

EASLCE NEWS LETTER

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

In terms of association news, the major piece of information this issue of the Newsletter provides is the call for papers for the **third biennial EASLCE conference** which will take place at the **University of Alcalá, Spain, on October 16 to 19, 2008**. The conference's topic is "Cultural Landscapes: Heritage and Conservation" – the deadline for sending in abstracts is May 15, 2008. The call for papers and the conference website (www.iuien-uah.net) can soon be found on – and downloaded from – the EASLCE website. All members are kindly asked to spread the information to as many interested people as possible.

The organizers around Carmen Flys-Junquera and the committee hope that as many members as possible will be able to attend the conference and participate in the academic (and non-academic) conversation as well as in the membership meeting that will deal with the future development of the association and with future EASLCE projects. With this third biennial conference, the year 2008 will hopefully see the association grow and make the disciplines of ecologically oriented literary and cultural studies become more visible all across Europe.

What needs to be addressed again in this editorial, is, moreover, the **EASLCE website**. In the last issue of the Newsletter I announced that the committee had decided to hire a professional web designer to overhaul the EASLCE website to make it more attractive, to turn it into a platform for ecocritical activities that can be widely used. The new design has been installed by now, and Axel Goodbody is putting the finishing touches to the site. At this point, however, I would like to repeat that for the site to truly flourish, we do depend on members' responses. We, the committee and Axel Goodbody, the webmaster, would like you all to

send in ideas and suggestions of how to expand the site, of how to make it into a source of information to ecocritics all over Europe. What we still need are members who volunteer to translate the association's aims into their native languages: at the moment the site offers information in English, German, Estonian, Italian, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish. Suggestions should be sent to the committee members or to Axel Goodbody (our e-mail addresses can be found in the membership directory and on the EASLCE website). The website will be an important point at the next membership meeting in Alcalá.

In addition to the call for papers for the Alcalá conference, this issue of the Newsletter contains calls for papers for the fifth biennial conference of ASLE UK and for a conference of the International Association for Environment and Philosophy; it provides two calls for contributions of (literary and scholarly) texts – Terry Gifford is looking for unpublished modern translations of poetry, Patrick Murphy is searching for essays on the issue of climate change as represented in the genre of science fiction.

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EASLCE Newsletter

Vol. 2.1 (Summer 2007)

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

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<http://www.easlce.eu>

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/esml/easlce>

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Please note the **editorial deadline** for
the next issue: **15 June 2008**

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

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There are, moreover, conference reports from Italy and Estonia. And, finally, we can again announce book publications by EASLCE members.

To all of us a good and productive year 2008.

Sylvia Mayer
EASLCE President

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF EASLCE

Please, visit our web site at:

<http://www.easlce.eu>

or

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/esml/easlce/membership.htm>

For further information contact:

Christa Grewe-Volpp
[chgrewe\(a\)rumms.uni-mannheim.de](mailto:chgrewe(a)rumms.uni-mannheim.de)

International Affiliates

ASLE (USA)

<http://www.asle.umn.edu/>

ASLE-ANZ (AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND)

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

ALECC-CANADA

<http://www.alecc.ca>

ASLE-INDIA

<http://www.geocities.com/asle-india/index.htm>

ASLE-JAPAN

<http://www.asle-japan.org/english/index.cgi./index.html>

ASLE-KOREA

<http://www.aslekorea.org>

ASLE-UK

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

OSLE-INDIA

<http://www.osle-india.tripod.com/id7.html>

International Conferences / Call for Papers

**THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF LITERATURE, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
(EASLCE)**

“CULTURAL LANDSCAPES: HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION”

**University of Alcalá (Alcalá de Henares, Spain)
October 16-19, 2008**

For the past few centuries, and especially during the 19th Century, the contemplation of landscape has been the source of artistic inspiration. In the 21st Century, landscape has become a concern and an issue of socio-political debate, as illustrated by the European Landscape Convention, Florence 2000.

The environmental experts of the Convention included the cultural dimensions of landscape in their definition: “Landscape refers to an area perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”. Therefore, landscape is “the geological, ecological and cultural characteristics that can be perceived in a natural scene”. Perception, a key issue, directs us to the fields of Humanities and the Arts.

The theme of the 3rd EASLCE Conference focuses on the role of landscape representation and perception, by studying its development in literature as well as in other arts. More specifically, we hope to put forth a new perspective in the socio-political debate by illustrating how the artistic and philosophical language has also represented (and continues to do so) the close link and relationship between human and non-human beings. This artistic discourse not only illustrates these relationships, but also influences and shapes perceptions and attitudes, and is thus, crucial in fostering environmental awareness.

We propose the following topics, although other related aspects will be considered:

Contributions are invited from writers and critics in humanities disciplines and from the sciences on the relationship of humankind to its environment. Preformed roundtables and proposals for panels are encouraged. Audio-visual requests to be included in proposals. Papers are limited to 20 minutes presentation time, including, but not limited to, the following:

- The mental and aesthetical construction of landscape: from the “objective” landscape, to the subjective landscape, to the imaginary landscape

- The mental and aesthetical reconstruction of landscape: between dream and nostalgia
- The landscape as habitat: human habitat (rural, (peri-)urban), animals and plants (rural, (peri-)urban, “wild”)
- The landscape as resource: the difficult balance between necessity, exploitation and respect
- The landscape as a base for an identity (generic, familiar, regional, national...)
- The multifunctional landscape: productive and non-productive functions (tourism, nature conservation, etc) The inherited, transmitted landscape
- Cultural representations of landscape
- Landscape and identity
- Relationship between women and nature
- The naturalization of women
- The female body as a metaphorical landscape
- The romanticizing of landscape
- Landscape as an actor
- Landscape: still life or living nature
- Images of landscape
- "Sense of place" or "place-sense"
- Natural landscape/Artificial landscape
- Development: Construction or deconstruction of landscape?

The languages of the conference will be English and Spanish. Both papers and posters are welcomed at the conference.

**Please submit a detailed abstract of 500 words
before May 15, 2008 to:
EASLCE.congreso(a)uah.es**

Conference website: www.iuien-uah.net

**GIECO-IUIEN / Grupo de Investigación en
Ecocrítica (Ecocriticism Research Group)
Instituto universitario de Investigación en Estudios
Norteamericanos (Research Institute for North
American Studies)**

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF LITERATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT (ASLE UK)

“ACTIVISM, APOCALYPSE, AND THE AVANT-GARDE”

**The University of Edinburgh
10-13th July 2008**

The Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE UK) invites proposals for its fifth biennial conference to be held at the University of Edinburgh. This international conference will bring together literary scholars, activists and practitioners to consider and discuss important interfaces between the discipline of eco-criticism and studies of ecology, the modern period, post-colonialism and the notion of apocalypse. The organizers anticipate that a publication of selected essays will be delivered by this event.

Contributions are invited from writers and critics in humanities disciplines and from the sciences on the relationship of humankind to its environment. Preformed roundtables and proposals for panels are encouraged. Audio-visual requests to be included in proposals. Papers are limited to 20 minutes presentation time, including, but not limited to, the following:

- * 21st century theory and text
- * Scottish literary ecology
- * Moving from the post-Romantic to the Modern
- * The post-colonial and the end of nature
- * Green re-readings of literature and other media
- * Psycho-geographies
- * Conservative Modernism
- * Ecological activism and literary studies
- * Refocussing the apocalyptic lens
- * Pedagogy and the academy
- * Latecomers and science fiction: how fictional truth became real

- * Prescience and values
 - * Environmental philosophy
 - * Trauma of self, trauma of world
 - * Wayfinding; trans-humance; travel
 - * Redistributive politics; high-energy cultures

ASLE-UK was founded in 1998 and is an affiliate of ASLE (US), the leading international organization of ecologically informed literature and criticism, having over 1000 members worldwide. The Department of English Literature at Edinburgh will be supporting a roundtable on green pedagogy and the ethics of environmental theory. Bursaries are available for post-graduates.

Call for papers deadline Feb 14th 2008. Plenary speakers include Timothy Morton (University of California, Davis), Kate Rigby (Monash University), and Rebecca Solnit.

**Please email proposals (250 words max.) for papers etc via the abstracts page:
<http://www.ppls.ed.ac.uk/nature/asle08/abstracts.htm>**

Tom Bristow
Department of English Literature
University of Edinburgh

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

“THINKING THROUGH NATURE: PHILOSOPHY FOR AN ENDANGERED WORLD”

**University of Oregon, Eugene, USA
19-22 July 2008**

The International Association for Environmental Philosophy (IAEP) invites proposals for a conference to be held 19-22 June 2008 at the University of Oregon in Eugene. Taking as our theme "Thinking through Nature: Philosophy for an Endangered World," we seek proposals for papers (20-minute presentation time) and workshops (30-minute presentation time) pertaining to all facets of environmental philosophy. Interdisciplinary approaches are especially welcome.

Proposals are encouraged on (but not limited to) the following topics:

- Environmental Ethics
- The Aesthetics of Natural and Built Environments
- Environmental Restoration and Design
- Architecture, Place, and Dwelling
- Humanities and Environmental Policy Development
- Environmental Justice, Social Ecology, and Ecofeminism
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous Perspectives
- Non-Western and Comparative Approaches
- Ecocriticism
- Ecophenomenology
- Environmental Metaphysics and Theology

PAPER SESSIONS:

Paper sessions will feature three presentations, strictly limited to a maximum of twenty minutes each, with thirty minutes for questions and discussion. Proposals may be submitted either for individual papers or for preformed paper panels. Proposals will be subject to a refereed review process.

WORKSHOPS:

The first afternoon of the conference will be devoted to workshops emphasizing active learning and participation. Although the range of topics is open, we encourage submissions on pedagogy, service learning, campus sustainability, and related themes. Proposals for workshops should follow the same format as paper proposals. Preformed workshop panels are encouraged.

SUBMITTING PROPOSALS:

Please submit 1-2 page proposals for individual papers or workshops. Preformed panels should include a proposal for each paper or workshop included in the panel. Please include a title, your institutional affiliation, and contact information. Special equipment requests (e.g., audiovisual) must accompany the proposal. All presenters must be IAEP members by the start of the conference.

FIELD TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS:

Nestled between the Cascades and the Oregon coast, the Eugene area offers an abundance of opportunities for biking, hiking, boating, and camping. Local sites of environmental interest include the H. J. Andrews Experimental Forest, the Willow Creek Wetlands Restoration Area, world-class organic wineries and farms, and a number of ecovillages and experimental approaches to environmental design and urban agriculture. Several sites will be selected for organized field trips for conference participants.

SUSTAINABILITY

Conference activities will be organized to minimize environmental impacts. Panels will be held in the Lillis Business Complex at the University of Oregon (<http://lcb.uoregon.edu/complex/>), recognized as a national model for environmentally friendly building design. Local and organic products will be supplied by our catering services whenever possible. A portion of the conference budget will be directed to offset the carbon-footprint of the conference, and participants will have the opportunity to contribute to this effort.

Send proposals by **1 December 2007** to:
Ted Toadvine, [toadvine\(a\)uoregon.edu](mailto:toadvine(a)uoregon.edu)

Publications / Call for Contributions

Modern Poetry in Translation Calls for submissions for a green special issue.

Terry Gifford is Advisory Editor for a planned special issue of this journal seeking unpublished modern translations of poetry (ancient or modern) that is environmentally aware, celebrates what might be lost, represents nature, the planet, locality or global issues for our times.

Submission deadline: 15 August 2008

For submission details see the following website:

www.mptmagazine.com

Envisioning Climate Change: Science Fiction Scenarios in Literature and Film addressing Global Warming

With the issuing of the fourth and final IPCC report on climate change, the terms of debate regarding global warming will be dramatically shifting. Rather than a focus on whether or not it is occurring and whether or not anthropogenic factors matter, the focus will shift to the degree to which changes in human action from here on out can mitigate the developing crisis and perhaps avoid or delay a tipping point and the intensity of the crisis and the pace of its intensification. Far more than a technological issue, climate change is an ethical issue and human responsibility and morality need to be analyzed and critiqued.

Literature has always played a role in representing human behavior, modeling behavior, and criticizing human behavior. Likewise, it has long played a role in educating readers about a range of topics and themes relevant not only to our personal daily lives but to the future of our species. In no other genre is that concern with the future and with the fate of the species so pronounced as in the genre of science fiction. As we look at the human prospect in light of the IPCC reports, it seems pertinent to ask what science fiction has had to say about global warming, about human ingenuity in the face of species threatening crises, and about its extrapolative and cautionary tale perspectives. It also seems appropriate to analyze where it seems to be an asset and where it seems to be a hindrance for readers.

Some of the authors who have addressed climate change directly or indirectly would include, just drawing on English-language work, Margaret Atwood, J. G. Ballard, John Barnes, Octavia Butler, Michael Crichton, Daniel Gottlieb, Arthur Herzog, Jay Kaplan, Nancy Kress, Kevin Ready, Kim Stanley Robinson, Marcus

Sedgwick, Norman Spinrad, Bruce Sterling, George Turner, Mark Tushington, and Kurt Vonnegut. Movies include *Frogs*, *Soylent Green*, *Silent Running*, *Waterworld*, *Megaflood*, *Solar Attack*, and *The Day After Tomorrow*. In addition there have appeared various

television series and episodes worthy of consideration, such as *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*.

Therefore, I am issuing this call for contributions to a volume of essays that will address the ways in which science fiction novels, stories, and films have spoken of climate change, either explicitly or implicitly, intentionally or serendipitously, by representation or by allegory. I will be seeking original essays and welcome at this time expressions of interest and/or abstracts of 250-500 words. If you have a complete paper, please so indicate in the abstract but do not send the paper at this time.

I would like to move forward rather quickly with this project, and so would like to receive abstracts within the next two months with a hope of receiving completed essays that might range from 5,000 to 10,000 words by June of 2008. If interested, please contact me at pmurphy@mail.ucf.edu. Also, please pass this call on to any others you think might find the topic appealing.

Patrick D. Murphy

Professor, English, University of Central Florida

[pmurphy\(a\)mail.ucf.edu](mailto:pmurphy(a)mail.ucf.edu)

International Conferences / Reports

The 2007 Rome conference

“Ecocriticism: retorica e immaginario dell’ambiente nel canone letterario occidentale” NOW ONLINE!

The last EASLCE Newsletter (Summer 2007) reported about the first international conference held in Italy on environmental criticism, which took place on June 26-27 at the University of Rome “Sapienza” under the title: “Ecocriticism: retorica e immaginario dell’ambiente nel canone letterario occidentale”.

Now the whole conference, with all the presentations, can be viewed at the following website:

<http://www.studentivillamirafiori.it/Convegni/Ecocriticism/indexeco.htm>

The conference was divided into three panels - the first interdisciplinary, the second and third rather literary - and hosted many renowned scholars, among them: Scott Slovic (ecocritic), Francesco Spada (biologist), Daniele Guastini (philosopher), Roberto Della Seta

(environmentalist), Lorenzo Franchini (catholic jurist), Robert Harrison (essayist), Emilia Di Rocco (comparatist), Caterina Salabè (comparatist), Francesca Orestano (anglicist), Andreas Trojan (comparatist), Serenella Iovino (ecocritic philosopher), Giorgio Mariani (americanist), Anna Re (ecocritic americanist), Nadia Inserra (americanist) and Piero Marietti (physicist). The conference and panels were introduced by Piero Boitani (comparatist), Rosy Colombo (anglicist), Pietro Montani (philosopher) and Delia Gambelli (French studies).

For more information please contact:
[caterina.salabe\(a\)uniroma1.it](mailto:caterina.salabe@uniroma1.it) / +39-328-1688966

2007 Symposium

Environmental Philosophy and Landscape Thinking in Tartu, Estonia

On September 27-30, 2007, The Fourth International Symposium on Baltic German Literary Culture devoted to Environmental Philosophy and Landscape Thinking took place in Tartu, Estonia.

The symposium has for years drawn together scholars from the Baltic Sea region studying German, especially Baltic German mental culture. This year, the ecocritical dimension was added to the array of approaches. One whole day of the symposium was devoted to the methods and theoretical perspectives of ecocriticism, aiming at the study of the theoretical and methodological aspects of the ecocritical paradigm, as well as their application potential.

One of the three keynote lectures of the symposium was delivered by EASLCE president Sylvia Mayer who gave an insight into the concept of ethical literary criticism and its relevance for ecologically oriented literary studies.

Jakob von Uexkill’s Umwelt-theory was applied in the analysis of literary as well as lived environments in

presentations by Riin Magnus, Sabine Brauckmann, Timo Maran, Kadri Tüür, and Maria Zadencka. Axel Goodbody proposed an integration of ecocriticism with memory studies, and Christa Grewe-Volpp demonstrated how an ecocritical approach may enhance the reading of a literary text. Irena Ragaišienė and Audrone Raskauskienė exercised ecocritical readings of Lithuanian texts. Interesting presentations on the impact of nature relations to the formation of national identity were also held in other sections of the symposium.

The symposium was organised by Under and Tuglas Literature Centre and the department of Semiotics of the University of Tartu.

For more information see the symposium’s home page at: <http://www.utkk.ee/ee/yritused/naturdenken.html>

Publications by EASLCE Members

Fiona Becket and Terry Gifford, eds.
Culture, Creativity and Environment: New Environmentalist Criticism,
Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2007.
ISBN 978-90-420-2250-8

Hannes Bergthaller.
Populäre Ökologie. Zu Literatur und Geschichte der modernen Umweltbewegung in den USA.
Transcription. Cultures, Concepts, Controversies. Vol. 2. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2007.
ISBN 978-3-631-56087-7

Axel Goodbody.
Nature, Technology and Cultural Change in Twentieth-Century German Literature: The Challenge of Ecocriticism.
Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.
ISBN: 978-0-230-53545-9

This section provides information about recent book publications by EASLCE members. If you would like to have your publication included, please send bibliographical information (including ISBN) to Sylvia Mayer at [sylvia.mayer\(a\)uni-bamberg.de](mailto:sylvia.mayer(a)uni-bamberg.de)