



Dear fellow members of EASLCE:

I hope this finds you all well and enjoying the summer vacation or at least, for those of you who are still longing for it, keeping a positive attitude and dreaming of a little rest from our daily duties and stresses. While I'm writing this, a heat wave spreads over both continents: Europe and America, as far as some of us, who attended the ASLE-Moscow conference, have experienced in our physical bodies. Visiting the capital of the state of Idaho after the event, I was confronted with 112° Fahrenheit upon arrival in the early afternoon hours. Later, I learnt from the TV news that it was a more than 60-year-old record in the annals of Boise climate history. Some days afterwards, staying in Salt Lake City to fly back home, I faced 104° the first day and 102 ° while visiting the unique, bizarre and extremely hot waters of the Great Salt Lake. Everything seemed to me extreme and waste to even biblical terms, and I thought (wishful thinking): this is America, where all things are huge and excessive! Back in Madrid at more than 40° Celsius, and in traditionally mild-weather Soria (in the Castille-Leon region, where I attended another ecocritical seminar) at 38°, I was to learn by experience that the suffocating temperatures were patrimony of the whole planet in the northern hemisphere, I presume, and that they are the product of the somewhat irreversible climate change of the Anthropocene that some scientists have been predicting over and over again to the deaf ears of governmental forces worldwide.

But let us forget about the excesses of the coming Armageddon and return to our Association's duties. Moscow proved a very

adequate small place to hold our Annual General Meeting and, although there were not many of us there and we miss the others and their advice dearly, the assembly proved fruitful and agile in terms of decisions and suggestions. Among the most important ones, I would like to highlight the following:

- Decision to keep our Graduate Student Prize active but now on a biennial basis, every EASLCE conference year and publicize it profusely that year.
- Decision to increase diffusion and reach of our Journal Ecozon@ by incrementing funds to a 1000 Euro minimum wage (extensible to 1500 if needed) to hire Proeditio help in technical, formatting and indexation issues.
- Acceptance of the Treasurer's detailed report on the state of the finances of the Association in 2014 and presumed incomes and expenditures for 2015.

(to be continued on page 3)

On the Inside:

International Conferences / CfP	3
European Environmental Humanities	8
ASLE Translation Project	9
Publications by Members	10

EASLCE Newsletter
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**EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
STUDY OF LITERATURE, CULTURE
AND ENVIRONMENT**

EASLCE Homepage:
<http://www.easlce.eu>

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How to become a member of
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Please, visit our web site at:

<http://www.easlce.eu>

For further information contact:
Alexa Weik von Mossner

treasurer@easlce.eu

Please note the **editorial
deadline** for the next issue:

December 15, 2015

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

- Approval of the Auditor's inspection of the state of the accounts.
- Information by the Vicepresident on past webinars and debate on future topics of interest.
- Information about the next Graduate students' Seminar to be held in Stockholm in December 2015, entitled "Environmental Utopias and Dystopias."

Thanks of the President to Michael Marwick for the updating and maintenance of the webpage; to Sylvia Mayer for the editing of the Newsletter; to the Editors of Ecozon@ for their arduous job, ever growing in quality and numbers; and to Christa Grewe-Volpp for taking care of the Minutes of the Association in this meeting

Acceptance of the dates and topic of the EASLCE-Brussels Conference, to be held last week of October 2016 (probably from Thurs-Sun) at the Université Libre de Bruxelles under the tentative title of "Wildness without Wilderness": The Poiesis of Energy, Assemblage and Reconstruction". Final cfp to be released in September and proposals to be submitted until December 2015.

Finally, I want to dedicate my last words to our dear Carmen Flys, former president and editor of Ecozon@, who, on the second day of arrival to Moscow full of energy and resolution, suffered a fortuitous fall on the street and had the disgrace of breaking both wrists, facing a most unexpected stay in hospital and a complicated repatriation to Spain to be submitted to surgery. On behalf of EASLCE, we wish her a quick and total recuperation and the patience to undergo rehabilitation without much suffering and torment. We need you, Carmen, to push us forward in the development of EASLCE. We need, in fact, all of our members to keep growing the tight family community we have become and thus keep awakening consciences to avoid a sinister environmental future, as the excessively high temperatures, the ever increasing hurricane forces in the Atlantic Ocean or the recent awkward and destructive tornados in the Venice region seem to prophesize.

I wish you to be reasonably happy and enjoy the Summer time with all your forces,

Juan Ignacio Oliva

International Conferences / Call for Papers

Postgraduate Forum Environment, Literature, Culture Environmental Utopias and Dystopias as Forms of Resistance, Oppression and Liberation KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden, December 11-12, 2015

Environmental Utopias and Dystopias as Forms of Resistance, Oppression and Liberation

11-12 December 2015, Stockholm, Sweden

Key-note speaker: Reader in English Adeline Johns-Putra, University of Surrey.

Commentator: Professor Sverker Sörlin, KTH, Royal Institute of Technology.

Utopias and dystopias have a long rich history and continue to be constructed as a reaction to socio-environmental crisis, what Lawrence Buell also attributes to "a crisis of the imagination" (1996). In

this workshop we are particularly interested in how they are used as ways and forms of resistance, oppression and liberation, taking a socio-environmental perspective.

Utopias and dystopias are both narratives and practices shaping real and fictional scenarios, ranging from science fiction to the World Bank prognoses and climate models. The quickly growing field of climate fiction is a topical example of how literature has engaged with contemporary climate science, as discussed by Adam Trexler and Adeline Johns-Putra (2011). Environmental justice

movements frequently use utopian and dystopian narratives, such as those inspired by Rachel Carson's well-known "A Fable for Tomorrow", as a way to voice injustices. Documentaries, short-films, music, novels, poems, and certainly social media are frequent ways of denouncing issues about environmental degradation and the related implications for human health and well-being, transforming them into a social concern and opening them to debate. Quite often these movements are in conflict with projects supposedly powered by Western ideas of progress and development, key concepts in the language sphere of 'technospeak', where only knowledgeable scientists and experts have a say. In 2013 David Lewis, Dennis Rodgers and Michael Woolcock published an edited volume entitled *Popular Representations of Development: Insights from Novels, Films, Television and Social Media*. This book addresses the understanding of development by the general public and the manifold ways in which it has been addressed in popular culture. It provides room for a multitude of perspectives, some of which have been obscured by progress-oriented development narratives. This interdisciplinary work highlights the importance of narratives in the socio-environmental discourse, which is a central concern for scholars in the environmental humanities. In literary studies ecocritics have a growing interest in environmental justice issues. A well-known example is Rob Nixon's book *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor* (2011), where Nixon combines eco- and postcolonial criticism in order to analyze both fictional and non-fictional postcolonial literary works with a clear socio-environmental critique.

This workshop aims to explore utopias and dystopias in culture and narrative, and their capacity to offer alternative environmental and political understandings of ecological crisis. Those projects could present imagined geographies and/or criticize controversial concepts such as those of (sustainable) development, conservation,

technological fixes and the like. Rather than set up a binary between fiction and science / the humanities and the sciences, this workshop seeks to analyze and understand how utopian narratives work in the present environmental discourse, the possibilities they open and the limitations they create.

Call for Papers

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

- Eco- utopia or dystopia (e.g. with respect to climate change, large infrastructural projects, social injustices...)
- Imagined geographies (textual or otherwise)
- Critiques and alternative representations of (sustainable) development
- The power of culture/cultural artifacts (books, films, blogs, popular science articles...) in environmental justice struggles
- Writer-activism

Interested young scholars can either participate with a **poster**, an **academic piece of writing** (article, essay...) from their own work, or an **excerpt/chapter** of their dissertation/MA thesis. The length of the manuscripts should be "manageable" (we would advise them to be between 4000-8000 words). 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 15th, 2015** to **docforum.elc@gmail.com**, including a short biographical note, and a cover letter mentioning your current project topic and your interest in the workshop. Please also explain in which form you would like to contribute (poster, chapter, etc.).

There will be some **grants** available for attendees. Please contact us about them. They are especially aimed at participants without university or third-party funding.

A light lunch will be provided both days of the workshop.

Workshop Format and Program

The workshop is organised by the postgraduate forum “Environment, Literature, Culture” which aims at bringing together young researchers from the EASLCE membership countries to share and discuss their research with other young scholars in the environmental humanities.

There will be a key note by Dr. Adeline Johns-Putra (Reader of English at the University of Surrey), which will serve as an introduction to the workshop’s topic. In the following sessions the submitted texts will be discussed, and there will also be a poster session, accompanied by some refreshments.

A detailed schedule will be distributed later on.

Logistic Information

The texts for discussion (sent by the participants) will be made available to and should be read by all participants in advance. Those who suggested a text will be asked to briefly introduce it in a short input presentation before the discussion. Please bear in mind that we do not want to discuss thesis projects in their early stages during this text session (if you want to present your whole project, please apply for the poster session). Chapters or excerpts of your thesis are welcome.

Venue

The workshop will be hosted by the interdisciplinary Environmental Humanities Laboratory in the Division of History of Science, Technology and the Environment, at KTH Royal

Institute of Technology, in the picturesque city of Stockholm.

It will take place in December, right before the day of Saint Lucia, which is celebrated in Sweden in beautiful ceremonies of candlelight and music, lighting up the dark morning. This way we hope participants will not only profit from what we expect will be a rewarding academic encounter, but will also have the chance to experience some local culture and folklore during the same weekend, if so they wish.

Local committee

- Isabel Pérez, PhD candidate
- Marco Armiero, EHL Director
- Kati Lindström, PhD
- Susanna Lindström, PhD
- Anna Svensson, PhD candidate

Environmental Humanities Laboratory, KTH Royal Institute of Technology

References:

- Buell, Lawrence. *The Environmental Imagination: Thoreau, Nature Writing, and the Formation of American Culture*. Belknap Press, 1996. Print.
- Lewis, David; Dennis Rodgers, and Michael Woolcock. Eds. *Popular Representations of Development: Insights from Novels, Films, Television and Social Media*. Routledge, 2013. Print.
- Nixon, Rob. *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*. Harvard university Press, 2011. Print.
- Trexler A and Adeline Johns-Putra. “Climate Change in Literature and Literary Criticism”. *Royal Meteorological Society/ Wiley Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, 2 (2). 2011, pp. 185-200. Print.

Workshop, Men and Nature: Gender, Power, and Environmental Change
Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, LMU Munich, Germany,
February 26-28, 2016

Call for Participants, Men and Nature: Gender, Power, and Environmental Change

26–28 February 2016

Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, LMU Munich, Germany

Conveners: Sherilyn MacGregor (Keele University, UK) and Nicole Seymour (California State University, Fullerton, USA)

“Gender,” in the environmental humanities and social sciences, has long been synonymous with “women.” Feminist and ecofeminist scholars have produced a great deal of work on the links between femininities and environments and on women’s involvement in environmental politics and practices. More recently, the emerging field of queer ecology has troubled the binary construction of gender that traditionally has informed (eco)feminist research. What remains under-addressed are the myriad ways in which masculinities and masculinized roles, identities, and practices shape human relationships with the more-than-human world. Indeed, the few available scholarly articles that do interrogate masculinity and environment begin with the recognition (and a lament) that there is so little research available.

Of course, men of all backgrounds figure prominently in local and global environmental (his)stories, and elite men hold the most cultural and economic power to shape the contemporary environmental problematique. But rarely is their gender itself an object of critical inquiry and analysis. It is the purpose of this RCC workshop to shine light on and perhaps start to redress this curious lacuna in the environmental humanities and social sciences literature. The workshop aims to bring together academics, professionals, artists, writers, and activists who have an interest in exploring the connections between masculinities and environmental change in the past, in

contemporary societies, and in visions of the future.

Topics and themes might include, but are not limited to, the following:

male experiences of environment, especially as they are shaped by specificities of race, class, sexuality, age, and/or dis/ability

constructions and performances of masculinities in environmental movements and green parties

hegemonic masculinity and anti-environmentalism/ climate change skepticism

subaltern, queer, and/or trans masculinities in environmental activism and/or environmental narratives (literature, multi-media)

men, materiality, and everyday environmental practices (consumption, green households, and eco-communities/villages)

the lack of reflexivity about masculinities in the environmental humanities and social sciences.

Format:

This will be a two-day workshop that enables collective intellectual work. We will avoid a conventional academic conference-style approach to ensure open discussion and maximum participation. Participants will be invited to make short (~10 minute) presentations, with notes/papers/artwork/etc. to be circulated in advance.

Please send a **proposal** and **brief biography** to conferences@rcc.lmu.de by **1 September 2015**. The proposal format is open, but please include a statement of how you will engage with the topics and themes of the workshop, and a description of what your presentation might entail.

International Conference on Ecopoetics
Under the aegis of the research center CRESEM
University of Perpignan Via Domitia, France
June 22nd-25th, 2016

With its roots in nineteenth century American transcendentalism, nature writing, environmental literature, or again literature of place in North America has in the past fifty years sprouted into a minor genre of contemporary literature. As the world is becoming increasingly aware of the urgency of our global environmental crisis, can nature writers and ecocritics contribute to advocate a change in the language and politics that we humans rely upon to relate to the world, and ultimately, to determine its fate? As early as 1949, Aldo Leopold insisted that “the evolution of a land ethic is an intellectual as well as an emotional process” (263). Leopold pledged for an ethic of love and respect for the land, and for the “cultural harvest [that it yields]” (xix). Recalling the basic concept of ecology, Leopold argued: “We abuse the land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see the land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” (xix)

Promoting perception of man’s “embeddedness in the world,” to take up Scott Slovic’s phrase, ecocritics and nature writers have increasingly joined efforts to spread a biocentric view of the world, and to help humans discover or regain more humble and more responsible notions of place. Various yet related fields of studies have emerged from academic interest in literary environmentalism, generally grouped under the labels of “ecofeminism,” “nature writing,” “environmental literature” and “literature of place,” or, going back to a much older tradition, “Native American literature.” What all the writers approached from either of these angles have in common is that their texts call for an empathetic, imaginative, perceptive and reciprocal relationship with nature. Whether grounded primarily in ecological science, in personal meditation, or in ancient mythology, tradition, and philosophy, these writers of various origins nevertheless come

together in the development of what Barry Lopez and Mark Tredinnick call “a literature of humility, of movement beyond the self.”

This ecopoetics conference aims to cast light on the rhizomatic convergences between literatures that tend to be bunched into the separate categories of ecofeminist, postcolonial or environmental studies. The purpose is to show how the fiction and non-fiction of these writers with a specific interest in place as well as in the non-human realm overlap, intersect, and engage in a fruitful, multicultural dialogue, opening imaginative and insightful perspectives onto the world. For, does not much nature writing present us with an ecological picture of organic interrelatedness similar to the motif of the sacred hoop expressing the interconnected web of all life forms in Native American tradition (Paula Gunn Allen)? And does not most nature writing consist in a movement to reenchant the world, or in other words/worlds, to re-sing the world?

Papers will be welcome that will address some of the following issues:

- Are certain genres—the lyric essay, the short story, the novel, drama, film or poetry—better suited to the writing of nature?
- What place might dystopic fiction occupy in ecocritical studies?
- Can these writers be said to contribute to a literature of hope?
- Might the reenchantment of the quotidian and the natural be particularly inclined toward magical realism as a liminal mode dealing with, in Wendy Faris’s terms, “ordinary enchantments?”
- What are the roles of myth and/or science when fiction and non-fiction draw from these other forms of discourse about the world?

- What is the contribution of phenomenology and ecopsychology to the field of ecopoetics?
- What impact has ecopoetics had on politics?
- Do ecopoetic texts reveal, as Linda Hogan claims, something which “dwells beneath the surface of things”?
- Can it be said that all nature writers are mystics? What kind of “mystical experiences,” “numinous encounters,” “inexplicable revelations” do nature writers tell about (Mark Tredinnick)?
- What is the place of oneirism in the writing of nature?
- What is the importance of liminal experiences of nature? What can we learn from moments in literature when human apprehension suddenly opens to forms of “terrestrial intelligence” (Linda Hogan), or sentience, pertaining to animal, mineral, vegetal, or elemental realms?
- What are the different ways in which one’s sensitivity to the other-than-human world shapes one’s writing, and eventually articulates with nature?
- Is there such a thing as “the land’s wild music” (Mark Tredinnick)? How may we learn to listen for it? What kind of musicality arises then, within the very writing of/with nature?
- How might “thinking like a mountain” (Aldo Leopold) or hearing like a bat (Linda Hogan) ripple into and through the writing of nature?

Events during this ecopoetics conference will be held in English and French. Abstracts (300-400 words) with a brief biographical note should be sent by **September 1st, 2015** to benemeillon@gmail.com. Acceptance will be notified by October 15th.

European Environmental Humanities

“Environmental Humanities for a Concerned Europe” - Marie Curie European Innovative Training Network (ITN) -

Environmental Humanities for a Concerned Europe (ENHANCE) is a Marie Curie European Innovative Training Network (ITN) providing multidisciplinary doctoral training in Environmental Humanities. The four main partners are the University of Leeds (UK), the Environmental Humanities Lab at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, Sweden, the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society at Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany, and the Deutsches Museum, Munich.

The main aims of the network (acronym ENHANCE) are to provide its Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs)—12 in total across the four participating institutions—with the academic and complementary skills training needed to place them at the forefront of a new generation of Environmental Humanities research; to lay down the foundation for a structured, sustainable

approach to doctoral training in Environmental Humanities at EU level; and to provide potential employment for ESRs in a wide range of careers including environmental consultancy, risk assessment, research and development, green business management, sustainable technologies media and communications, and not-for-profit work (environmental and wildlife NGOs).

Research and training will concentrate on three major areas—natural disasters and cultures of risk, history of science and technology, and environmental ethics—and will address a series of core interlocking issues: wilderness and conservation; flooding and drought; climate change and risk; and waste, environmental health, and environmental justice. All ESRs will be expected to work towards a doctoral degree in humanities with the aim of completing this within the fixed term of their appointment. They will also be expected to

work closely with other ESRs, both at their own and at other participating institutions; to go on secondment at one or more of the ITN's five intersectoral Associated Partners; and to link their research work with key European environmental policies including the Climate Change Programme, the European Sustainable Development Strategy,

the Water Framework Directive, and Natura 2000, e.g. by examining the social, cultural, and ethical factors that lie behind such major areas of international concern as water shortage, species extinction, and global climate change.

For further information, please visit: <https://enhanceeu.wordpress.com/>

ASLE Translation Project

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

Submission Instructions for 2015 ASLE Translation Grants

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. This is the second year that such grants have been offered. 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 **July 15, 2015**: heather.sullivan@trinity.edu.

Criteria for submission and required information include:

- Membership in ASLE or any international sister organization (ASLE-Japan, ASLE-UKI, etc.).
- 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 single-spaced 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 Managing Director of ASLE, Amy McIntyre, at info@asle.org, with information on the press(es) to which it has been submitted.

Committee members:

Chia-ju Chang, Brooklyn College;
Serenella Iovino, University of Torino, Italy;
Serpil Oppermann, Hacettepe University, Turkey;
Stephanie Posthumus, McGill University, Canada;

Modhumita Roy, Tufts University;
Heather Sullivan (chair), Trinity University;

ASLE representatives:

Mark Long, Immediate Past President;
Amy McIntyre, Managing Director

Publications by Members

DeLoughrey, Elizabeth, Jill Didur, and Anthony Carrigan, eds. *Global Ecologies and the Environmental Humanities: Postcolonial Approaches*. London: Routledge, 2015.

Link: <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9781138827721/>

Schliephake, Christopher. *Urban Ecologies. City Space, Material Agency, and Environmental Politics in Contemporary Culture (Environmental Theory and Practice)*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2015.

Link: <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9780739195765/Urban-Ecologies-City-Space-Material-Agency-and-Environmental-Politics-in-Contemporary-Culture>