



easlce

Newsletter Vol. 18.2 Winter 2023

Dear EASLCE members and friends,

With 2023 soon coming to its end, I want to thank you all for your involvement and for your manifold contributions to the community and the work of EASLCE. Our organization is kept alive and lively by all our members who organize webinars, edit and contribute to our journal *Ecozon@*, feed our social media accounts with content, edit the *Arcadiana* blog and send in contributions to it, contribute with their expertise and creativity on EASLCE's Advisory Board, organize and attend EASLCE-related conferences, seminars, and courses, administrate our website, and do a hundred more things in and related to EASLCE. On behalf of the Executive Board, I therefore want to thank you all for making EASLCE such a lively and rewarding community. After such an opening for this newsletter, it is difficult to go over to "business as usual", but I will nevertheless in the following try to give you a brief overview of what currently is happening within EASLCE. One important thing to note is that our next annual general meeting (AGM) will take place digitally on Zoom on Friday, October 6th 2023 from 2 pm to 4 pm, and we kindly ask all of you to save this date. We hope that as many of our members as possible will attend this meeting. I would also like to remind you that the EASLCE Zoom account can be used by all members to organize EASLCE-related meetings of various kinds – please contact our treasurer Sibylle Machat if you are interested.

2023 also seems to have been a very productive year for many of our members. A great number of ecocritical books have been published and various conferences in ecocriticism and the wider field of the environmental humanities have been organized by EASLCE members. I want to encourage you to also in the future let our entire community know about such important news, for example, through sending information to our members' email list, to the vice president for inclusion in our newsletter, and to news@easlce.eu for publication on our website. If you are an EASLCE member, you can, for example, send in calls for papers, conference reports, and news about book publications. Detailed information on how to submit news for the EASLCE website can be found at <https://www.easlce.eu/cfp-submission/>.

And there is much to look forward to in the coming year: In 2024, the 10th biannual EASLCE conference, titled *Sea More Blue: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Blue*

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EASLCE Newsletter Vol. 18.2 Winter 2023

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EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF LITERATURE, CULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT

<https://www.easlce.eu>

Ecopoetics, will take place in Perpignan from 17th to 20th June. The organizing team has received very many excellent proposals which all have been thoroughly evaluated, and the program for the conference is currently being assembled. At this conference, we will also hold our next Annual General Meeting, where we will decide about a possible revision and renewal of EASLCE's mission statement and elect a new Executive Board as well as new members for the Advisory Board. Perpignan will also mark the 20th anniversary of EASLCE. And we hope, of course, that we can celebrate this anniversary together with as many of our members as possible!

With this, I end this column and send you all the best wishes for the festive season and the new year.

Reinhard

EASLCE president 2022–24



Research Project

Das naturkulturelle Gedächtnis im Anthropozän – Archive, Literaturen und Medien der Erdgeschichte / The Nature-Cultural Memory in the Anthropocene – Archives, Literatures and Media of Earth History (DU 320/11-1), University of Vechta, conducted by Gabriele Dürbeck

The triennial research project, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), starts in 1.1.2024 at University of Vechta.

Short abstract:

Contributing to the interdisciplinary research field of Environmental Humanities, the project addresses the question through which scientific practices, institutions, and representation processes in various media Earth history is constructed as a framework that co-constitutes human identities. By bringing together human and Earth history, it contributes to a new self-understanding of humanity. In this process, physical archives of Earth history (e.g. ice cores, sedimentary layers, tree growth ring) play an important role as anchor points for new narratives of a human history in the horizon of geological deep time.

The project thus pursues three goals: (1) the formulation of a theory of

nature-cultural memory will contribute to the expansion of Cultural Memory Studies; Whereas previous basic research in cultural studies has worked strictly within the epistemological boundaries of the nature-culture divide, the integration of physical archives into public and political discourses requires a broader conceptualization of cultural memory. (2) It aims to a discourse-analytical investigation of scientific texts on physical and nature-cultural archives from the multidisciplinary Anthropocene discourse and will provide an understanding of the constitution of a nature-cultural interpretive power; and (3) a knowledge-poetological and media-aesthetic analysis of the modes of representation in nature-cultural memory processes will investigate how earth-historical orientation knowledge for a responsible design of the future is constituted and communicated.



Conference Reports

Seminar/Interview: «Über das Schreiben: Poetik und Praxis» - Raoul Schrott im Gespräch (mit Giulia A. Disanto) [On writing: Poetics and Practice – Raoul Schrott in conversation with Giulia A. Disanto]

Workshop – Literary translation German-Italian: «Die Wüste „schreiben“ und „übersetzen“: Zum Dialog zwischen Literatur, Natur und Wissenschaft»

Università del Salento, Italy, 26-28.9.2023

In September 2023, Austrian academic, writer and translator Raoul Schrott attended the University of Salento's Department of Humanities for two events: 1. A German-language interview, also broadcast online, entitled: «Über das Schreiben: Poetik und Praxis» - Raoul Schrott im Gespräch (mit Giulia A. Disanto) [On writing: Poetics and Practice – Raoul Schrott in conversation with Giulia A. Disanto]; 2. A literary translation workshop (German-Italian) entitled: «Die Wüste „schreiben“ und „übersetzen“: Zum Dialog zwischen Literatur, Natur und Wissenschaft» ["Writing" and "translating" the desert: On the dialogue between literature, nature and science].

"Poetics is also a physics of words," writes Raoul Schrott. The work of the Austrian poet and academic has always straddled the boundary between literature and science, between antiquity and modernity, as well as between human beings and nature. Whether the sources of inspiration in the land of the muses or the current changes in the landscape due to climate change are being traced, Schrott's poems and works offer a reliable compass to orientate oneself in the labyrinth of existence and human emotions, especially when not only human life but also nature proves to be vulnerable and ephemeral.

1. In the interview we were able to infer a

multitude of themes dear to Schrott, whose works not only take readers into the innermost natural recesses of the Earth (Finis Terrae, Tristan da Cunha, etc.) but also reconstruct, for example, in the Epos entitled *Erste Erde* [The First Earth. An Epic Tale], the history of the earth even prior to the advent of humankind. Many of Schrott's works question the relationship between human existence and nature, also bringing out the ethical value of this questioning in the literary effects of irony and the grotesque, and above all, in the investigation of the sublime. Many texts were addressed in which Schrott thematises the planet's desert spaces, ranging from cold to sandy deserts spanning from America to China. The desert emerges in these texts not only as a place that is symbolic of climate change and the relationship between North and South, or West and East of the planet but also as a very foregone symbol of the process of writing itself (memory, archive, narrative). Furthermore, issues were addressed, such as the subject matter dealt with by Leopardi, thereby entailing the indifference of nature, the relationship between human history and natural history, the importance of literary imagery for new visions of the relationship with nature, the relationship between the natural sciences and literature, and also the importance of the perception

of beauty and the experience of the sublime for a more conscious stance in favour of the defence of natural spaces.

2. The second event consisted of a German-Italian translation workshop based mainly on Schrott's texts in which the subject of the desert emerged. Starting with excerpts from the novella *Die Wüste Lop Nor*, the Italian edition of which I had the pleasure to translate and edit in 2022 (for further information:

<http://www.lagrandeillusion.it/it/libro/il-deserto-di-lop/>), we tackled practical issues of literary translation together with students of foreign language and literature degree courses. We also worked on a poem from Schrott's latest collection, entitled *Inventur des Sommers. Über das Abwesende* (Inventory of the summer.

About the Absent; Carl Hanser Verlag, 2023), for which the students had previously prepared an autonomous translation within the scope of individual and group work. The various translations were commented on and discussed with the author. Particular attention was paid to the different meanings of the numerous terms pertaining to the natural landscape in German and Italian and how they should be found and chosen. This work was also able to bring out how much language, particularly literary and poetic language, conceals and determines the way we think about nature and our way of being in the world.

For further information (in German or Italian):

<https://www.austriacult.roma.it/de/evento/uber-das-schreiben-poetik-und-praxis-raoul-schrott/>

Giulia A. Disanto



International Conference/Colloque international

« Que peut la littérature pour les vivants ? »

Cerisy, 26 juin – 2 juillet 2023,

co-organized by Colette Camelin, Béné Meillon, and Alain Romestaing

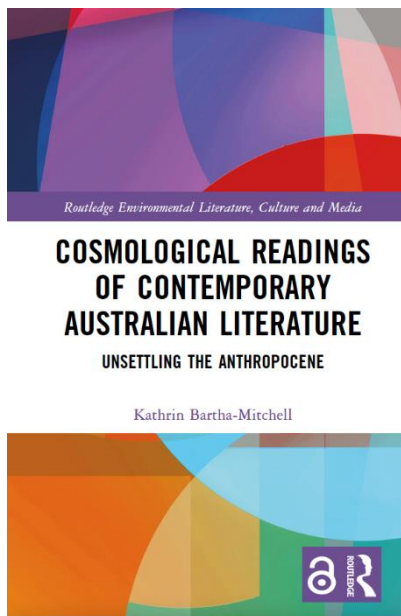
Taking place over an entire week at the beautiful Château de Cerisy-la Salle, in Normandie, France, the “Que peut la littérature pour les vivants?” conference (“What Can Literature do for the Living?”) gathered over fifty French and Francophone academics and scientists (from France, but also from Belgium and Canada) June 26 to July 2 2024. The conference program had been braided by the organizers (Colette Camelin, Béné Meillon and Alain Romestaing) with that for the “Le Renouveau du sauvage” conference (“Renewing the Wild”) organized by Raphaël Larrère and other scientists, bringing together thinkers and researchers looking at literature and wildness from a variety of perspectives and disciplines. Throughout the week, many joint sessions, as well as all the meals and evenings, thus sparked important conversations between ecocritics, eco-poeticians, philosophers, and colleagues working within a wide array of the humanities and sciences. The conference made room for both accomplished academics and PhD students, shedding light on the vitality of the fields covered by the two conferences. Various moments throughout the week were devoted to artistic events, including a performance (“Terminus sauvage”—a multimedia performance by Benjamin Audouard & Mathilde Gilot, Colletif SMOG), an multimedia exhibition (“Danse et anamorphoses sylvestres” by a collective represented in Cerisy by Caroline Granger and Béné Meillon), literary readings (Giselle Bienne and Gilles-Eric Séralini) or even an informal singing night (initiated by Michel Collot).

Participants in the two conferences are now working on a voluminous collection of essays co-edited by Colette Camelin, Raphaël Larrère, and Alain Romestaing, to come out in 2024 and to be published by HDiffusion.



Publications

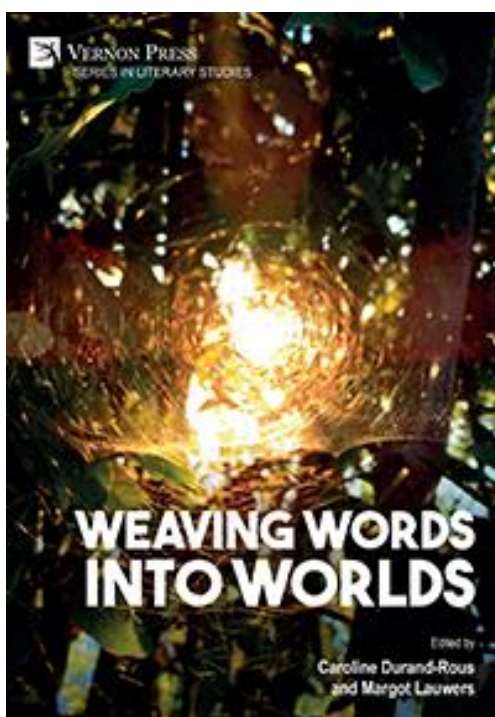
Bartha-Mitchell, Kathrin. *Cosmological Readings of Contemporary Australian Literature, Unsettling the Anthropocene*, Routledge, 2023.



More information:

<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/oa-mono/10.4324/9781003312154/cosmological-readings-contemporary-australian-literature-kathrin-bartha-mitchell>

Durand-Rous, Caroline and Margot Lauwers, Eds. *Weaving Words into Worlds*, Vernon Press, 2023.



More information:

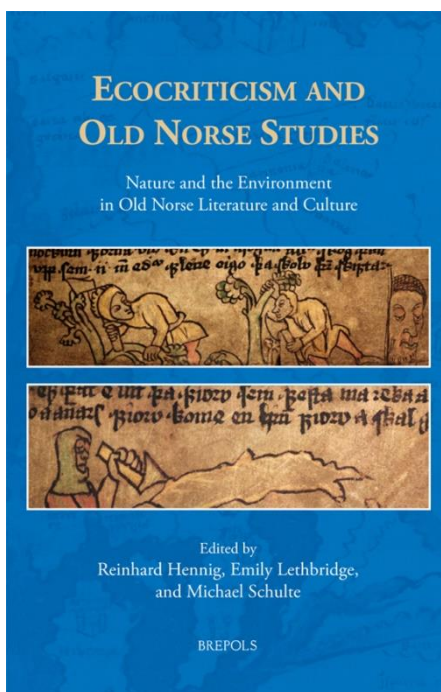
<https://vernonpress.com/book/1729>

Furusest, Sissel and Hennig, Reinhard: *Økokritisk håndbok. Natur og miljø i litteraturen* [Ecocritical Handbook. Nature and the Environment in Literature]. Oslo: Universitetsforlaget, 2023



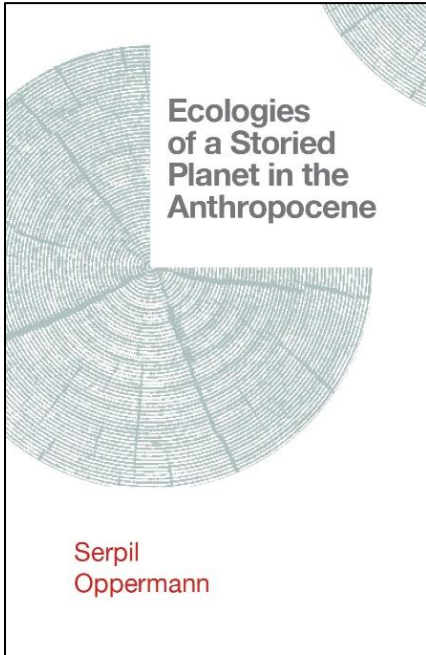
More information:
<https://www.universitetsforlaget.no/okokritisk-handbok>

Ecocriticism and Old Norse Studies. Nature and the Environment in Old Norse Literature and Culture. Ed. by Reinhard Hennig, Emily Lethbridge, and Michael Schulte. Turnhout: Brepols, 2023



More information:
<https://www.brepols.net/products/IS-9782503604848-1>

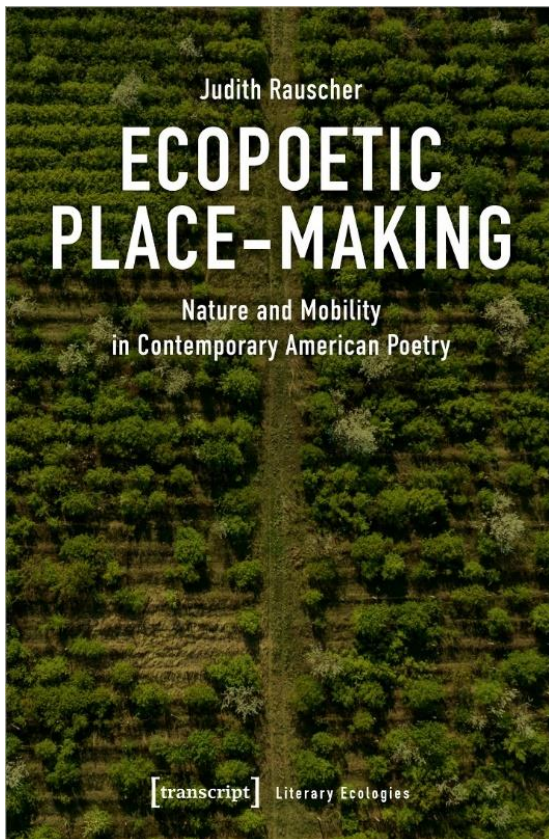
Oppermann, Serpil, *Ecologies of a Storied Planet in the Anthropocene*, West Virginia University Press, 2023.



More information:

<https://wvupressonline.com/ecologies-of-a-storied-planet>

Rauscher, Judith, *Ecopoetic Place-Making, Nature and Mobility in Contemporary American Poetry*, Transcript Publishing, 2023.



More information: <https://www.transcript-publishing.com/978-3-8376-6934-3/ecopoetic-place-making/>

Call for Papers

**3rd International Environmental Humanities Conference:
Ecocriticisms in the 21st Century
Cappadocia University (Mustafapaşa Campus, 50420 Ürgüp/Nevşehir,Turkey)
May 20-22, 2024**

Confirmed Keynote Speakers

- Alexa Weik von Mossner (University of Klagenfurt) (Online)
- Serenella Iovino (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Although ecocriticism has always kept its initial emphasis on the “relationship between literature and the physical environment” (Glotfelty 1996), over the last decade it has “entered into fruitful interdisciplinary collaborations with other disciplines under the umbrella of the environmental humanities” (Goodbody, Flys Junquera, Oppermann 2020). It has expanded its boundaries, becoming more theoretical, translocal, and transcultural, as well as engaging more deeply with environmental justice issues, urban problems, environmental ethics, feminisms, global climate change, and non-western cultures and literatures. The role of literature, arts, and culture is still crucial in studying the philosophical and sociocultural implications of more-than-human environments and their multispecies entangled in numerous anthropogenic stressors. Since literature and arts are often set in dialogue with scientists, ecocriticism is constitutively a cross-disciplinary field of study. But the role played by literature in the development of human discourses, cultural practices, and ethical values about landscapes and waterscapes has never lost its central significance in ecocritical studies. Some key theoretical movements in the methods of ecocriticism include nature writing, place studies, bioregionalism, social

ecology, deep ecology, ecofeminisms, queer ecologies, animal studies, postcolonial ecologies, environmental justice, environmental ethics, ecophobia, new materialisms, posthuman directions, environmental humanities, Anthropocene studies, and green/blue cultural studies. These movements, or new entryways, sometimes overlap and sometimes diverge, but they chart a critical genealogy of ecocriticism. Among many questions addressed today in the field, the question of “what are ecocriticism’s future prospects?” is the most imperative, as literary scholars are called upon ever more frequently to explicate their contribution to a world whose hallmarks are economic sustainability, injustice, biodiversity loss, global pollution, human and nonhuman migrations, loss of tangible and intangible heritage, food insecurity, and high-impact climate change.

For the 3rd international conference organized by the Environmental Humanities Center, Cappadocia University, we invite scholars to discuss the branches/waves and the new directions of ecocriticism, including recent theories, emerging topics and new challenges, ecocriticism’s converging and diverging points from other ecological approaches in social sciences and the humanities (such as social ecology, environmental history, ecopsychology, etc.), its alliances with natural sciences, its activist impulses, and its transcultural and transnational visions. We are interested in proposals that highlight encompassing theoretical, cultural, and ecological

interpretive strategies rather than ecocritical readings of single literary or artistic texts.

We invite individual papers and panel proposals on the following and related topics:

- Affective ecocriticism
- Anthropocene and ecocriticism
- Art and ecocriticism
- Climate change and ecocriticism
- Elemental ecocriticism
- Empirical ecocriticism
- Environmental-Justice ecocriticism
- Feminist ecocriticism
- Food and ecocriticism
- Material ecocriticism
- Media/film and ecocriticism
- National/continental ecocriticisms
- Place-based ecocriticism
- Postcolonial ecocriticism
- Posthumanist ecocriticism
- Postmodern ecocriticism
- Prismatic, dark, veer, queer ecologies and ecocriticism
- Urban ecocriticism
- Water and ecocriticism
- Waves of ecocriticism

We also welcome proposals for visual art exhibitions at the conference venue. The organizers reserve the right to select the applications.

Format: The conference will be in-person only. There will be no virtual sessions.

Abstract/Bio Statement Submissions: The official language of the conference is English. Interested scholars are kindly asked to submit abstracts between 200-350 words for 20-minute presentations, including 3-5

key words and a short bio note (70-100 words) as a single Microsoft Word file (no PDF please) to the conference email address. Please include your full name, institutional affiliation (including country information), abstract title, and email address (not included in the max. 350-word text limit) at the top of the abstract file. Please send proposals to the conference e-mail address: cappadocia.ehconference2024@gmail.com

The receipt of submissions will be acknowledged within 3 workdays. If you have not received a confirmation after 3 workdays, please contact Dr. Sinan Akilli at sinan.akilli@kapadokya.edu.tr

Conference Registration Fees: The conference fee includes the conference pack, lunch at the university cafeteria, and snacks and refreshments served during coffee breaks (20 thru 22 May).

**PARTICIPANTS WITH PAPER PRESENTATION
Early Registration (by Friday, March 29, 2024, 11:59 pm (GMT +3))**

Faculty Member (Turkish University Affiliation): 2000 TL

Faculty Member (Foreign University Affiliation): 150 EUR

Graduate Student (Turkish University Affiliation)*: 1000 TL

Graduate Student (Foreign University Affiliation)*: 75 EUR

Late Registration (by Friday, April 19, 2024, 11:59 pm (GMT +3))

Faculty Member (Turkish University Affiliation): 2500 TL

Faculty Member (Foreign University Affiliation): 200 EUR

Graduate Student (Turkish University Affiliation)*: 1250 TL

Graduate Student (Foreign University Affiliation)*: 100 EUR

NON-SPEAKING PARTICIPANTS (max. 30 places; registration on a “first come, first served” basis)

Early Registration (by Friday,

March 29, 2024, 11:59 pm (GMT +3))

Faculty Member (Turkish University Affiliation): 1250 TL

Faculty Member (Foreign University Affiliation): 100 EUR

Graduate Student (Turkish University Affiliation)*: 750 TL

Graduate Student (Foreign University Affiliation)*: 50 EUR

Late Registration (by Friday, April 19, 2024, 11:59 pm (GMT +3))

Faculty Member (Turkish University Affiliation): 2000 TL

Faculty Member (Foreign University Affiliation): 150 EUR

Graduate Student (Turkish University Affiliation)*: 1000 TL

Graduate Student (Foreign University Affiliation)*: 75 EUR

- Scanned copy of current student ID card is required at the time of registration and should be sent to the conference email address together with the registration form as a separate document.

Peer Review Process: All abstracts will be double-blind peer reviewed by two reviewers.

Publication Prospects: All accepted abstracts will be electronically published as a Conference Abstracts book and maintained on the conference website. A separate call for submissions will also be issued soon after the conference to invite full text articles to be selected through double-blind peer review for an edited collection of essays to be published by Cappadocia University Press Environmental Humanities Series.

Important Dates

Deadline for abstract and short bio submission: Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 11:59 pm (GMT +3).

Peer-review accept/reject decision notification: Friday, March 1, 2024, 11:59 pm (GMT +3).

Draft program announcement: Friday, March 15, 2024, 11:59 pm (GMT +3).

Final program announcement: Friday, March 29, 2024, 11:59 pm (GMT +3).

Conference Location: The conference will take place at Mustafapaşa Campus, Cappadocia University, Nevşehir, Turkey. In addition to being the central campus of Cappadocia University, Mustafapaşa (former Sinasos) is the winner of the “Best Tourism Village” title awarded by The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in December 2021. For further details, please visit <https://mustafapasakapadokya.org/en/>

Travel: Mustafapaşa Campus is conveniently accessed through two airports, Kayseri Airport and Nevşehir Kapadokya Airport, both of which are within 1-hour travelling distance (by taxi or shuttle service). Bus service to Ürgüp and Nevşehir central bus stations is also available from all major cities in Turkey.

Accommodation: A list of the recommended accommodation options (hotels that Cappadocia University works with for similar events) will be announced by Friday, March 1, 2024, 11:59 pm (GMT +3).

Meals: Lunch will be served at university canteen on May 20 thru 22 and will be included in the conference fee.

Cappadocia Excursion (Optional): Subject to advance registration and extra payment (deadline and cost to be announced), one-day sightseeing excursion to the attractions in the vicinity of Mustafapaşa Campus will be organized as part of the conference social program.

For details of the conference, please follow the updates at the conference official website:

<https://ehconference.kapadokya.edu.tr>

For information about Environmental Humanities Center, please visit the Center's website: <https://ehc.kapadokya.edu.tr>

For information about Ecocene: Cappadocia Journal of Environmental Humanities, please visit the journal website: <https://ecocene.kapadokya.edu.tr>

For information about Cappadocia University, please visit the university's official website:

<https://kapadokya.edu.tr/en/> We look forward to welcoming you to our conference in May 2024! Serpil Oppermann & Sinan Akıllı On behalf of the Organizing Committee



Ecozon@ Special Focus Spring 2025 “Anthropocene Sublimes”

**Guest co-editors: David Lombard (FNRS, University of Liège, and University of Leuven),
Alison Sperling (Florida State University), Pieter Vermeulen (University of Leuven)**

The relation between the aesthetic category of the sublime and the overwhelming realities of the environmental crisis is as obvious as it is contentious. While the term remains a routine part of our aesthetic vernacular, the notion’s intrinsic dualism, anthropocentrism, and political quietism are deeply problematic: for Bruno Latour, the Anthropocene has made the Kantian contemplation of sublime infinity impossible because “the world is no longer a spectacle to be enjoyed from a secure place” (2016: 170); for Jean-Baptiste Fressoz, the Anthropocenic sublime inculcates a “depoliticized fascination for planetary collapse” and obscures the workings of capitalism by picturing it as a geological force beyond human influence (2021: 298). Even critics who want to salvage the sublime in the Anthropocene consider it to be in need of an update: for Timothy Morton, we need “a more speculative sublime that actually tries to become intimate with the other” (2020: 217); for Marco Caracciolo, a viable Anthropocene sublime must affirm the emotive, affective, and kinetic interactions between the human and the nonhuman world and welcome feelings such as “grief, distress, and guilt” (2021: 302–3).

This special focus section takes up and expands on these critiques of the sublime to chart new directions towards imagining modes of the sublime that are better attuned to the challenges of ongoing environmental crises and their attendant social, racial, gender-based, disability-based, and economic forms of inequity. It

thus pursues the hypothesis that the supposed stability of “the” sublime, be it rhetorical, philosophical, or artistic, has been and needs to continue to be radically pluralized. For example, new versions of the sublime have been coined to give more attention to radical threats to and changes in environments such as the “nuclear/atomic sublime” (Ferguson 1984; Wilson 1989; Hales 1991; Masco 2006), the “agricultural sublime” (Pollan 2003), the “petroleum sublime” (Hatherley 2011), and the “toxic sublime” (Peeples 2011). This section’s plural and comparative approach asserts itself in different ways: it wants to interrogate and update these as well as other subspecies of the sublime (the “feminine sublime” [Freeman 1997], “material sublime” [Pipkin 1998; de Bolla 2002], “ridiculous sublime” [Zizek and Wiczeorek 2000; Shaw 2017], “ecosublime” [Rozelle 2006], “organic sublime” [Outka 2011], “haptic sublime” [McNee 2016], or “racial sublime” [Shapiro 2018]); place the sublime in dialogue with different bordering aesthetic categories (horror, the weird, uncanny, “stuplime,” and “interesting” [Ngai 2005, 2010]); and also leverage the differences between various traditions and genealogies of the sublime (the American <http://www.ecozona.eu> info@ecozona.eu Universidad de Alcalá | EASLCE & GIECO - Instituto Franklin - 2023 wilderness is not the European Alps; the Burkean sublime resists translation to South Africa or Australia; the French postmodern sublime focuses on simulation and [un]presentability rather than materiality).

Such revisions and (re)assessments of the sublime echo concerns with materiality, affects, gender, race, disability, and agency that have been at the core of scholarship in the environmental humanities for (at least) the past decade. Already in 2012, ecofeminist scholar Patrick D. Murphy called for a more “integrational” and “participatory” sublime, as opposed to the Kantian “transcendental” sublime that positions the human subject as safe and disengaged from the observed scene, that would reconcile the body with the mind and “material reality” (90). Acknowledging these efforts to redefine or salvage the sublime, we are interested in contributions that go beyond this well-established critique of the traditional sublime and explore other imaginative ways through which the notion has been deployed or revisited in literary and artistic works. In addition, given that the Anthropocene is originally a geological concept and that the sublime has been used to bridge gaps between science, affect studies, philosophy, and the arts (Hoffmann and Whyte 2011; Gross 2018), we also welcome proposals that investigate Anthropocene sublimines in discourses that are more scientific. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Analyses of works that extend the affective repertoire of the traditional sublime to account for environmental crises
- Explorations of case studies in which recent avatars of the sublime (e.g., the “toxic,” “petroleum,” or “haptic” sublimines) manifest themselves or applications of these versions of the sublime to literary or artistic works with concerns over environmental crises
- Considerations on the interplay between the Anthropocene sublime and other contiguous aesthetic categories
- Cross-cultural and comparative

approaches to the Anthropocene sublime that challenge the eurocentrism and/or ocularcentrism of the notion

- Human and non-human agencies in the Anthropocene sublime
- Investigations into a more speculative, participatory, or integrational Anthropocene sublime
- The relationship between the sublime and other topics, genres, and subfields recently addressed or explored in the environmental or energy humanities or in other fields such as geology or geological engineering (e.g., petroculture, extraction, queer ecology, solarpunk, racial capitalism and the Capitalocene, climate engineering, ...)
- Rhetorical approaches that challenge, complicate, or enrich contemporary critiques of the Anthropocene sublime

We invite contributions in English, French, Spanish, and German. Please submit a 300-word abstract and a 100-word bio to the guest editors by February 28, 2024: David Lombard (David.Lombard@uliege.be), Alison Sperling (ans22r@fsu.edu), and Pieter Vermeulen (pieter.vermeulen@kuleuven.be). We will provide feedback on your proposal by March 15.

Final essays for the research article section should be between 6,000 and 8,000 words (including abstract, keywords, and bibliography). Completed manuscripts are due July 15, 2024 via the Ecozon@ website, which also provides a style guide.



**What Remains? Literature and Ethics in a Time of Crisis
(Stockholm, 20-22 August 2024; deadline for applications: 16 February 2024)**

The relation between ethics and literature became a topic of intense academic debate at the end of the twentieth century—at a time, that is, when that relation was no longer self-evident after the challenges of postcolonial, feminist, and deconstructive critique. Humanist proponents of literature’s role as an empathy engine (Nussbaum, Rorty) entered into conversation with theorists who took inspiration from the work of Jacques Derrida and Emmanuel Levinas to valorize literature as a site of singular otherness—as an occasion of ethical encounter rather than moral instruction (Attridge, Eaglestone, Miller). In the decades since, the debate over the relation between ethics and literature has never completely disappeared: discussions of affect and empathy never stray far from ethical considerations; the attention in ecocriticism to humannonhuman relations implicitly but controversially transports ethical claims to the object world; in narrative theory, rhetorical narratology continues to center ethical relations between author, text, and reader; and considerations of the “uses of literature” explicitly raise question of literature’s ethical affordances, also but not exclusively in the fields of the health and medical humanities. This conference aims to bring these different strands of twenty-first-century reflection on literature and ethics together to update the debate on the ethics of literature for the present — for what can by now uncontroversially be termed “a time of crisis.” In light of environmental, epidemic, technological, economic, demographic, and geopolitical upheavals, the question of the ethics of literature may seem peripheral; at the same

time, in an age of diminished prospects, it becomes more urgent than ever to raise questions of what values remain or can be salvaged. Capitalizing on Theodor W. Adorno’s contention that art’s ‘powerlessness and superfluity in the empirical world’ make it a paradoxically potent site of ethical and political interrogation, this conference will focus on the juncture of literature and ethics in the present—in light of contested pasts and uncertain futures.

Topics: We invite contributions on the relation between literature and ethics that both engage with particular case studies and situate themselves in ongoing debates on these issues. Possible topics include, but are definitely not restricted to, the following topics:

- the affordances of rhetorical narratology for a literary ethics
- storytelling and human wellbeing
- storytelling, storylistening, and public reasoning
- the values of the unexamined (or unnarrated) life
- the ethics of life-writing
- literature and ethics in the Anthropocene
- literature as a mode of witness in an age of mass extinction
- the value of literature and literary study in a climate changed world
- literary ethics in a posthuman age
- literary ethics in postsecular times
- the ethics of literature and storytelling in aging societies
- medium- or genre-specific accounts of literary ethics

- the ethics of authorship in the age of generative AI
- collaboration and other ethical dimensions of authorship
- literature, ethics, and politics in a hyperpolitical age
- ethics and literariness in the literary marketplace
- empirical approaches to literary ethics
- literature, ethics, and intersectionality
- the limits of ethical approaches to literature

While the conference focuses on the interface of literature and ethics, case studies on other cultural forms (film, theater, performance, ...) that contribute to the debate are also very welcome. The conference language is English, but we welcome papers on texts and documents in any language from any period, as long as they contribute to an understanding of the relation between literature and ethics today.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers: Hanna Meretoja (University of Turku) James Phelan (Project Narrative, Ohio State University)

Applications: Please send an abstract of 200-300 words with a short biographical note (50 words) to whatremains2024@gmail.com by 16 February 2024. Papers should not exceed 20 minutes. Please submit your proposal in Word-format.

Important Dates: Abstract submission deadline: 16 February 2024 Notification of results: 15 March 2024 Registration: 15 March 2024 - 15 June 2024 Conference dates: 20-22 August 2024

Practical Information: The conference is organized by Mid Sweden University, Stockholm University, Károli Gáspár University, and KU Leuven. The conference will take place at the Stockholm Waterfront Congress Centre in the center of Stockholm,

which is easily accessible by road, rail, and air. Registration will include coffee breaks, lunches, and one conference dinner. Fees apply. We are currently in the process of securing extra funding to keep fees as low as possible.

Organizers: Charlotta Palmstierna Einarsson (Mid Sweden University) Marina Kohnen Ludwigs (Stockholm University) Anita Rákóczy (Károli Gáspár University) Pieter Vermeulen (KU Leuven) Joakim Wrethed (Stockholm University)

Questions: Please direct all queries to whatremains2024@gmail.com.

Conference Website:
<https://eventy.gondor.com/WHATREMAIN>
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Invitations

Scott Slovic Book Tour and Lecture Series, organized by Françoise Besson (Professor Emerita, University of Toulouse)

From 11 to 22 March 2024 Scott Slovic will give a series of lectures and participate in a series of seminars and round tables all round France. He will speak about « the Implications of Arboreal Ecocriticism » in Aix-en-Provence (12 March) at Aix-Marseille Université; he will give lectures in Toulouse about « Psychology and Public Engagement in Going Away to Think » (13 March at the Académie des Sciences, Inscriptions et Belles Lettres de Toulouse Hôtel d'Assézat) ; Nature's Hospitality: Themes of At-homeness and Estrangement in Going Away to Think » (14 March at the Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès); in Toulouse he will also participate in a round table with scholars of various disciplines; in Rennes he will speak about « Ecocriticism and Common Places »(18 March; Université Rennes 2); in Paris he will give a lecture on "Seeking a Discourse of Environmental

Sensitivity: Psychology and Public Engagement in Going Away to Think » (Université Paris Cité; 20 March). He will end his tour in Arras with a seminar on travels and environment. He will lecture on the theme of « Saving the Planet ». Gerald Preher, Frédérique Spill and Charlotte Arnautou will also give presentations in that seminar and a round table will be organized around translation and the translation of the book (Université de l'Artois 22 March). He will also present the French translation of his book *Voyager pour penser. Engagement, Retraite et responsabilité écocritique* (PUM 2023) in a few bookshops. He will also give a lecture around his book in Nice on 2 July before the Conference « Earth 16-18 » (3 and 4 July 2024). All those who want to attend these events and share ideas with the author are welcome.



**Collaborative Research Group (CRG)- African Literatures
is organizing a hybrid study day in Bordeaux and on Zoom on January 17, 2024,
about ecopoetics and places in African literature**

Speakers have already been selected but it is possible to follow the presentations online and join the debates. The event will mostly be in French but there will be some anglophone speakers too. Detailed program to be announced.

Morning (10am - 1pm)

Critical extension of the "situated ecopoetic anthology of African literature" project

The "situated ecopoetic anthology of arts and literature" project proposes an online cartography of ecologically threatened places on the African continent and their literary and artistic consideration: <https://ecopoetique.humanum.fr/>. The aim is to reflect both the scale and variety of current ecological aggressions (the effects of global warming, major mining or industrial projects, hydrological pressures, etc.) and the diversity of cultural and social responses to these challenges.

The aim is to map artistic and literary practices in defense of the environment in different parts of the African continent. Indeed, the purpose is to understand the environmental crisis at the local level, where it is experienced by populations. This can take the form of a literary and artistic approach that records, observes and condemns environmental degradation etc. Such mapping shows that local dynamics are the basis for sketching out a cosmopolitics of place.

The broader aim of this project will be to bring together, for us researchers in African literature and/or environmental humanities, the continent's critical, literary, artistic and ecological references. This could constitute

a specific database that we could add to as we go along.

7 participants have been selected to a roundtable and they will add a point to the map, briefly presenting the work and its ecological context. A debate will follow. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Camille Lavoix camille.lavoix@uni-wuerzburg.de or Margaux Vidotto margauxvidotto@orange.fr

Afternoon (14.30 pm – 16.30 pm)

The role of places in the research on African literature

The more and more frequent reference to specific places in African literary studies has effects on the research methodologies that we would like to question during this afternoon. It will be an opportunity exchange our experiences on the question of the articulation between the texts that we study, the places where they are written, archived or published and the places which are referred in these texts. Is there any sense in taking in consideration the territoriality of literary texts and archives? What place do we give to the field in our research work? How can we talk about an attachment to place? Is considering places the condition of situated research? We plan to listen to 5 presentations followed by discussions.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Xavier Garnier xavier.garnier@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr and Elara Bertho elara.bertho@gmail.com.

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**Editorial deadline
for the next issue:
June 01 2024**