. I was especially interested in hearing literary scholars’ critical dialogues on the animal in contemporary literature, which provided valuable new perspectives on my own research interests in animals within museology, cinema and art.

On behalf of all participants, I would like to offer thanks and congratulations to Michaela and Hanna for facilitating such a warm, inspiring and successful workshop!

Ayesha Keshani
Artist and Museum Developer

Anthropomorphism recurred as a primary preoccupation throughout the workshop, so the introductory session – led by a participant who spoke to her doctoral research on interdisciplinary art history – was vital for contextualising the following discussions. Dr Roman Bartosch’s keynote, titled “Creatural Fictions and Aesthetic Relationalities: Making Kin in a More-than-Human World”, further laid the foundations for fruitful knowledge exchanges by referencing a comprehensive range of literary theorists, issues of (re)presentation and relationality, and the rise of posthumanism as a critical lens. In the afternoon, there were two additional sessions led by participants; one was dedicated to discussions of doctoral and Master’s theses which analysed representations of animals in print media and attitudes towards creaturely exhibits in museums, while the other was an exchange of ideas informed by contemporary artworks and an excerpt from Lori Gruen’s *Entangled Empathy* (2015). The visual element of all three of these papers was further complimented by a poster and video presentation on interspecies healing (particularly between horses and humans) in film, which concluded the evening. Early career researchers were thus given the invaluable opportunity to explore new avenues and mediums for sharing their work.

Discussions turned towards literary issues on the morning of the second day; the penultimate session saw one participant present on questions of intersectionality and aesthetics in Claire Jean Kim’s *Dangerous Crossings: Race, Species, and Nature in a Multicultural Age* (2015), while another spoke to her thesis chapter on queer zoopoetics and entanglement in Yoko Tawada’s *Etudes in the Snow* (2014). All participants were then offered advice about open access publishing by Mid Sweden University Library. The day concluded with a session by the university’s Innovation Office on Intellectual Asset Inventories, a technique which helps researchers to identify and maximise their strengths. Those who work in the humanities and social sciences often overlook such analytical methods, so we benefited greatly from discussing our research’s impact in practical, objective terms.

Despite approaching the theme from a variety of disciplinary approaches or geographical contexts, the participants’ shared knowledge and willingness to engage meant that discussions extended well beyond the allocated sessions, thus forging important connections between specialisations and institutions. I was particularly impressed and inspired by the normalisation of vegan catering for the event, which further highlighted the focus on animal theory and praxis.

On behalf of all participants, therefore, I would like to thank Michaela Castellanos and Hanna Straß for their dedication to what was an enormously successful event. I am also grateful to Mid Sweden University for the travel grant that allowed me to attend this workshop. As I commence my doctoral studies this year, the discussions that took place in Sundsvall will continue to benefit my research and broaden my horizons.

Caitlin Stobie
University of Leeds, UK

Organizers’ statement

As organizers of this year’s ELC workshop we once again want to thank all the participants for making the workshop a wonderful and thought-provoking experience. In addition, we also kindly thank our sponsors for their generous support: Midsweden University, specifically ECOHUM, the English Department, the Innovation Office and the Library; and of course, EASLCE.

Michaela Castellanos
Mid-Sweden University Sundsvall, Sweden

Hanna Straß
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München,
Germany

International Conference
“The Environment and Human Migration: Rethinking the Politics of Poetry”
25-26 November 2016, Bamberg (Germany)

On November 25 - 26, 2016, the international conference “The Environment and Human Migration: Rethinking the Politics of Poetry” took place at the University of Bamberg, bringing together seventeen researchers from Germany, Belgium, the US and Canada who explored the links between environmental and migratory issues, while rethinking the relationship between poetics, ethics, and politics. The conference was organized by Christine Gerhardt (EASLCE member, University of Bamberg) and Judith Rauscher (University of Bamberg) and supported by grants from the German Association for American Studies (GAAS/DGfA) and the Bavarian American Academy (BAA).

The first day opened with a key note lecture by Jahan Ramazani (University of Virginia), one of the most distinguished scholars of contemporary Anglophone poetry today. In his lecture, Jahan Ramazani discussed questions of the environment and human migration in relation to the “The Local Poem in a Global Age.” His perspectives on issues of mobility and place in late 20th- and early 21st-century poetics in English were supplemented by two plenary talks on environmentally suggestive modernist and postwar American poetry invested in the natural environment and displacement: Sabine Sielke (University of Bonn) presented on “Figures Moving in Space: (Re-)Politicizing Marianne Moore’s ‘The Paper Nautilus,’” and Franca Bellarsi (EASLCE Member, Université Libre de Bruxelles) spoke about “Beat Nomadism and the Eco-poetics of Migration.”

The remaining fourteen presenters gave their talks in six panels: in panel I on *World Poetics* Jonathan Crewe (Dartmouth College) talked about the human ecology of South African migrant labor, while Cheryl Lousley (Lakehead University) talked about notions of ‘landing’ and the displacement poetics of Dionne Brand.

In Panel II on *Island Poetics* Antonia Purk (University of Erfurt) discussed oceanic relations in

Olive Senior’s ecopoetry; she was followed by Judith Rauscher (University of Bamberg) who analyzed conflicted territorialities and archipelagic environments in the work of Craig Santos Perez. In the last panel of the first day, on *19th and Early 20th-Century Migrant Imaginaries*, Kellen Bolt (Northwestern University) presented on ecological nativism in nineteenth-century U.S. anti-immigration poetry, and Stefan Benz (University of Mannheim) spoke on humanity as migrant in the apocalyptic poetry of Robinson Jeffers. The second day started with a panel on *Contemporary American Immigrant Poetics*, which included a talk by Philipp Reisner (University of Düsseldorf) on the religious dimensions of refugee environmentalism in contemporary Anglo-American poetry of exile, a talk by Jessica Bundschuh (University of Stuttgart) on the politics of food and environment in the elegies of Li-Young Lee, and a talk by Melissa Zeiger (Dartmouth College) on the *Transborder Immigrant Tool* and the poetics of survival. In Panel V, *Ecopoetics in the Anthropocene*, Marius Henderson (University of Hamburg) reflected on reparative reading and conjunctive poetics in connection to contemporary ecological poetry, and Sonja Frenzel (University of Düsseldorf) discussed the possibilities of queering climate change and migration in transdisciplinary relations. In the last panel of the conference, *American Poetics On the Move*, Sascha Pöhlmann (LMU Munich) explored the environmental rhetoric of Allen Ginsberg’s “Poem in the Form of a Snake that Bites its Tail,” before Timo Müller (University of Augsburg) discussed poetry, mobility and the American road as environment, focusing especially on African American poetry. Katherine R. Lynes’s presentation on restricted movement in African American ecopoetics completed panel VI.

Judith Rauscher
University of Bamberg, Germany

GIECO Research Projects on Eco-Mythcriticism “Acis&Galatea” and More

The Spanish group GIECO is currently involved in a Research Project funded by the Community of Madrid and the European Social Fund for research groups on mythcriticism called “Acis&Galatea” (find more information [here](#)) which analyses the mythical roots of our contemporary culture: how myths were created and how they have developed along the history of European civilization. The main purpose consists in showing the social impact of mythology of traditional celebrations and our current attitudes towards the preservation of the environment. GIECO will be focusing on eco-mythcriticism. GIECO prepared one of the project’s monthly sessions scheduled for the year 2016, the one that took place in November with the title: “Demeter and Calliope: rewritings of classical mythology and encounters with Medusa”. The presentations dealt with rewritings of myths associated with women and myths discussed from an ecofeminist perspective. GIECO will also lead another session in March featuring animals and myths.

GIECO has also been awarded another project, funded by the Spanish Ministry together with the European Fund for Regional Development entitled “Environmental humanities. Strategies for ecological empathy and the transition towards sustainable societies.” The project consists of 2 subprojects: “Visual Arts, Ethics and Ecological Empathy” is directed by a group of Fine arts and “Stories for Change” by the GIECO group. (click [here](#) for further information).

“Stories for change” will focus on the capacity of texts, whether real or fictional, to imagine another way of life and to illustrate an alternative worldview which would offer greater ecological empathy and which would lead to a more just and sustainable

world. Likewise, the whole project and particularly the subproject “Stories for Change” will be engaging in citizen humanities by including interviews, creative non-fiction and testimonies given/written by citizens not necessarily linked to academia. The first seminar took place in Valencia from 28th to 30th of November 2016 with the title “Times of Transition: The Role of the Humanities in the Socio-ecological World Crisis.” Its main aim was to approach the current situation from an ecological perspective but with an ethical and sociological turn, as well as to consider the importance of ecocriticism, literature and the arts as vectors of cultural transformation towards more sustainable models of societies.

The CLYMA (Culture, Literature and Environment) book series of the Franklin Institute/University of Alcalá has published 3 volumes in 2016: *Sense of Place: Transatlántic Perspectives//Sentido del arraigo: Perspectivas transatlánticas*, eds. A. Goodbody and C. Flys Junquera; *Visiones ecocríticas del mar*, eds. M. López Mújica and M.A. Mezquita; and *Transatlantic Landscapes. Environmental Awareness, Literature and the Arts*, ed. José Manuel Marrero Henríquez.

Besides, two members of GIECO have co-edited the volume: *Crisis: ¿fracaso o reto? / Crises: échec ou défi?* Ana Isabel Labra Cenitagoya, Esther Laso y León, Montserrat López Mújica, M^a José Valiente Jiménez (Eds). Ed. Universidad de Alcalá de Henares. Obras Colectivas Humanidades 50. ISBN: 978-84-16133-94-9, Abril 2016.

Imelda Martín Junquera
University of Leon, Spain

New Books on Zoosemiotics and Ecocriticism
“Animals in Changing Environments: Cultural Mediation and Semiotic Analysis”
University of Tartu (Estonia)

The Norwegian-Estonian Research Cooperation Programme grant EMP151 „Animals in changing environments: cultural mediation and semiotic analysis” (duration: September 2013 – December 2016; team leaders Timo Maran and Morten Tønnessen) has recently borne some fruit.

A collective monograph „Animal Umwelten in a Changing World: Zoosemiotic Perspectives“, co-authored by Timo Maran, Morten Tønnessen, Kristin Armstrong Oma, Laura Kiiroja, Riin Magnus, Nelly Mäekivi, Silver Rattasepp, Paul Thibault, and Kadri Tüür has been published in the series Tartu Semiotics Library (no 18) by University of Tartu Press. The book raises semiotic questions about human–animal relations: what is the semiotic character of different species, how do humans endow animals with meaning, and how animal sign exchange and communication has coped with environmental change. The book takes a zoosemiotic approach and considers different species as being integrated with the environment via their specific umwelt or subjective perceptual world. The introductory chapters offer a methodological and philosophical framework that informs the following ten semiotic case studies in various forms of human–animal interactions in culturally mediated situations.

Thanks to the publishing policy of University of Tartu Press, the book is fully open access and downloadable [here](#). The print version is for sale.

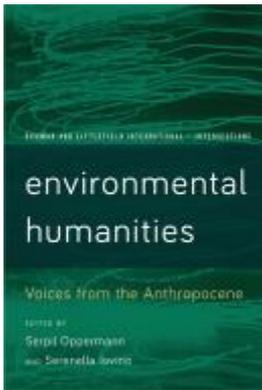
The conference „Animals in the Anthropocene: Human–animal relations in a changing semiosphere“ organised by the work group at University of Stavanger, September 17-19, 2015, resulted in the article collection „Thinking about Animals in the Age of the Anthropocene“, published in the series “Ecocritical Theory and Practice” (Lexington Books, 2016).

This volume presents a dozen studies that address the role and place of animals in this epoch characterized by anthropogenic (human-made) environmental change. The Anthropocene forces us to rethink our relation to nature and to animals, and to critically reflect on our own role and place in the world, as a species.

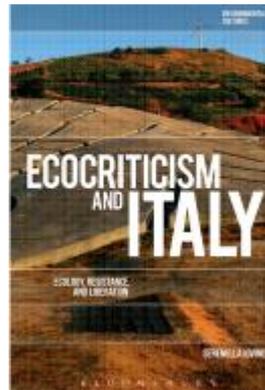
We also invite you to check out Riin Magnus’s PhD thesis „The Semiotic Grounds of Animal Assistance: Sign Use of Guide Dogs and Their Visually Impaired Handlers” (Tartu, 2015, [see here](#)) and the article collection „The Semiotics of Animal Representations” (Brill / Rodopi, 2014; [see here](#)), edited by members of the same research group.

Kadri Tüür
University of Tartu,
Estonia

Publications by Members



Serpil Oppermann and Serenella Iovino, eds. *Environmental Humanities: Voices from the Anthropocene*. London & New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017.



Serenella Iovino. *Ecocriticism and Italy: Ecology, Resistance, and Liberation*. London: Bloomsbury, 2016.