

EASLCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. 3.1 Summer 2008

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

This summer 2008 issue of the Newsletter was compiled during a time when preparations for the next biennial EASLCE conference went into their “hot phase.” At the University of Alcalá, in Alcalá de Henares, Spain, where our conference on “Cultural Landscapes: Heritage and Conservation” will be held on October 16 to 19, the conference organizers have been busy putting up all the necessary conference details, announcing information both on the registration procedure and on projects and events that accompany the conference. With respect to the up-coming conference, this issue of the Newsletter presents an interim report by the organizers as well as an announcement of a collaborative photograph session that we hope many members and conference participants will contribute to.

The EASLCE executive committee and advisory board are also preparing for the conference. As with every biennial conference, we hope to turn conference and membership meeting into events that will give further impetus to the growth of the association – growth in terms of initiating further projects, in terms of strengthening EASLCE’s organisational structure, and, of course, in terms of membership numbers. The fact that more than one hundred proposals from a variety of fields and from scholars around the world were submitted to the organizers signals the widespread interest and the large potential the association can – and should – respond to.

The agenda for the membership meeting as well as the minutes of the last membership meeting in Jena, Germany, June 2007, will be sent to all members by mid-August 2008. Any suggestions that would complement the agenda are welcome.

One important point on the agenda of the membership meeting on October 18 will be the election of officers. Members will have to elect officers for the three positions on the executive committee (president, vice-president, and treasurer) and several positions on the advisory board. I would like to encourage all members to consider a candidacy.

Another important point on the agenda will be the discussion of – and decision on – the creation of a European, multi-lingual electronic journal that will provide a platform for environmentally oriented work both in literary and cultural studies and in the field of creative writing. This project also originates in Spain: in addition to their work as conference organizers, GIECO, the Group for Research on Ecocriticism in Spain, has put a lot of energy into developing a concept for such a journal, both in terms of dealing with matters of content (and languages) and in terms of planning organizational and technological matters. Carmen Flys-Junquera and her GIECO co-organizers will introduce this concept.

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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 December 2008**

Contact: Sylvia Mayer at

[sylvia.mayer\(a\)uni-bamberg.de](mailto:sylvia.mayer(a)uni-bamberg.de)

(continued from page 1)

In addition to the news related to the conference, this summer issue includes two calls for contributions – for creative work and for scholarly essays; it provides information about an online educational project that attempts to promote science in school via blockbuster movies and TV-programs; it contains reports on international conferences in Belgium and Taiwan, and, finally, it

announces a new publication by EASLCE members.

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Alcalá conference.

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:

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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>

THIRD BIENNIAL EASLCE CONFERENCE
“CULTURAL LANDSCAPES: HERITAGE AND CONSERVATION”

UNIVERSITY OF ALCALÁ
ALCALÁ DE HENARES, SPAIN
OCTOBER 16 TO 19, 2008

I – Interim Report. The organization of the 3rd EASLCE conference is well underway. It will be held in Alcalá de Henares, Madrid from October 16-19, 2008 and will be the first conference on ecocriticism in Spain. The conference theme “Cultural Landscapes: Heritage and Conservation” has been a timely choice as Spain signed onto the Florence Cultural Landscape Convention last November and the agreement went into effect just March 1, 2008. This has contributed to a significant interest on the behalf of politicians, administrators, the European Council and the Ministry of the Environment as well as associations of journalists and research groups in different disciplines.

Multidisciplinarity has been assured with over a 100 proposals from disciplines as diverse and, at the same time, interrelated, as literature, landscape architecture, film studies, art, sustainable development, journalism, geography, philosophy, pedagogy and ecology. There will be participants from some 11 European countries in addition to others from Africa, Asia and the Americas. We hope that this widespread participation will contribute to increasing EASLCE membership and providing a greater interdisciplinarity for the future. Registration has just begun and can be found on the website on the conference (www.iuien-uah.net).

Plenary lectures will be given by Native American writer **Linda Hogan**, Harvard professor **John O’Keefe**, and Slovenian professor **Ana Kučan**. Likewise, on Friday morning there will be a special event featuring eminent politicians and academics. Another special event will be a field trip to the well known (and sung) city of Aranjuez, which is a World Heritage Cultural Landscape and site of the World Alliance for Cultural Landscapes. The Town Hall and Cultural Landscape Foundation will invite

us to lunch, overseeing the Tagus river as it flows through Aranjuez. The University of Alcalá and the

Historic Center of the City are in themselves another World Heritage Site and have been just voted as the third “wonder” of the community of Madrid. So, all participants will be able to enjoy strolling around this old city during the conference venue. All activities will take place in 16th and 17th century buildings. The plenary lectures, the side event and the presentation in Aranjuez will all feature translation (Spanish-English, English-Spanish).

We are also planning a bilingual poetry reading session as well as an artistic event, created especially for the conference, featuring literature, photography and dance. With the help of all participants, we also hope to create an on-going **digital photo presentation with cultural landscapes and literary texts from different parts of the world**. We ask all EASLCE members (regardless of presenting a paper) to submit photos and texts for this exhibit (see website). And, between Aranjuez, the institutional dinner and “tapas,” everyone will be able to enjoy the excellent Spanish cuisine and wines.

The conference organizers look forward to having all EASLCE members join us in October. Both the organizers and the EASLCE board will also be presenting interesting developments for our association and we hope everyone can come and participate. We realize that the widespread economic crisis is affecting us all, but we are sure that the trip will be well worth while, academically, culturally and personally. For any questions or doubts, check the website or contact us at easlce.congreso@uah.es.

II – Project: Collaborative Photograph Presentation

Given that the 3rd EASLCE Conference theme is Cultural Landscapes, the Organizing Committee has decided to mount a collaborative photograph presentation and we need the participation of all persons attending the conference. The objective is to mount a dynamic digital exhibit of cultural landscapes around the world combined with literary fragments in any language that are related to landscape. The material might also be used for the conferences proceedings or web page. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to choose the material used.

Photographs:

- Photographs should be of cultural landscapes of the country of origin/residence of participants.
- File format .jpg, high resolution.
- The name of the place, date (if relevant) and any other relevant information should be indicated.
- Name of the photographer (for credits).
- Sender should have all rights of the photo or written permission. The mere act of sending in photos implies complying with all requisites.
- The maximum is 5 photos per person.

Literary fragments

- Fragments should be about any type of cultural landscape of the country of origin/residence of participants.
- Fragments could belong to any kind of genre: poetry, narrative and drama.
- The text can be in any language but it will not be translated. The sender should include a brief translation in order to know the content, if in any languages other than English, Spanish or French.
- The text should not exceed 10 lines long.
- The author and the name of the work to which the fragment belongs should be indicated.

All material should be sent to the following email address: easlce.congreso@uah.es. We hope to count on the collaboration of all participants in order to carry out this activity. The deadline for sending photos or literary fragments is September 20th.

Publications / Calls for Contributions

Modern Poetry in Translation **(Third Series, No. 10; Publication date: October 2008)** **The Big Green Issue**

We want poetry, translated and original, essays, anecdotes, photographs, illustrations, all of the highest quality, treating, in whatever ways, the beauty, abundance and plight of Mother Earth. This autumn *MPT* will be truly internationalist. We want work from all quarters, out of as many languages as possible, to demonstrate an obvious fact: on Planet Earth we sink or swim together. We want the issue to be polemical, saying the things that must be said, but also celebratory, so that we see, yet again, what it is we risk losing. We want writing that will show up wrong attitudes and the deeds they encourage; but also indicate how we might live better in the

living world. We borrow the Earth from our children. Good writing, world-wide, may help us return it to them in better shape.

Submissions should **be sent by 1 August 2008**, please, in hard copy, with return postage, to The Editors, *Modern Poetry in Translation*, The Queen's College, Oxford, OX1 4AW. Unless agreed in advance, submissions by email will not

be accepted. Only very exceptionally will we consider work that has already been published elsewhere. Translators are themselves responsible for obtaining any necessary permissions. Since we do sometimes authorize further publication on one or two very reputable websites of work that has appeared in *MPT*, the permissions should cover that possibility.

Submissions deadline 1st August 2008

www.mptmagazine.com

For submission details see the following website:

www.mptmagazine.com

**READING PLACES:
BIOREGIONAL LITERARY CRITICISM
Edited by Tom Lynch, Cheryll Glotfelty, and Karla Armbruster**

We are planning an edited collection of original, previously unpublished essays in bioregional literary criticism, tentatively titled *Reading Places: Bioregional Literary Criticism*. We prefer essays (4,500-6,000 words) that are not only theoretically rigorous, but are also written in an accessible and lively enough manner to be usable in both graduate and undergraduate classrooms as well as available to the interested lay reader.

We seek essays that:

- 1) theorize bioregional literary criticism;
- 2) enact close bioregional readings of texts, both re-readings of familiar texts and recognition of new or neglected works whose importance becomes apparent through a bioregional lens;
- 3) examine successful bioregional literary praxis, such as community-based writing projects and place-based publishing ventures; and
- 4) assess the relationships between bioregionalism and issues of post-colonialism, globalization, and environmental justice.

In covering this territory we seek a broad representation of different bioregions, in both North America and internationally.

We currently have a working relationship with the University of Georgia Press for this project, and we plan to seek a contract after we have vetted proposals. We estimate that **essays will be due in October 2009**.

Send your proposal as an e-mail attachment to all three of us. The proposal should include

- your essay title
- an abstract (250-500 words)
- a brief biographical sketch

Deadline for proposals: December 15, 2008

Email your submission both as a Microsoft Word attachment and within the body of your email. (If using Windows Vista, please convert from .docx to .doc format.) to

Tom Lynch: tlynch2@unl.edu

Cheryll Glotfelty: glotfelt@unr.edu

Karla Armbruster: armbruka@webster.edu

CISCI Cinema and Science -

A new innovative online educational environment

Cinema and Science (CISCI) is an educational project promoting science in school. It is part of the NUKLEUS cluster funded under the European Science Teaching Initiative of the European Commission's Sixth Framework Science and Society Program.

Objectives of CISCI

In a few years, especially in Europe, we will have an alarming shortage of scientists in basic research and innovation. Although, science is very popular today - as long as we talk about movies, TV-programmes and popular books. But when it comes to choosing what to study, only few prospective students choose to study science or take up a science career. So, science is a subject which is declining and at best stagnating in the popularity among the young generation. It is obvious that there is a strong interest in our society to act against this trend. The project Cinema and Science (CISCI) is an innovative educational project going to do just that.

CISCI will combine the two most popular media among youngsters, namely movies and the Internet, aiming to stimulate interest in science while dispelling widely-spread misconceptions that arise from pseudo-science. CISCI is setting up a free database with video clips and movie scenes taken from documentaries and popular movies that serve to illustrate scientific concepts and analysing their scientific content from the point of view of different subjects taught at school, like for example physics, chemistry, life sciences and mathematics.

On a web-based platform CISCI does provide this new innovative classroom resource for school teachers and their pupils. The main purpose of CISCI is to enhance the attractiveness of science teaching in schools across Europe complementing formal curricula. The primary target groups are European school teachers and their pupils. As a secondary target also the general public is

addressed. CISCI will use an innovative approach with the following strategic objectives:

- To raise the interest and attractiveness of science in the young generation and support the study and career choices of young people in the direction of science through movies
- To take movies as a vehicle to present scientific concepts and laws to pupils
- To provide teaching staff with a broad range of downloadable support materials to facilitate the preparation of
- lesson plans / curriculum support and allow teaching professionals to collaborate productively via the Internet and to share experience as well as comment / judge the usefulness of the film resources
- To help pupils to learn to distinguish between pseudo-science sciences presented in popular movies and scientific laws and ideas, to think critically about science information presented in popular movies, and help them to learn where the borderline between verified and untested scientific assertions
- To overcome gender-stereotyped representations of science and scientists and encourage especially female students to engage with scientific careers
- To engage with professional bodies who have a vested interest in the promotion of scientific study to fulfil vacancies in industries, e.g., engineering, pharmaceutical, etc., and provide science careers based advice to students

Adapted from an article by **Heinz Oberhummer** (2006); see the CISCI homepage, "Background" at

www.cisci.net

International Conferences / Reports

Conference
Université Libre de Bruxelles

Poetic Ecologies: Nature as Text and Text as Nature in English-Language Verse

On May 14-17 2008, the Conference *Poetic Ecologies: Nature as Text and Text as Nature in English-Language Verse* took place in Belgium, at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (Dept. of Languages and Literatures). The organizer was an EASLCE member, namely, Prof. Franca Bellarsi, whose research focuses primarily on American and Canadian poetry, as well as ecocriticism.

Around a hundred and fifty scholars and poets intervened from North America, Australia, New Zealand, Asia and Europe.

Regional branches of ASLE and of other ecocritical associations were also represented.

Plenary lecturers were: Mihai Stroe (University of Bucharest & Yale University/New York Academy of Science, *Homo Ecologicus: From the Dark Ages to the Romantic Big Bang of Culture and Beyond*); Judith McCombs (Canadian Embassy Senior Fellow, Writer's Center, Bethesda, MD, USA, *The Habit of Fire and Concepts of Nature: Concerning American Westerns and Canadian Northerns, Ecofeminism and Ecology*); Jack Collom (Writing and Poetics Programme, Naropa University, Boulder, CO, USA, *Second Nature*); Pamela Banting (University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, *Making Scents: Signature, Text, Habitat*); Andrew McMurry (University of Waterloo, Ontario,

Canada, *All Literature Is Environmental Literature*).

A rich program of poetry readings presented the variety of voices attained today by nature poetry from North America and Australia (the acclaimed Banting, Collom and McCombs also gave readings, but the contributors would be here too many to be mentioned). Interrelations between the spaces of nature and of text, mainly in North America and Australia, were thus the focus of the conference. Nevertheless, the thirty parallel sessions gave room to regional areas, themes and methods not covered by the plenary lectures and readings. Groups of sessions presented works in fields such as ecofeminist, Asian, African-American and postcolonial studies; current North American verse influenced by postmodernist aesthetics, Irish ecopoetry, Gary Snyder, native cultures, wilderness, place, urban spaces, nature's voice, eco-phenomenologies, spirituality, materiality/immateriality, science, animal otherness(es), imagery, anthologies were the subjects dealt with in the other sessions.

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Fourth Tamkang International Conference on Ecological Discourse
Crisscrossing Word and World:
Ecocriticism, Crisis, and Representation

On May 23-24, 2008 the 4th Tamkang International Conference on Ecological Discourse took place in Tamsui, Taiwan, at Tamkang University. The general topic of the conference was "Crisscrossing Word and World: Ecocriticism, Crisis, and Representation".

Founded and promoted by the Dept. of English, and in particular by Professors Lin Yao-Fu and Huang

I-min, the Tamkang International Conference on Ecological Discourse has, since its first venue, gathered ecocritical scholars from all over the world. This year's keynote speakers were Patrick Murphy (University of Central Florida, USA, *Terraculturation, Political Dissolution, and Myriad Reorientation*), Kate Rigby (Monash University, Australia, *Discoursing on Disaster: The*

Hermeneutics of Environmental Catastrophe), Michael Zimmerman (University of Colorado, Boulder, USA, *Posthumanism's Eschatological Discourse*), and Scott Slovic (University of Nevada, Reno, *Taking to Heart the Literature of Sustainability*). Scott Slovic's bond to Tamkang University is of particular importance here, because he inspired what was the pivotal issue of this conference, namely, the founding of ASLE-Taiwan. Although not yet acknowledged by the Taiwanese government, this new-born branch of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment was "baptized" and welcomed in a general meeting, especially through the congratulatory greetings of the world-wide "sister-associations" (on behalf of EASCLE, a letter written by President Sylvia Mayer was read to the audience).

Over fifty scholars were hosted by Tamkang University, whose generosity and hospitality allowed them to create and reinforce their connections inside and outside the conference.

EASCLE was officially represented by Vice-President Serenella Iovino (*The Inquietude of Otherness: An Ecofeminist Interpretation of Anna Maria Ortese's "The Iguana"*) and Treasurer Christa Grewe-Volpp (*Lifeshaping a New Planet: Joan Slonczewski "The Children Star"*). Board member Hannes Bergthaller gave a talk on "Environment Crisis as Social Ecology."

An interesting and passionate roundtable on the meaning and future of environmental culture and ecocriticism closed the event. It was suggested that the Asian countries such as Taiwan, China, Japan, Korea and Malaysia will take turns hosting ecocritical conferences in the future.

Christa Grewe-Volpp and Serenella Iovino

Publications by EASLCE Members

Scott Slovic, Serenella Iovino, and Shin Yamashiro, eds.
Concentric. Literary and Cultural Studies. Special Issue on Water
March 2008. Vol. 34.1
Dept. of English, National Taiwan University
ISSN: 1729-6897 print
ISNN: 1729-8792 online

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)