



Dear EASLCE members,

I want to start these first words of mine as President of EASLCE by paying a tribute to our former representative, Dr. Hannes Bergthaller, who has not only been brilliant and active during his mandate, but has also proved a good companion and friend in the period in which we shared the duties of the executive board. Hannes has contributed too well to the unstoppable progress of our association since its foundation, establishing more international links with other associations, reinforcing the webinars and giving EASLCE more visibility in the arena of environmental studies. I also want to mention the invaluable help of our treasurer, Dr. Alexa Weik von Mossner, in the rationalisation of the membership directory and the optimization of our accounts. Being the only German-speaking person in the new Board, Alexa is currently the person in charge of updating the legal aspects of our Association, serving as our liaison with the German Court, and I personally want to thank her for her support and enthusiasm in this time-consuming task.

Next, I would like to mention the good moments spent in Tartu, Estonia, the venue of our 6th International conference (a joint EASLCE-NIES event) hosted by the Department of Semiotics of the University and entitled "Framing Nature: Signs, Stories, and Ecologies of Meaning." It was brilliantly organized by our colleague and fellow member Timo Maran, with the help of Nelly Mäekivi, Kadri Tüür, Silver Rattasepp and Riin Magnus and we were honoured with the presence of four top keynote speakers such as Prof. Dr. Steven Hartman, Prof. Dr. Ernest W.B. Hess-Lüttich, Prof. Dr. Thomas McGovern and Prof. Dr.

Wendy Wheeler. A hundred and fifteen papers were delivered in total, which seems a good sign of the dynamism of our Association and the success of the topic proposed; moreover, we were offered an incomparable setting and a series of optional trips to lakes, animal reservations, historic sites,... All of them represented a good chance to know more about Estonia, its idiosyncrasy and its natural scenarios. As a whole, "Framing Nature" exceeded our expectations not only in the academic level but also in its friendly and charming atmosphere. On behalf of EASLCE, thanks Timo, for making this unique experience possible.

In the near future, Brussels will be the venue of our next conference, to be held in 2016: an event that will be organized by our dear fellow member Franca Bellarsi, with the help of Isabel Hoving, in what looks at first sight a most appropriate place in the heart of Europe and a very propitious opportunity to keep on moving after ten years of existence of the Association.

(to be continued on page 3)

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EASLCE

Please, visit our web site at:
<http://www.easlce.eu>

For further information contact:
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Please note the **editorial
deadline** for the next issue:
December 15, 2014

Contact: Sylvia Mayer at
[sylvia.mayer\(at\)uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:sylvia.mayer(at)uni-bayreuth.de)

In this sense, I would like to express our gratitude to the former EASLCE presidents and their boards, who have brought us to this level of cohesion and growth: Drs. Axel Goodbody, Sylvia Mayer (and her support with the Newsletter), Serenella Iovino, Carmen Flys (and the Ecozon@ team) and the aforementioned Hannes Bergthaller, together with Dr. Catrin Gersdorf, our former Treasurer.

Last but not least, these final words go to our newly elected Vice-President, Dr. Serpil Oppermann from Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey, who will be in charge of the webinars and the contacts with younger researchers who will

enrich the future of EASLCE. She is a person full of enthusiasm and energy, and will dedicate her efforts to the task with a smile in her face. Serpil, welcome to the Board and, together with Alexa and our plethora of advisors, we hope we can fulfil your expectations and make the way easier and promising. We'll do our best (no doubt about it), just ask us and use us without hesitation or reluctance. We are here to serve. Receive our very best wishes and enjoy the summer vacation.

Juan Ignacio Oliva
EASLCE President

Research Projects "Ecocriticism in Europe"

EcoLitt **(Écologie et Littérature)** **Ecocriticism in France**

EcoLitt is a French project funded by the Région des Pays de la Loire. It brings together around 20 researchers from several French universities and different fields. The main goal of EcoLitt is to identify and analyze the different ways to express ecological matters in the contemporary literary fiction. From the last decades of the 20th century, the presence of environmental topics and more precisely of an interest for its survival rose in European and North American literature. However, the more modest visibility of non-US fictions is noticeable, and it appears that few studies were made on them, whether in general or children's literature.

Therefore, and without forgetting or systematically excluding the US fictions and studies, the EcoLitt project means to bring to light a new *corpus*, in France but also more largely in Europe, both in general and children's literatures. Moreover, EcoLitt was born from the fact that French non-Americanist researchers have been quite discrete among the ecocritical community since the foundation of communities such as ASLE or EASLCE. The project is an attempt to bring together the researchers interested in non-US fictions (novels, short stories,

comic strips...) in order to push forward a reflection on the following topics:

Literary History: How and when did ecological matters arise in literatures that do not originate in the United States? What were the terms and the occurrences used to evoke our relationship to the environment before and after the 20th century?

Contemporary Fictions: Which fictions could be considered as « environmental »? The project is putting together a catalog of fictions on its website in order to make an inventory of all the potential eco-fictions.

Children's Literature: How does children's literature express the contemporary concern for the preservation of the environment? What are the interactions with the pedagogical and didactical aspects of children's books? What do the illustrations bring to the texts? How is it different from general literature?

The EcoLitt team in France is very excited to join EASLCE in order to be a part of the studies

of literature and environment but also to share the upcoming events with the community. Indeed, a certain number of events are planned, such as public events meant to establish a contact with a larger audience, but also a certain number of conferences and academical events in the universities of Angers, le Mans, and Nantes (Région Pays de la Loire) in the upcoming months. We will – for sure – share the specific dates and the details of the different events with the EASLCE community.

If you are interested in the project and you think you could contribute in any way, you can take a look at the online website (only in French for now), or you can contact Blandine Charrier.

We are looking forward to sharing our work and researches with you all!

Website : <http://ecolitt.univ-angers.fr/fr/index.html>

Email : blandine.charrier@univ-angers.fr

ASLE Translation Project

ASLE-ad hoc Translation Committee: Criteria for Proposals to Translate Ecocritical Books into English

Committee members: Heather Sullivan (chair), Trinity U.; Chia-ju Chang, Brooklyn College; Serenella Iovino, U. of Torino, Italy; Serpil Oppermann, Hacettepe U., Turkey; Stephanie Posthumus, McGill U., Canada; Modhumita Roy, Tufts U.

ASLE representatives: Mark Long, Vice President; Amy McIntyre, Managing Director; and Paul Outka, President

In order to support work in ecocriticism from international scholars and to expand exchanges across cultures and continents, the ASLE Committee for Translations seeks proposals for books to be translated into English. Proposed books should be ecocriticism or fiction/non-fiction with a clear relationship to environmental issues, and must already have been published in a language other than English. For accepted projects, we provide funding to support the translation of these books. We also encourage authors to seek English-language publishers, particularly in the U.S., Canada, or Great Britain.

Funding for accepted books to be translated will be up to a possible maximum of \$1,000 each. We will award up to three translation grants each year.

Materials (and any questions) should be submitted

electronically to Heather Sullivan, by **June 15, 2015**: heather.sullivan@trinity.edu

Criteria for submission and required information include:

- Membership in ASLE or any international sister organization.
- Author name and university association, if affiliated with an institution; include full contact information (email, mailing address, and phone numbers) and a curriculum vitae. In the case of a translator applying to translate the scholarly work of someone else, provide full information, if possible, for both author and translator(s).
- Information on original place and year of publication and note any relevant copyright issues related to the original press.
- A summary in English of the project. This should include a brief overview of the book itself and a short summary of each chapter. The total summary should not exceed 3 pages.
- A rationale for why it would be beneficial if this work were translated into English, including comments on possible audience(s) and relationship to other works in the field. The rationale should also not exceed 3 pages.

- A schedule for proposed translation work that includes a likely date of completion or a specific time frame for the process.
- List of possible publishers or presses that might be interested in the translation. Applicant should

briefly address feasibility of finding an English-language press.

Once the translation is complete, a copy should be sent to the ASLE translation committee (electronically) with information on the press(es) to which it has been submitted.

International Conferences / Call for Papers

Postgraduate Workshop: “Ecological Othering and Biopolitics in the Environmental Humanities” Munich, Germany, 10-11 October 2014

The development of modern environmental thought and environmental discourses is inextricably intertwined with the historical expansion of colonialism and imperialism. European colonial occupation and settlement of Africa, Asia, Oceania, and the Americas depended on the notion that the white European colonizer was ‘naturally’ predestined to rule over occupied, non-white populations and their lands. At the height of British colonialism, misappropriations of Darwin’s “survival of the fittest” provided a convenient theoretical justification for colonial politics and the often brutal dispossession and relocation of Native populations. Furthermore, colonial discourse cemented inferior subject positions for racial others as “closer to nature”, as critics have shown by analyzing the binary opposition between “primitive savage” and “noble savage” (Moore, Pandian, and Kosek 13). The ideological foundation of such “ecological othering” in many cases persists into the post-colonial (and neo-colonial) contexts of the present. Assumptions about the particular ‘closeness’ and ‘traditional’ – often implying non-modern – relationship to nature of indigenous people in the Amazon rainforest, for example, remain. Similar prejudices are attached to Native American populations throughout the American continent in general. Such stereotyping, on the one hand, extols the idea of an “ecological Indian” (Krech). Appropriated by Native

populations, on the other hand, it can also have an empowering potential because it provides the “means [...] to articulate an alternative response to the pervasive Western, techno-industrial attitudes” (Schweninger 16, Krech).

In regard to the US, Sarah Jaquette Ray has shown in her recently published book *The Ecological Other* (2013) that white supremacist convictions still pervade American culture and in particular modern environmentalism. In her analysis, Ray reveals how environmental discourse constructs and enforces social hierarchies “along lines of ‘purity and pollution’” in that it establishes a differentiation between “natural and unnatural bodies, and between bodies that are ‘good’ for nature and those that are not” (2). In this context Foucault’s concept of biopower proves to be helpful to further investigate the regulatory mechanisms of “ecological othering” and to analyse how the framing of environmental problems often reflects exclusionary tendencies.

Taking Ray’s concept of the “ecological other” as a starting point for discussion, this workshop wants to explore how environmental discourse draws on the notion of “good bodies” and “bad bodies” and how the “healthy body” comes to play an important role for nation-building and population control (biopolitics). Furthermore, analyzing how this

particular rhetoric has turned environmentalism into a white middle class movement, the workshop also discusses the role of environmental justice in opening the discourse and including a multitude of environmentalisms.

We invite contributions from postgraduate scholars in the environmental humanities that engage with a variety of concepts and theories related to this vast research area, which can include but are not limited to:

- biopolitics (Foucault, Agamben), necropolitics (Mbembe)
- purity and immunity versus contamination and contagion
- illness, disability, deviance
- normativity and othering
- environmental justice and environmental health (e.g. toxic contamination, workplace safety, risks)
- theories of materiality and the corporeal (e.g. Latour, Alaimo)

Interested young scholars can either participate with a poster, an excerpt/chapter of their dissertation/MA thesis or by suggesting a relevant secondary text for discussion. Workshop space is

limited to a maximum of 15 participants. The workshop language is English.

If you are interested in participating, please send an email until **July 20th, 2014** to docforum.elc@gmail.com, including a short biographical note, your current project topic and state in which form you'd like to contribute. Further information on the workshop format can be found on our website (<http://docforumelc.wordpress.com/postgraduate-workshop-2014/>).

References:

Krech, Shepard. *The Ecological Indian: Myth and History*. London: Norton, 2000. Print.

Moore, Donald S., Anand Pandian, and Jake Kosek. "Introduction. The Cultural Politics of Race and Nature: Terrains of Power and Practice." *Race, Nature, and the Politics of Difference*. Ed. Donald S. Moore, Jake Kosek, and Anand Pandian. Durham: Duke University Press, 2003. 1–70. Print.

Ray, Sarah J. *The Ecological Other: Environmental Exclusion in American Culture*. Tuscon: University of Arizona Press, 2013.

Schwenger, Lee. *Listening to the Land: Native American Literary Responses to the Landscape*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2008. Print.

**European Society for Environmental History
Biennial Conference 2015
University of Versailles St-Quentin-en-Yvelines
June 30 to July 3, 2015**

Environmental history has the ambition of changing not only the way we interact with the natural world, but also the ways we are writing and practicing history. In this conference we aim to create conversations about the results of environmental history research and about the process and methods of that research. Through an emphasis on disciplines, methods, and questions, we hope to encourage dialogue with all types of history, other humanities and social

sciences, and the natural sciences. Where are we coming from as disciplinary specialists, and how are we organizing the relationships between society and environment? How, as environmental historians, are we changing the way history is written and historical objects interpreted? What is the future of environmental history and the humanities at a time when we are confronted with environmental and climate challenges that could push to reframe the divide between natural

sciences and the humanities and social sciences? The Program Committee welcomes contributions that address the environmental history of any period or place, and the conference is open to scholars from all disciplines and backgrounds. In particular, we hope to see a large number of submissions from graduate students and early career scholars. Because of the conference's focus on disciplinarity and interdisciplinarity, we are also interested in receiving proposals that directly address methods and approaches, and that could launch fruitful conversations across disciplines. We will have regular paper sessions, roundtables, a poster session, and the opportunity to apply for "experimental" format sessions.

Finally, we encourage the submission of papers and sessions that can connect our discussions more directly to the landscape and history of our location, and to current concerns. Our setting in Versailles encourages discussions of the pre-modern past, and connections between landscape and political and royal power, and recent extreme events in Northern Europe suggest that discussions of hydrology, flooding, and resilience and fragility of natural and human systems could yield fruitful discussions. The connection of Versailles to multiple attempts to restructure Europe also invites discussions of modern political bodies and their impact on environmental practices and infrastructures. Finally, this conference will take place in France during the centennial of WWI, and the committee is especially interested in inviting papers that address the environmental contexts of that conflict. We encourage both panels and individual paper proposals dealing with all aspects of the relationship between the war, landscape, power, and the environment.

Deadline for submissions: Proposals are due no later than **October 1, 2014**

Submitting a Proposal

Please submit your proposal through the forms available on this website.

All questions about proposals should be sent to **conference [at] eseh.org**

The conference language is English. Submissions and presentations in other languages cannot be accepted.

*Note—due to a limited number of sessions, individual scholars can only submit in one category (paper, roundtable, or poster) though individuals can appear as chair (not commenter) of a second session. This is to ensure diversity and breadth of participation.

Presentation formats

Paper Sessions

Sessions will be 90 minutes, and can thus consist of either three papers of not more than 20 minutes each, or four papers of not more than 15 minutes each. Note: in this context, formal comments count as papers, and all sessions should include sufficient time for general discussion. Session proposals should include the proposed session title, a list of contributors and a chair, and individual paper titles. Decisions about sessions will be based not only on the strengths of individual papers but also on the cohesiveness and energy of the entire session. Sessions will be accepted either in their entirety or not at all.

Roundtables

Scholars can also propose 90-minute roundtables, which differ in form and goal from regular paper sessions. Roundtables are panels ranging from 3-6 people and a chair who speak to a common question or theme. Successful roundtables involve interaction between the panelists, the active involvement of the chair in shaping the conversation, and ample time for the audience to interact with the panel and pose questions.

Individual Papers

We are also accepting proposals for individual papers (of 20 minutes each), which will be given equal consideration as full sessions.

Posters

Posters will be on display during the conference and authors will have an opportunity to introduce their research in brief (approx. three minute) oral presentations in a special plenary session.

Experimental

We also welcome sessions that explore new ways of communicating research findings and alternative formats that involve a more interactive

element, along with a higher level of audience involvement, than conventional sessions.

Program Committee

Ellen Arnold, USA (Chair) [conference \[at\] eseh.org](mailto:conference@eseh.org)

Federico Paolini, Italy

Bo Poulsen, Denmark

Kathleen Pribyl, UK

Martin Schmid, Austria

International Conferences / Reports

Symposium "Seeing the Forest and the Trees: Culture, Environment, and Labor", University of California, San Diego, May 14, 2014

Linked to the "James K. Binder Lectureship in Literature" at University of California, San Diego, the research group "Mobile Knowledges and the Culture of the Commons" organized a symposium focusing on European ecocriticism, on the topic "Seeing the Forest and the Trees: Culture, the Environment, and Labor," held on May 14, 2014. Presentations included "Tyres and Tomatoes: Writing the landscape," by Prof. Lesley Stern (Dept. of Visual Arts, UC San Diego), "Sicilian Ruins from Vittorio De Seta's Documentaries to Vincenzo Consolo's Cityscapes," by Prof. Massimo Lollini (Dept. of Romance Languages, University of Oregon), and "Ecological Forestry and the Honorable Harvest: The Blue River Landscape Study, Willamette National Forest, Oregon," by Leslie Ryan (Dept. of Ecosystems and Society, Oregon State University). The symposium was chaired by Prof. Pasquale Verdicchio (UCSD Department of Literature). Prof. Serenella Iovino acted as respondent.

The James K. Binder Lectureship in Literature was given by Prof. Serenella Iovino on May 15, 2014. Engaging a comparative reading of narrative works and material texts, Prof. Iovino

has presented a lecture titled "Death(s) in Venice: Bodies and the Discourse of Pollution from Thomas Mann to Porto Marghera." Taking into account the names and the faces of the "death in Venice," from the cholera in Thomas Mann's novel to the hepatic Angiosarcoma, a cancer form spread among industrial workers by the Montedison, a petrochemical factory located one mile from the city, Iovino's lecture concentrated on Venice as a material text. In the city's "storied" materiality, natural dynamics, cultural practices, political visions, and industrial choices are interlaced with human bodies in issues of justice, health, and ecology.

Set in the prestigious frame of the Atkinson Pavilion at the Faculty Club and sponsored by UC San Diego Dean of Arts & Humanities and the Department of Literature, the "James K. Binder Lectureship" is made possible by Mr. Binder's generous bequest and honors his wishes to bring leading European intellectuals to UC San Diego to provide a forum for rigorous discussions of literary topics.

Ilaria Tabusso Marcyan, UCSD

Publications by Members

Iovino, Serenella and Serpil Oppermann. eds. *Material Ecocriticism*. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2014.

Mayer, Sylvia and Alexa Weik von Mossner, eds. *The Anticipation of Catastrophe: Environmental Risks in North American Literature and Culture*. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2014. (American Studies – A Monograph Series, vol. 247)

Weik von Mossner, Alexa, ed. *Moving Environments: Affect, Emotion, Ecology, and Film*. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2014 (Environmental Humanities Series).