



Dear fellow EASLCEans:

I'm writing this Winter Newsletter with the echoes of the tragic events that took place in Paris still resounding in my ears, and the consequent reach of the "Alert" level in Brussels, making the city a solitary and vulnerable place during a few days in November. Let therefore my first words become a salutation to Franca Bellarsi and the organizing committee of our next conference with the hope of getting back to normal in the hospitable and bohemian capital of Belgium. Quoting Bellarsi's final words in one of her last messages to the board: "And yes, EASLCE 2016 is more vital than ever to bring campus life back to normal: we need international gatherings where people feel free to talk, converse, laugh, etc. in resilience to the forces of darkness!! So let's make October 2016 as celebratory as possible!! To the Brussels resurgence!!" I second fervently this cry for action and reaction in these dark times of intolerance and savagery.

The call for papers for our seventh biennial conference is precisely, and ironically, "Wildness without Wilderness': The Poiesis of Energy and Instability." It summons the 'impermanence and indeterminacy' of the actual nowadays crisis by catching an eye on the turmoil of the explosion/implosion of energies of all sorts: dynamic, kinetic, material, spiritual, creative, destructive... In other words, the opposite forces that are acting in the past decades prove to be a powerful object/subject for discussion and deconstruction, to find the ultimate entropic order in this chaotic (but revolutionary) atmosphere. Thus, the frame of analysis is extended to variegated and enriching themes, such as new theoretical imprints of eco-oriented wisdoms; descriptions of other systems

and patterns of construction, other artistic and scientific representations of urban and rural chaos and wildness; exchanges and transmutations of energies, seen as forceful opportunities to revision and revive our way of living and thinking the world we inhabit; and global/local/glocal views of both the material milieu and the spiritual realm of the tangible and the elusive (nation, individual, species, order...), among other possible multiple targets.

This unique opportunity to meet again in the administrative capital of Europe will take place in ten months from now, that is, from October 27 to 30, 2016, starting Thursday and finishing Sunday. May I hope that this conference, more than any other held previously in our Association, serve as a meeting point for heterodoxy, environmental concerns and political posture in front of the dilemma of brutality vs civilization; one year ago I had the opportunity to enjoy personally the refined and bon-vivant city of Brussels, a place for conviviality and cohabitation: a locus vivendi.

(to be continued on page 3)

On the Inside:

International Conferences / CFP	3
Conference Reports	7
Publications by Members	9

EASLCE Newsletter
Vol. 10.2. (Winter 2015/16)

A Biannual Publication of the
**EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
STUDY OF LITERATURE, CULTURE
AND ENVIRONMENT**

EASLCE Homepage:

<http://www.easlce.eu>

Officers

Executive Committee

PRESIDENT

Dr. Juan Ignacio Oliva
Professor of English Philology,
Depto. Filología Inglesa y Alemana
Universidad de La Laguna
Tenerife, SPAIN

VICE PRESIDENT

Prof. Dr. Serpil Oppermann
Department of English Language and
Literature
Hacettepe University
Ankara, TURKEY

TREASURER

Dr. Alexa Weik von Mossner
Assistant Professor of American Studies
Department of English and American
Studies
University of Klagenfurt
Klagenfurt, AUSTRIA

Advisory Board

DR. ISABEL FERNANDES ALVES

Assistant Professor, Centro
de Estudos em Letras
University of Trás-os-Montes
e Alto Douro
Lisboa, PORTUGAL

DR. FRANCA BELLARSI

Professor of English Literature
Department of Languages and Literatures
Université Libre de Bruxelles
Bruxelles, BELGIUM

DR. HANNES BERGTHALLER

Associate Professor, Department of
Foreign Languages & Literatures
National Chung-Hsing University,
Taichung, TAIWAN

DR. CARMEN FLYS-JUNQUERA

Associate Professor of American
Literature, Dept. Filología Moderna
Universidad de Alcalá de Henares
Madrid, SPAIN

PROF. DR. CATRIN GERSDORF

Chair of American Studies
Julius-Maximilians-Universität
Würzburg, GERMANY

DR. ISABEL HOVING

Dr. Isabel Hoving
Lecturer, Department of Literature
Leiden University
Leiden, NETHERLANDS

PROF. DR. IMELDA MARTIN- JUNQUERA

American Studies and Chicano Studies
University of Leon
León, SPAIN

DR. PETER MORTENSEN

Institute of Language, Literature and
Culture
Aarhus University
Aarhus, DENMARK

PROF. DR. ULRIKE PLATH

Professor of History
University of Tallinn
Tallinn, ESTONIA

DR. KAREN SALT

Caribbean Studies
University of Aberdeen
Old Aberdeen, SCOTLAND, UK

DR. HEATHER I. SULLIVAN

Professor of German
Trinity University
San Antonio, USA

DR. DIANA VILLANUEVA

Profesor colaborador,
Departamento de Filología Inglesa
Universidad de Extremadura
Extremadura, SPAIN

International Affiliates

ASLE (USA)

<http://www.asle.org>

ASLEC-ANZ (AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND)

<http://www.aslec-anz.asn.au>

ALECC-CANADA

<http://www.alecc.ca>

ASLE-INDIA

<http://www.asleindia.webs.com>

ASLE-JAPAN

<http://www.asle-japan.org/>

ASLE-KOREA

<http://www.aslekorea.org>

ASLE-UKI

<http://www.asle.org.uk>

OSLE-INDIA

<http://www.osle-india.org>

How to become a member of
EASLCE

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:

June 15, 2016

Contact: Sylvia Mayer at

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

No doubt, Brussels will offer us sweet delicatessen, open doors, freedom of speech and floor for discussion. L'Université Libre de Bruxelles is another symbol for the achievements of democracy in Europe: a temple of knowledge without barriers, and the best venue for improvement and progress.

I hope to see you all and share there; meanwhile, receive my fondest wishes for the New Year 2016 in the hope that it will be more decent and safer than this one has proved to be, and that the clouds on the horizon will slowly evaporate under the sun of sageness.

Juan Ignacio Oliva

International Conferences / Call for Papers

“Wildness without Wilderness”: The Poiesis of Energy and Instability” 7th Biennial EASLCE Conference Brussels, Belgium, 27-30 October 2016

The 7th biennial conference of the European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture and Environment (EASLCE) is hosted by the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and its Department of Languages and Literatures, in association with the Benelux Association for the Study of Art, Culture and the Environment (BASCE).

As Gary Snyder reminds us in "The Etiquette of Freedom" (1990), wilderness—i.e. the expanse of the physical natural world untamed by humans—may have considerably shrunk; by contrast, however, wildness—i.e. the instability of the material world and of its agencies that elude human regulation and control—very much remains a constant in the existence of beings enmeshed with their environments.

Contributing to this ineradicable and enduring wildness and instability, other constants such as energy and creativity inform both the non-human and human worlds of impermanence and indeterminacy (Serpil Opperman & Serenella Iovino, Hubert Zapf, Sidney Dobrin). Indeed, not only do energy flows and their disruptions remain inseparable from life and living organisms; moreover, energy also proves inseparable from poiesis, understood as a potential for making that combines randomness

and design. With the relational activity leading to transformation that underlies the spontaneous self-organization and patterning of many systems (Fritjof Capra, Herbert Maturana & Francisco Varela), poetic travail is in fact what links the wild artistry and skilful means of nature to those of human production (Jonathan Skinner; Harriet Tarlo). What the various narratives respectively explored by particle physics, material ecocriticism, the energy humanities, experimental ecopoetics, or ecospiritualities tell us is that the universe is teeming with (eco)compositional forces and responses, with experiential space opening itself up to forms of joint making and unmaking, with temporary montage and collage artistry blending chance and intention through physical and/or mental assemblage, dissipation, and re-arrangement.

The 7th Biennial Meeting of EASLCE, in association with BASCE, will be held in the fluctuating, multilingual urban space of Brussels, a city that has proved home as much to the "ordered wildness" of physics uncovered by Nobel Prize-winning scientists like Ilya Prigogine and François Englert as to the one of the mindscapes revelled in by the Symbolist and Surrealist avant-gardes.

Therefore, from all environmental fields of inquiry and endeavour, from the humanities and natural sciences to the creative arts and public policy/activist spheres, the Organizing Committee invites papers probing into the poiesis of non-human and human systems, and into their interrelated narratives of energy, wildness and travail. Spanning the spectrum from natural to textual energies, possible perspectives may include—but are not necessarily limited to—some of the following approaches:

- The impact of concepts such as energy and poiesis, instability and creativity on current ecocritical thinking/theorizing, on ecoliteracy, ecolinguistics, eco-narratology, ecosophy, and eco-ethics.
- Patterns of assemblage, proliferation and travail in both non-human and human texts, procedures and organisms; systemic readings of energetic patterns of dissipation and collapse.
- Representations of chaos, wildness, autopoiesis, and complexity in literature, film, the arts, linguistics, philosophy, science, and digital environments.
- Eco-poetics and the poiesis of energy and instability: entropy and "ordered wildness" in textual environments and texts-as-environments; elusive energies, assemblage and fragmentation in recombinant and procedural eco-aesthetics; humans as eco-compositional and eco-aesthetic animals.
- Energetic travails under and above ground: the poiesis of fuel and fuel extraction; the chaos, wildness and complexity informing petrocultures; cultural and literary responses to the environmental practices and addictions of "Homo Energeticus."
- "Wildness without wilderness" in cities: urban collapse, mutation and apocalypse vs. urban renaturing, sustainability and ecological resilience; cities as "living eco-labs," urban entanglements in the web of the bioeconomy;

urban eco-design; the city as ecological palimpsest and travail.

- Transmutations of energies in the interlocking of mental and physical ecologies; ecospiritual and ecopsychological readings of the poiesis of matter and consciousness in interaction.
- Energy exchange and instability in the travail between physical and social ecologies; the dynamics of channeling and dissipating psychic and social energy around ecological crises; the travail of mapping out the (geo)politics of energy.
- Energetic labour and travail: the poiesis of the elements and natural forces (water, the weather, tectonics, etc.); the formation of "counter-imaginaries" to energetic mischanneling and depletion; the poiesis of decomposition, recycling and composting.
- Embodied "wildness without wilderness": randomness, design and energy exchange in animals and plants; shifting energies and relationalities between human and non-human bodies/forms of "creatureliness"; the poiesis of the feral; zoopoetics.
- Randomness and design in nature as sources of ecophobia and ecophilia; the gaps between the artistry of nature and human creativity as fuel for ecophobic and ecophilic narratives and texts.
- The poiesis of energy and instability at work in human and non-human environments as fuel for "Une écopoétique francophone?", "Eine deutschsprachige Ökopoetik?", etc.?

The primary conference languages will be English, French, German, and Dutch/Flemish.

We welcome both scholarly and creative proposals. The submission formats are either for individual scholarly papers of 20 mins/individual creative contributions/performances of 20 minutes, or for pre-made panels of 3 twenty-minute scholarly papers/creative contributions.

The format for submissions is as follows:

- individual proposals: title + 300-500 word abstract + biosketch of 5-10 lines + IT requirement + full contact details.
- preformed panels: 500 word abstract for the panel comprising general topic and format outline + participants' biosketches and full contact details + IT requirements,

supplemented by individual 300 word abstracts for each contribution on the panel.

On behalf of the organizing committee, all proposals should please be submitted to Dr. Franca Bellarsi < fbellars@ulb.ac.be > by **15 March 2016**.

Figuring Animals - Images and Imaginaries in Anglophone Literary and Media Texts
4th Workshop, Postgraduate Forum Environment, Literature, Culture
Mid-Sweden University, Campus Sundsvall, Sweden, 15 - 16 August 2016

With the formation of the interdisciplinary field 'Animal Studies,' animals are increasingly moving into the purview of literary and cultural studies. In the environmental humanities, an animal oriented perspective is beginning to establish itself as a dynamic and productive sub-field. Greg Garrard devotes an entire chapter to animals in *Ecocriticism* (2012) and contends that the way humans read animals shapes culture just as much as culture shapes the way we read animals (153). This mutually constitutive relationship makes 'animal' a central trope in environmental thinking and discourse. In this workshop, we want to take a closer look at how *Ecocriticism* and the theoretical and methodological concerns of Animal Studies can interact productively with each other.

What links *Ecocriticism* and Animal Studies is the concern with the politics of representation that shape human interactions, material and discursive, with animals. The conceptual separation of the human animal from non-human animals is at the center of most mainstream environmental and philosophical thinking. In continental European thought, human exceptionalism is based on a variety of concepts, such as that of an immortal soul, existential freedom, or symbolic language. With its roots in the Enlightenment tradition, human exceptionalism still informs most scholarly practice in the humanities and underwrites even

theoretical approaches that are interested in conceptualizing nonhuman forms of subjectivity, as posthumanist scholar Cary Wolfe points out in his seminal monograph *Animal Rites* (18).

In this tradition, the ways in which humans relate to animals are predominantly shaped by a presumed hierarchy in which animals rank below humans. From the prevalent utilitarian perspective, animals are regarded primarily as a resource for human use, which finds expression in cultural practices like animal husbandry (esp. raising animals for human consumption) or the display of animals in zoos but also in the ways humans relate to animals through language. During this workshop, the linguistic, textual, and visual expressions of animal imaginaries that illustrate and comment on, and at the same time influence and shape, human-animal-relationships are at the center of our concern.

We invite master and doctoral students with projects in the environmental humanities or Animal Studies to contribute to our workshop. Questions, texts, and projects might address but are not limited to the following:

- representations of human-animal-relationships in cultural artifacts
- representation of animals in visual culture; e.g. animal bodies as spectacles

- representations of animals in environmentalist texts; e.g. endangered species
- philosophical, conceptual and structural bases that underwrite human-animal-relationships
- specific discursive formations of “the human” and its delineation against nonhuman animals (e.g. ‘discourse of species’ (C. Wolfe), but also e.g. ‘dehumanizing’ discourses, such as colonial discourse)
- functions of metaphor and metonymy involving animals in specific discourses and/or texts
- textual instances involving animals that resist allegorical interpretation
- specific instances of anthropomorphism, zoomorphism, and possible alternatives

Students can participate by submitting an excerpt of their dissertation or MA thesis, a research poster presenting their PhD project, or a theoretical text that interests and/or challenges them for discussion. We will be able to invite a maximum of 10 participants. The workshop language is English.

If you are interested in participating, please send an email to docforum.elc@gmail.com by **May 15th, 2016** and let us know in which form you would like to contribute (excerpt of own work/poster/secondary text). Please state your current project topic and include a short biographical note (150 words).

Workshop Format and Program

The workshop is organized by the Postgraduate Forum Environment, Literature, Culture, which brings together young researchers from the EASLCE membership countries to share and discuss their research with other young scholars in the environmental humanities.

“Figuring Animals” will open with a keynote speech by Dr. Roman Bartosch (Lecturer in

English at Cologne University, Germany) with the title “Creatural Fictions and Aesthetic Relationalities: Making Kin in a More-than-Human World.” We will then have time to discuss five texts. The first day concludes with a small reception during which we will have a poster session. Posters may present PhD research projects, individual dissertation chapters, or other current research projects. Afterwards, there is an optional dinner (paid for by the participants). On the second day, we will discuss three texts and then offer participants a coaching session during which they can learn more about questions pertaining to an academic career. The coaching is provided by Mid Sweden University’s Innovation Office Fyrklöver.

The texts for discussion will be made available beforehand and need to be read by all participants in advance. Students who suggest a text will 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 the text sessions (if you are interested in presenting your whole project, please apply for the poster session). Chapters or excerpts of your thesis and theoretical secondary texts pertaining to the workshop’s topic that you find challenging or useful are welcome for the discussion sessions.

We might be able to offer travel grants for participants without university or third-party funding - please state if you would need funding in your application email.

Organizers:

Michaela Castellanos, Mid Sweden University Sundsvall, Sweden

Hanna Straß, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany

Ecocriticism and Ecospeak: what reciprocity between Humanity and the Planet? Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan, Italy October 16 and 17, 2015

On 16th and 17th October 2015 the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures organised the Conference: *Ecocriticism and Ecospeak: what reciprocity between Humanity and the Planet?* It was one of the first international conferences on ecocritical issues held in Italy, gathering studies both of literary criticism and linguistics and it was included in the cultural events promoted by Catholic University for Expo Milano 2015.

Presentations included three keynote speakers with varied critical approaches and coming from three different countries. Serenella Iovino's (University of Turin) opening keynote address, *La responsabilità ambientale e la vita delle cose: ecocritica, etica e un'idea di trascendenza*, illustrated the ethical implications of environmental materiality, also pointing at the theological disclosures of ecological responsibility; Anne Simon (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris) presented French Animal studies, lecturing the audience on *Place aux bêtes : oïkos et animalité en littérature de langue française*; Elena Margarita Past (Wayne State University, Detroit) presented an interesting study on volcanos in Italian literature and movies: *Volcanic Matters: Magmatic Narratives, Ecocriticism and Sicily*.

The several presentations of the Conference covered the most different fields of study: from Medieval English literature to Northamerican writers, from an ecological study of the Ancient Classics to the ecological lexicon in Science and Fashion Weblogs; both German and French literature, together with Latin American writers were topics of analysis in these two-day conference.

The Conference also hosted some photographs from the project *Green Attitude*, www.greenattitude.it, by the photographer Raoul Iacometti, who presented his work through some videos.

The proceedings will be published in a Thematic Issue of "L'analisi Linguistica e Letteraria", forthcoming in 2016.

The Conference was organised by Elisa Bolchi and Davide Vago, under the supervision of Prof. Marisa Verna. More infos on the website <http://www.analisilinguisticaeletteraria.eu/ecocritica/>

Elisa Bolchi and Davide Vago

Environmental Utopias and Dystopias as Forms of Resistance, Oppression and Liberation 3rd Workshop of the Postgraduate Forum Environment, Literature, Culture KTH, Stockholm, December 11-12, 2015

The 2015 workshop of the Postgraduate Forum Environment, Literature, Culture was hosted 11–12 Dec. by the Environmental Humanities Laboratory, based in the Division of History of Science, Technology and the Environment, at KTH, Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden. This year's theme was

"Environmental Utopias and Dystopias as Forms of Resistance, Oppression and Liberation." Before the official start of the workshop participants had the opportunity to visit the Stockholm Royal Seaport development (Norra Djurgårdsstaden). The excursion was not just a great opportunity for participants to

meet informally, but also sparked interesting conversation about the planning, implementation and marketing of 'sustainable' projects.

The workshop itself kicked off with the welcome speech of the EHL director Marco Armiero and the key note address by Adeline Johns-Putra, English Reader at the University of Surrey and former ASLE-UKI president, on "Climate Change Fiction and the Problem of Posterity." Adeline's presentation surveyed recently-published climate change fiction, and specifically considered the idea that literature provides an ethical space for the exploration of affective dilemmas. She concentrated on the representation of the child in climate change fiction as a metonym for the future. Sverker Sörlin, professor of environmental history at the Division, then responded to her presentation, before the floor was opened for comments and questions.

During the next sessions feedback was given on ten drafts submitted by participants, and four posters were also presented. The topics spanned quite a wide variety of disciplines, approached from a broadly-speaking environmental humanities angle: some participants analysed historical environmental practices and issues such as the legal status of the commons, while others looked at the representation of environmental utopias (and dystopias) in literature, film, visual and performance arts, or considered utopian practices such as botanical collection, activism, and environmental justice. The workshop concluded with a presentation by Kati Lindström on publication strategies (based on her experience as editor of the journal *Sign System Studies*).

Although English was the working language of the workshop, I feel that the variety of contexts presented in the papers (and represented by participants) somewhat challenged Anglophone hegemony in a positive way. Inspiring discussion carried over to breaks and lunches, and I truly appreciate ending 2015 in this way.

Finally, on behalf of the participants, I would like to thank Isabel Pérez and the rest of the organising committee for a productive two days!

Marinette Grimbeek

14 participants attended the ELC workshop this December (we had a full workshop, unfortunately one participant had to cancel her attendance last minute due to personal circumstances). Participants to the workshop are currently based in: Denmark, Italy, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

The organising committee was formed by Marco Armiero (EHL Director), Anna Svensson (PhD candidate), Kati Lindström (postdoctoral fellow), Susanna Lidström (postdoctoral fellow) and myself (Isabel Pérez—PhD candidate).

I would like to thank EASLCE for their academic and economic support (which covered the key-note travel and accommodation expenses). I would also like to thank Nina Worms and the Division of History of Science, Technology and the Environment at KTH, and Marco Armiero, and the Environmental Humanities Laboratory, for accepting to host the workshop in the premises of the Division, and for providing us with generous funding (which allowed us to cover the travel expenses of those participants without university or third-party funding, as well as the light lunches, some refreshments and the poster-printing costs). I would also like to thank Adeline Johns-Putra for kindly accepting our invitation to give the key note address, and Sverker Sörlin for his response.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues and co-organizers, who helped make this workshop happen: Marco, Anna, Kati and Susanna.

M^a Isabel Pérez-Ramos

Publications by Members

Gabriele Dürbeck & Urte Stobbe, Eds. *Ecocriticism. Eine Einführung*. Köln: Böhlau, 2015.

Serenella Iovino, *Ecocriticism and Italy: Ecology, Resistance, and Liberation*. London and New York: Bloomsbury. (First title of the series "Environmental Cultures", ed. G. Garrard and R. Kerridge).

New Monograph Series, Studies in Literature, Culture, and the Environment / Studien zu Literatur, Kultur und Umwelt

Edited by

Hannes Bergthaller (National Chung-Hsing University, Taichung, Taiwan), Gabriele Dürbeck (University of Vechta, Germany), Robert Emmett (Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, University of Munich, Germany), Serenella Iovino (University of Torino, Italy) and Ulrike Plath (Tallinn University, Estonia)

This interdisciplinary and international book series aims to bring together current approaches in the environmental humanities (particularly in the fields of ecocriticism, environmental history, and environmental justice), with a focus on European contexts. It comprises thematic and theoretical studies which engage ecological issues, climate change, and the discourse of the Anthropocene, seeking to understand the forms of their representation across different media, cultures, and historical periods. Studies in Literature, Culture, and the Environment aim to connect the environmental humanities to the social and natural sciences and thus to contribute to the remediation of ecological problems. The series comprises monographs and edited volumes in both German and English. Book proposals are welcome and may be submitted to the editors. All publications will be peer reviewed.

Please send your manuscript or project outline either to the series editors or to Michael Rücker, Senior Acquisitions Editor: m.ruecker@peterlang.com.