

# EASLCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. 4.2 Winter 2009/10

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

2009 has been a year of growth and exploration for EASLCE. In June, the ASLE conference in Victoria has increased both our visibility and the sense of familiarity between European ecocritics and their colleagues from overseas. In November, the conference held in Antalya (Turkey) on the “Future of Ecocriticism: New Horizons” has reinforced the international dialogue among ecocritics, fulfilling our wish of an increasingly extended and self-aware European ecocritical community.

In 2010 more steps in this direction are being and will be taken. The first one has been the conference on European ecocriticism hosted in mid-January by the Radboud University, Nijmegen (Holland). Here, besides the presence of EASLCE’s representatives as members of the scientific committee (Axel Goodbody and Carmen Flys-Junquera) and plenary speakers (Catrin Gersdorf and myself), a ground-breaking plenary panel on “The State of European Ecocriticism,” organized and lead by Carmen Flys Junquera, took place. For the first time European ecocritics of different countries, perspectives, and academic positions were asked to reflect on the continental “identities” of ecocriticism. The result has been a very interesting debate, which will be published in the first issue of Ecozon@.

The year will close with another very important venue for EASLCE’s life: the joint-conference of EASLCE and ASLE UK (University of Bath, UK—September 1-4), will be in fact the first step of a cooperation between the two leading ecocritical associations in Europe.

Certainly seminal for EASLCE’s growth in 2010 will be the launch of Ecozon@—European Journal of Literature, Culture and Environment, an open-

access electronic journal which represents a joint effort between its founding core GIECO (the Spanish Group for Ecocritical Research) and EASLCE. Resonating with the topic of the Turkish international conference, the first issue of Ecozon@ will be entirely focused on “The Future of Ecocriticism.” Expected before spring, it will feature contributions by the most prominent ecocritics both from European and non-European countries (Hubert Zapf, Isabel Hoving, Serpil Opperman, Greg Garrard, Ursula Heise, Cheryll Glotfelty, Greta Gaard, Stacy Alaimo, Joni Adamson, Scott Slovic, and Simon Estok, among many others).

As a European ecocritical journal Ecozon@ has a significant characteristic. It is in fact intended to represent not only an interdisciplinary but also a multilingual forum for ecocriticism. Thus, it perfectly reflects EASLCE’s vocation to mirror both the unity and the multiplicity of the European continent. By definition, in fact, EASLCE is not associated to a single country, and its compound identity takes advantage from the diversity of languages and places to which its members belong.

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## **EASLCE Newsletter**

Vol. 4.2 (Winter 2009/10)

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

EASLCE HOMEPAGE

<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 2010**  
Contact: Sylvia Mayer at  
[sylvia.mayer\(a\)uni-bayreuth.de](mailto:sylvia.mayer(a)uni-bayreuth.de)

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The very finality of EASLCE is to promote the spread of ecocriticism in non-English speaking European countries, helping translate cultural issues about the global environment into new “local” ecocritical idioms. In this way, EASLCE intends to be a crossroad of experiences and to involve progressively more cultures and visions in the debate about ecological literacy.

A dialogue with all the international eco-cultural associations is doubtlessly vital to this endeavor, and the Bath conference will be an important step in this direction. It will be a great chance to continue building a common horizon where different people, from different cultures, languages and countries, can meet to envision a shared culture of sustainability.

Serenella Iovino

#### **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:

Catrin Gersdorf

[cgers@zedat.fu-berlin.de](mailto:cgers@zedat.fu-berlin.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>

## EASLCE Listserv

### EASLCE LISTSERV / DISTRIBUTION LIST

EASLCE now has a distribution list which was announced in the last newsletter. This list will be used instead of the list of emails to announce membership meetings, calls for papers, conferences and so forth, and **we ask all members to subscribe** in order to receive EASLCE news as well as to share information among EASLCE members.

In order to subscribe, you need to send an e-mail to

**LISTSERV@LISTSERV.REDIRIS.ES**

with the following text:

»**subscribe EASLCE Name Last Name**«.

Example: "subscribe EASLCE Jane Doe"

Once subscribed, messages must be sent to the following address: [EASLCE@listserv.rediris.es](mailto:EASLCE@listserv.rediris.es)

The distribution manager is Diana Villanueva Romero. If you have difficulties, please contact her at: [dvillany@unex.es](mailto:dvillany@unex.es)

## Publications / Call for Contributions

### **Ecozon@: European Journal of Literature, Culture and Environment Publication of First Issue**

Finally the decision adopted in the 2008 membership meeting in Alcalá is becoming a reality. Our journal, published jointly by GIECO and EASLCE is almost ready to be launched. The first issue will come out in Spring 2010.

The first issue will feature a collection of essays written specifically for this purpose by prominent ecocritics. The focus will be on the future of ecocriticism in the next decades and its expansion to Europe and other parts of the world. Among the participating scholars are: Joni Adamson, Stacy Alaimo, Franca Bellarsi, Niall Binns, Benjamin Bühler, Simon Estok, Greta Gaard, Greg Garrard, Cheryll Glotfelty, Ursula Heise, Isabel Hoving,

Peter Huang, Serenella Iovino, Richard Kerridge, Timo Muller, Patrick Murphy, Serpil Oppermann, Stephanie Posthumus, Anna Re, Cate Sandilands, Scott Slovic, Rachel Stein, and Hubert Zapf.

The journal will accept articles in five languages and also feature book reviews and a creative writing section. As of Autumn 2010 each issue will have a general section and a thematic section. **The call for papers for the Autumn issue is presented below.** It can also be found on the journal website: [www.ecozona.eu](http://www.ecozona.eu). We hope that EASLCE members will contribute regularly to the journal.

### **Autumn Issue 2010 of Ecozon@ Call for Papers**

*Ecozon@: European Journal on Literature, Culture and Environment* welcomes contributions for the Autumn 2010 issue. This issue will have a general section and a thematic section. Therefore, we are including here a call for both sections.

#### **General Section**

Submissions must be academic papers, works of artistic creation and book or film reviews expressing the relationship between human beings, culture and the environment. Academic articles will be double blind

peer reviewed. The proposed essays (limit of 6.000 words) together with a 300 word (maximum) abstract both in Spanish and English must be submitted online using the subscription guidelines (free submission) from the website: [www.ecozona.eu](http://www.ecozona.eu) by **April 15th** in one of the following five languages: English, Spanish, French, German and Italian.

Recommended word limit for short fiction is 3.000, 1.000 for book and film reviews and 100 lines for poetry. Every submission must follow the MLA format and the author declares responsibility and copyright on all materials included in the paper such as images, quotations, etc.

Further details will be on the journal website in January 2010.

### **Thematic Section for Autumn 2010**

#### **“Greening across borders: the natural environment in a globalized world”**

Guest editor: Christa Grewe-Volpp

Recent studies in ecocriticism have questioned the relevance of the local in a globalized world. Instead of celebrating “rootedness” or “re-inhabitation” or “bioregionalism,” critics suggest to open up the boundaries of place, to think, as Buell maintains in his essay “Ecoglobalist Affects,” “against” or “beyond” nationness, to take an ecoglobalist stance, which is “a whole-earth way of thinking and feeling about environmentality.” Val Plumwood (*Environmental Culture*, 2002) stressed the need to go beyond the often proclaimed small-scale self-sufficiency of local places to grasp the global effects of ecological communities. In her recently published *Sense of Place and Sense of Planet* Ursula Heise argues for the need of an “eco-cosmopolitan” perspective against narrowly defined place conceptions. In the 1990s cultural geographer Doreen Massey already called for a progressive sense of place which is always in process, does not have fixed boundaries or single, unique identities, and is a mixture of wider and more local social relations.

This issue of *Ecozon@* aims to pick up these trends in ecocriticism and analyze the imbrications of the local and the global from a green perspective. It focuses specifically on a transnational environment as a socially and culturally dynamic place with flexible or porous borders which has crucial consequences for our understanding of the natural world.

The essays should analyze concepts of nature that are a part of a progressive sense of place, they should reveal how nature and a globalized culture are mutually active, reflecting each other's interdependence. Essays on literature (fiction and non-fiction), film and the arts could include the following topics:

- the migration of plants and animals
- the transnational effects of ecological catastrophes
- home and the natural environment in a mobile world
- future visions of a green world without borders in science fiction
- the maintaining of strict borders and its effects on the natural environment
- fluid (permeable) borders and a progressive sense of place
- bioregions cutting across political borders
- a gendered sense of natural places in a globalized world
- notions of purity from a globalized green perspective
- green spaces in globalized cities
- traveling and the transportation of green ideas
- cultural diversity and intercultural relations in Europe as models for a transnational approach to environmental problems

Please send your proposal (about 300 words) to Christa Grewe-Volpp through the submissions section of the journal until **February 15**. The deadline for the submitted articles in either English or German (max. 6.000 words, MLA style with footnotes) is **April 15**. All articles should be submitted via the journal platform ([www.ecozona.eu](http://www.ecozona.eu)).

**Scientific Newsletter / Journal**  
**Series “Modern Linguistic and Methodical-and-didactic Researches”**  
**Voronezh State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering,**  
**Russian Federation**

The editorial board of the journal “Modern linguistic and methodical-and-didactic researches” [ISSN 1991-9700] invites EASLCE members to contribute papers for publication. The internationally known journal publishes research from both home and foreign scientists working at Higher Educational Institutions. Since July 2007 the journal has been included into the list of leading scientific editions reviewed by the Highest Certifying Commission of Higher Education Ministry of the Russian Federation (HCC).

The journal has the following sections:

- Linguistics
- Methods and Didactics
- Intercultural communication
- Theory and practice of translation
- Literary Studies

Articles submitted should be timely and relevant and feature innovative and original approaches.

Working languages of the Journal are **Russian, English, and German**. It is published twice a year. The next issues will appear in

- **July 2010** (the papers should be submitted up to 15 March, 2010) and
- **December 2010** (the papers should be submitted up to 15 October 2010).

The arrangement of the papers is done by the editorial board.

Articles should be of 10-12 pages (12 type is recommended). They should contain an abstract in English, and the title of the article should be given in English. Also to be included is brief information about the author: scientific title, place of work, e-mail. Electronic versions of the articles may be sent by e-mail.

Editorial board: Prof. Dr. phil. Z.E. Fomina (editor-in-chief, VGASU); Wolfgang Mieder (principal of the Institute of Germanistic studies and Slavic philology of Vermont University, USA), Prof. Dr. phil. S.V. Motashkova (VSPU) and others.

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## Ecocriticism in Europe / Reports

### GIECO Activities, Spain

The Spanish Research Group GIECO is happy to inform members of its activities. In addition to the joint effort with EASLCE on *Ecozon@*, last October the annual research seminar was held in the National Park “Sierra de la Sagra” (Granada ) under the theme of “Loci Loquentes” where theories and issues of place were discussed. Patrick Murphy joined us as keynote speaker with a lecture on “An Ecological Feminist Revisioning of the Masculinist Sublime”. The next research seminar will be held in March 2010 in the National Park “Cañadas del Teide” (Volcano Park in Canary Islands).

The group is also finishing its book *Ecocríticas*, which will be the first volume in Spanish with ecocritical theory and will be published by Iberoamericana Press in Fall 2010. Also, the literary journal *Nerter* will publish a thematic volume in spring 2010 featuring ecocriticism, coordinated by members of the GIECO group and will feature translations of articles by ecocritics, some of them EASLCE members.

**The Rachel Carson Center –  
A New Center for Environmental Studies in Munich  
LMU Munich / Deutsches Museum**

In August 2009, the Rachel Carson Center was founded in Munich. The Center is a joint initiative of Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich and the Deutsches Museum. It is headed by Christof Mauch and Helmuth Trischler. Generously supported by the German Ministry for Research and Education, the Rachel Carson Center's goal is to further research and discussion in the field of international environmental studies and to strengthen the role of the humanities in the current political and scientific debates about the environment. Special emphasis is being placed on international, comparative and historical perspectives. The Center brings together leading academics from all over the world who work on the complex relationship between nature and culture across disciplines. Individual projects focus on different time periods and different geographic areas. The Center is named after the worldwide recognized American scientist and nature writer Rachel Carson.

In pursuit of its goals the Center offers a wide range of programs and activities. As part of its efforts at public outreach the Center is cooperating in the establishment of multiple museum exhibitions at Munich's Deutsches Museum and other venues. Other public events include

weekly colloquia and a house lecture series. In the publishing arena, the Center will publish the series *International Environmental History* (New York/Oxford: Berghahn Books) in cooperation with the European Society for Environmental History. It also publishes its own series *Environment and Society* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht) and a preprint series will be available to download from the Center's website. Above and beyond that, the Center's projects include a large, online electronic database devoted to the field of environmental studies. This database will include primary sources (texts, images, statistics, etc.) and promises to become a premier portal for environmental scholars. The Center regularly holds international seminars, conferences and workshops.

To establish a cohort of excellent scholars working in environmental history and related disciplines, the Center offers fellowships for postdoctoral and senior scholars to be in residence at the Center in Munich.

For more information on the Center and its activities, please visit the website: [www.carsoncenter.uni-muenchen.de](http://www.carsoncenter.uni-muenchen.de).

## **Conferences / Reports**

### **“The Future of Ecocriticism: New Horizons” Antalya, Turkey, 4-6 November 2009**

Turkey's first international ecocriticism conference on “The Future of Ecocriticism: New Horizons” (organized by Prof. Dr. Serpil Oppermann and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ufuk Özdağ from Hacettepe University and Prof. Dr. Nevin Özkan and Elis Yıldırım from Ankara University, and co-sponsored by Turkish Fulbright Commission, and various other organizations) took place in Limak Limra Hotel, near Antalya on 4-6 November 2009 with participants from 26 different countries around the world.

The conference has attracted a broad range of ecocritical work. About 100 papers were presented on various ecocritical issues and topics including postcolonial reflections, apocalyptic narratives, eco-aesthetics, ecopoetics, environmental history and justice, climate change, cultural ecology, animal studies, Native American literatures, Turkish literature, and children's environmental rights and literature. The conference

hosted nine prominent ecocritics both from the West and from the East as plenary speakers who shared their new research: Scott Slovic, Greta Gaard, Elizabeth Schultz and nature writer Linda Hogan from the United States, Greg Garrard and Axel Goodbody from the United Kingdom, Serenella Iovino from Italy, the Canadian ecocritic Simon Estok from South Korea, and Baisheng Zhao from China have contributed to the lively discussions both with their keynote speeches and with their comments and questions in concurrent sessions.

One of the objectives of the conference was to introduce Turkish nature writers which was realized with the special plenary panel where four prominent Turkish nature writers presented their latest work. A similar plenary panel introduced outdoor Turkish environmental

education. Another objective of the conference was to form eco-cultural bridges between the West and the East. The conference succeeded in realizing this goal as well suitable to Turkey's geographical position as a bridge between continents and cultures. The field trips to

ancient places in the Mediterranean region, such as Phaselis, to the city of Antalya and to Mt Olympos were also organized enhancing the eco-friendly atmosphere of the conference.

Prof. Dr. Serpil Oppermann

### **„New Grounds: Ecocriticism, Globalization and Cultural Memory” Radboud University, Nijmegen (Holland), January 13-15, 2010**

Radboud University hosted the conference entitled “New Grounds: Ecocriticism, Globalization and Cultural Memory.” Organized by Astrid Bracke and Margu rite Corporaal, the conference enabled researchers on ecocriticism from all over the world to debate on ecocritical issues from a variety of approaches. There were around forty lectures, with delegates from at least fifteen countries. The different sessions covered a wide range of topics such as: architecture, visual arts, ecopoetics, transgressing boundaries, sense of place, nostalgia, apocalypse, material culture, animals, postcolonialism or globalization.

Greg Garrard gave the opening plenary lecture, “Worlds Without Us: a Typology of Human Absence”, in which he analyzed different written and visual works dealing with the idea of what the world would look like if humans disappeared from the Earth. On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> two plenary sessions took place. As the opening speaker of the morning, Serenella Iovino (president of EASLCE) delivered a talk about all the problems the city of Naples has in relation to the illicit and toxic activities of the ecomafia, choosing as the title of her presentation: “The New City and the Waste Land: Naples, Trash, and an Ethic of Narration.” Later on in the morning she was also one of the participants in the plenary round table about “Ecocriticism in Europe.” Five representatives of five different European countries, chaired by Carmen Flys Junquera, offered an interesting overview of the state of ecocriticism in Europe. On Friday 15<sup>th</sup>, as the plenary lecturer, Catrin Gersdorf spoke to the conference attendants about “Nature in the Grid: American Literature, Urbanism and Ecocriticism.”

It was Garrard's colleague at Bath Spa University Richard Kerridge who delivered the last plenary “Can Ecocriticism be an Anti-Consumerist Criticism?” In his talk he addressed again the questions he threw to the round table speakers: do those who work in ecocriticism need to include some practice in their works? Do they need to part from abstract concepts in order to focus some more on the contemporary ecological issues the world is suffering?

The organization offered as well two different field trips that were very much into the ecocritic spirit of the conference. On the one hand, participants could take a trip around the city centre of Nijmegen, the oldest city in Holland. On the other hand, it was also possible to make a visit to the Kr ller-M ller Museum, located in the middle of the beautiful Hoge Veluwe National Park, and with works by important artists such as Van Gogh, Renoir or Picasso, among others. After the field trips, the conference dinner offered once more the possibility, this time in a more informal and relaxed way, to continue discussing ecocritical issues.

In the end, the conference held in Nijmegen offered another opportunity for scholars working on the growing field of ecocriticism to get together, exchange ideas and, particularly in this occasion, to look for new grounds in this critical area that may allow it to grow and cover more and more cultural and even social aspects.

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