



# easlce

Newsletter Vol. 16.1 Summer 2021

Dear EASLCE members and friends,

We have just entered summer and are almost touching with our fingertips the end of a very different - and very difficult - academic year, in which hours in front of the screen have grown exponentially as most universities were forced to resort to hybrid or online scenarios for teaching, tutorials, vivas and all sorts of meetings. Far from stopping or slowing down, academic activity also increased in the last year with the attractive offer of online events that we have been able to attend from the relative comfort of our computer screens. Exciting, indeed, but also incredibly taxing.

The EASLCE Executive Board has been quite active, too, both through exchanges of emails and the much more rewarding - despite their two-dimensionality - online meetings. As you already know by now, together with the organising committees of EASLCE Granada and EASLCE Perpignan, the decision was taken in March to postpone both conferences and recover their biennial nature.

Having skipped EASLCE 2020, we are now looking forward to meeting in Granada in autumn 2022 and in Perpignan in early summer 2024. The Granada team will give all those who sent proposals the opportunity to revise and resubmit their abstracts if they wish to do so, and will open again the CFP once the new dates for Granada can be confirmed.

The EB's most recent discussion concerned the document that you have in your hands - or, rather, on your screens. Given that the current editor of the newsletter, Uwe Küchler, has expressed a desire to step down after the Summer 2021 issue, we took the opportunity to discuss whether to open up the position for a new editor or to make this the last issue, since we shared the impression that the amount of information and successful working of the different media in which EASLCE-related information is published, together with the fact that new issues have gradually become slimmer, might render the newsletter a bit redundant and anachronistic. However, we decided to go ahead with it and agreed on Reinhard Hennig's idea that editing the newsletter could become a task associated with the position of the vice-president, which means that it will be a two-year job and that Reinhard will take over as editor after Uwe steps down. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Reinhard for his enthusiastic support of the newsletter and his generosity in stepping up to the plate, and to Uwe Küchler for his generous dedication to the newsletter over the last four years. Thanks a million!

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<https://www.easlce.eu>

Between newsletters, in order to make it easier for EASLCE members to submit material relevant for inclusion in the news section on the EASLCE website, we announced at the beginning of June the creation of a new email address: [news@easlce.eu](mailto:news@easlce.eu), where current EASLCE members can send any information relevant to EASLCE.

Once again, I would like to thank Michael Markwick, our webmaster-cum-wizard for having everything ready the second after a decision is taken. Let us know about your new publications, calls for papers or any other EASLCE-related events at this

email address, keeping in mind that you can also continue sending information to the mailing list.

Before signing off, let me remind you that, although we won't be having a conference this year, we will be hosting our AGM online next November. The precise dates will be announced in September. Till then, hoping you are all healthy in body, mind and spirit, let me wish you all a good summer. Enjoy a much-deserved holiday.

*Margarita Carretero-González*  
EASLCE President



This month we are celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Arcadiana blog and community. We are very grateful to EASLCE for supporting us in our endeavour and to everyone who has supported our efforts by contributing a blog post, volunteering, and attending our events. Without this support from every one of you, we would not have been able to thrive. Our core team has grown over the past year and now includes three blog editors, Milo Harries, Lena Pfeifer, and Julia Ditter, as well as two events coordinators, Annemarie Mönch and Rosanne van der Voet. With the help of Annemarie and Rosanne, some of our community members have set up a variety of events that run in regular intervals:

- Informal coffee mornings (first Monday of every month, 12-1pm CEST), organised by Hannah Nelson-Teutsch
- Peer review workshops, organised by Sofie Schrey
- Creative Writers Forum, organised by Katharina Kalinowski
- Short fiction reading group (third Thursday of every month, 7pm CEST), organised by Klara Machata and Julia Ditter

To support our community over the summer, we are also running our first Summer Writing Retreat on 7 July 2021 from 9-4pm CEST for which you can register via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/arcadiana-summer-writing-retreat-tickets-156471288837>.

We still have a running call for papers and are always looking for interesting contributions in the form of opinion pieces,

commentaries, reviews, but also creative writing, interviews and other alternative formats (audio, video) that explore new ways of engaging with the environmental humanities in a publicly accessible manner. At the moment we are also running a special call for papers to attract blog posts that explore the diversity of “Ecocriticism in Europe and Beyond.” Details about how to submit can be found here:

<https://arcadiana.easlce.eu/about/submissions/>.

If you are or know a postgraduate or early career researcher working in the environmental humanities, please consider getting involved in our friendly community and to spread the word. We are always happy to see new faces. Equally, we are always looking for new opportunities for collaboration with more advanced scholars and are open to all ideas you may have. Please get in touch if you have any suggestions for developing the community or want to discuss possibilities of collaboration via [info@arcadiana.easlce.eu](mailto:info@arcadiana.easlce.eu).

If you want to be kept informed about any new events and developments, send us an email to [info@arcadiana.easlce.eu](mailto:info@arcadiana.easlce.eu) we will add you to our mailing list.

We will be meeting on 28 June at 5pm CEST for our annual general meeting to which everyone is very welcome. We will give some more detailed updates of what we are currently planning and are hoping for your suggestions for the development of the community.

## EASLCE Webinars

This spring we successfully ran two EASLCE Webinars. The first webinar on “Transveral Aesthetics” was hosted by Dr André Krebber and invited us to explore the connection between aesthetics and transversality from an animal studies perspective. The second webinar on “Realism(s) in the Anthropocene” was hosted by Dr Adeline Johns-Putra and offered an insight into the debate of whether realism as a central narrative mode can retain its relevance in the age of the Anthropocene. We would like to thank both of our hosts for delivering two brilliant and thought-inspiring webinars and our

participants for their active and enthusiastic engagement. Summaries of the Webinars can be read on the blog or the EASLCE website:

<https://arcadiana.easlce.eu/blog/webinar-summaries/>.

If you are interested in hosting a webinar in the future, please get in touch with the coordinators Lena Pfeifer and Julia Ditter at [easlcewebinars@gmail.com](mailto:easlcewebinars@gmail.com). For news about upcoming webinars, sign up for the *Arcadiana* mailing list or follow Arcadiana & EASLCE on Twitter: [@ArcadianaE](https://twitter.com/ArcadianaE); [@easlce](https://twitter.com/easlce).

## PhD Project

### ***Serial Ecologies of New Golden Age TV: Conceptualizing Ecology, Seriality and Ecopedagogy in the Anthropocene***

*By Verena Wurth. Scholarship Holder of the a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School for the Humanities Cologne, Cohort of 2021, University of Cologne. [verena.wurth\(at\)uni-koeln.de](mailto:verena.wurth(at)uni-koeln.de).*

In my PhD project, *Serial Ecologies of New Golden Age TV: Conceptualizing Ecology, Seriality and Ecopedagogy in the Anthropocene*, I explore the ecologies of US-American TV crime dramas of the New Golden Age from 2000 to present. As this New Golden Age of TV temporally coincides with Paul Crutzen’s coining of the Anthropocene, I am particularly concerned with the question how popular series like *The Sopranos*, *The Wire*, *Mad Men*, *Breaking Bad*, *House of Cards*, *True Detective*, *Twin Peaks*, or *Too Old to Die Young* represent anthropogenic climate change, biodiversity and habitat loss, pollution and toxicity, or other global and local environmental catastrophes.

With this project, I hope to advance ecocritical research within the growing field of Anthropocene Television by also considering these TV series from a narratological viewpoint, arguing that ecological paradigms help understand how complex TV functions both on diegetic and extradiegetic levels, and that serial narrative characteristics can be useful when addressing ecological questions of sustainability, extinction, or environmental justice.

In an effort to combine seriality and media studies, ecocriticism, and education for sustainability, I moreover discuss the ecopedagogical potential that arises from the considerations of ecological and serial relationalities: I argue that the medium of television can be very productive in facing the pressing demands of an activating

education about environmental and ecological issues and challenges in the age of the Anthropocene.

My conceptualization of this project owes a lot to Anthropocene Television scholars like Julia Leyda, Diane Negra, Maria Sulimma, Nicole Seymour, Dávid Levente Palatinus,

and many more, and I am thankful to Judith Rauscher and Roman Bartosch for supervising this project.

I am looking forward to any questions, comments, concerns, criticisms, compliments, conversations, and cooperation requests.

## Conference Invitation

### "The Garden and the Dump: Across more-than-human entanglements"

Confirmed Speakers: Michel Marder

Aarhus University is pleased to announce a two-day online conference on the multitude of ways of seeing, thinking, and *living* ecology through visual art, cinema, magic and philosophy. The programme proposes to engage with a deep theoretical garden of ideas and experiences of ecology with a focus on cycles of decay and efflorescence in garbage and in plants, and on their particular ontologies and ways of more than human inhabitation of the planet.

What appears as a juxtaposition in the title of the conference points at the productive paradox that lies at the heart of the uninterrupted continuums and entangled lives of all humans, non-humans, and things alike. The conference thus attempts to explore the tenets of ecological thinking across a wide spectrum of techno/ bio/ cultural phenomena, from waste and pollution to more than human intelligences and entanglements.

With contributions from the fields of posthuman theory, ecocriticism, new materialism, philosophy, theology, art history, and critical plant studies, we will discuss the sensorial, mystical, aesthetic and theoretical encounters with the nonhuman world, as seen for instance through the prismatic ecology of earthly gardens and dumps and their multi-coloured and multi-dimensional posthuman agencies.

*The conference is free for everyone to attend. If you're interested in learning more, send an e-mail to [nicolaiskiveren@cc.au.dk](mailto:nicolaiskiveren@cc.au.dk) and we will put you on the mailing list for the event.*

#### Dates:

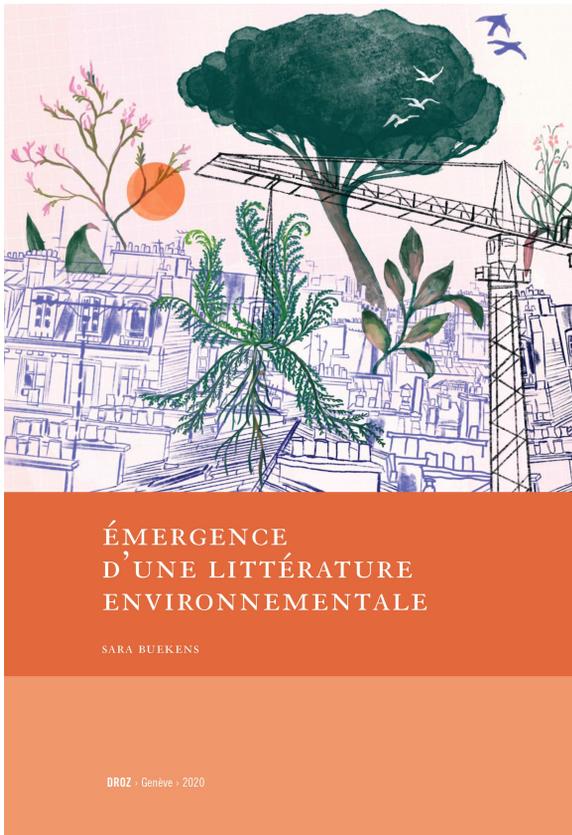
15 Sep: 5pm-7pm (CET), on Zoom

16 Sep: 1pm-5pm (CET), on Zoom



# Publications

## *Émergence d'une littérature environnementale*



Buekens, Sara. Uwe & Preiss, Judith. *Émergence d'une littérature environnementale*. Geneva: Droz, 2021. [ISBN: 978-9070489311].

evolutions in their writing style and in their choice of certain literary genres to their changing ethical points of view and shows how these writers also integrate metaliterary considerations in their works, reflecting on how literature can contribute to a larger ecological sensibility.

Sara Buekens holds a PhD in French literature and is a postdoctoral researcher at Ghent University (Belgium). Her research focuses on the representation of nature and ecological issues in French and African Francophone literature of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Today, ecology is an inevitable subject, both in private conversations and in public discourse, whether it is expressed in political debates or in the media. The urgency of the issue and the virulence of the exchanges can, however, make us forget that this debate did not start yesterday. Environmental concerns were already expressed in the second half of the 20th century, including in literary writings. Thus, between 1950 and 1980, Romain Gary, Pierre Gascar, Julien Gracq, Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio and Jean-Loup Trassard expressed their attachment to the natural world. They were also among the first to address environmental issues such as water and air pollution, the extinction of animal and plant species, the destruction of natural landscapes and the nuclear threat.

In this book, Sara Buekens examines to what extent the form of these French environmental texts is influenced by the choice and the nature of the ecological problems that are discussed by Gary, Gascar, Gracq, Le Clézio and Trassard. She links the

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