

The preservation of the biosphere as a habitat for plants, animals and humans is one of the most urgent global concerns today. In the face of overexploitation and rapid urbanization, the question of man's self-image in the context of nature is being raised anew.

The Symposium "Nature as Resource, Aesthetic Experience, and Source of Danger: International Interdisciplinary Conference" will discuss the areas of tension from the perspectives of literary studies, cultural ecology, philosophy and theology, but also from the biosciences, shedding light in particular on the beginnings of the problematic developments of modernity as depicted in the poetry and visual arts of the 18th and 19th centuries. Extractivism in the Amazon biome and the legacies of the Cold War will also be addressed. Finally, philosophical approaches will be discussed that emphasize the importance of experiencing natural beauty as a sensitive way of dealing with nature.

CONCEPT AND MANAGEMENT:

Waldemar Zacharasiewicz and Herta Nagl-Docekal with the Research Group "Connecting the World: Europe, Africa and the Americas".

SUPPORTED BY:

Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs
Gesellschaft zur Förderung von Nordamerikastudien an der Universität Wien



REGISTRATION:

Registration by 15 April: www.oeaw.ac.at/ anmeldung/north-atlantic-triangle

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AUSTRIAN
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES

APRIL 18–20, 2024
AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
THEATERSAAL
SONNENFELSGASS 19
1010 VIENNA



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

NATURE AS RESOURCE, AESTHETIC EXPERIENCE, AND SOURCE OF DANGER

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, 18 APRIL

- 14:00–14:30** **Welcome Address**
Michael Rössner | on behalf of the President of the Austrian Academy of Sciences
- Introduction**
Herta Nagl-Docekal and **Waldemar Zacharasiewicz**
- 14:30–16:30** **Global Perspectives**
- Mogobe Bernhard Ramose** | Univ. of Pretoria, South Africa
An ubu-ntu Defence of the Wholeness of Life in the Unfolding Destruction of the Environment
Introd. Herta Nagl-Docekal
- Hubert Zapf** | Univ. of Augsburg, Germany
Cultural Ecology in Decolonial Perspective
Introd. Waldemar Zacharasiewicz
- Alan C. Braddock** | College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VI, USA
Migrant Images: The American Romantic Landscape as International Imperial Style
Introd. Christoph Irmscher
- 16:30–17:00** COFFEE BREAK
- 17:00–18:00** **Visions of Nature**
Chair: Martin Löschnigg | Univ. of Graz
- Waldemar Zacharasiewicz** | Univ. of Vienna
Visions of Sublime Nature across the Globe in Anglophone Poetry and Thought in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries
- Yves Figueiredo** | Univ. of Paris-Saclay, France
Navigating Nature's Edge: Balancing Urbanization and Wilderness Preservation in California, 1864–1920

FRIDAY, 19 APRIL

- 09:30–11:00** **Ecological Issues**
Chair: Kirsten Rütther | Univ. of Vienna, Department of African Studies
- Martin Gerzabek** | Univ. of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna
Soil Resources in the Galapagos Islands: The Tension between Nature Reserve, Population Growth and Tourism
- Jörg Türschmann** | Univ. of Vienna
Pollution as a Social Metaphor in the Literature of the La Plata Region
- Maria Löschnigg** | Univ. of Graz
'In the Tar Sands – Going Down': Literary Responses to the Canadian Oil Industry
- 11:00–11:30** COFFEE BREAK
- 11:30–13:00** **Ethics and Aesthetics of Nature**
Chair: Herta Nagl-Docekal | Univ. of Vienna
- Yacouba Konaté** | Univ. of Abidjan-Cocody, Ivory Coast
Gardener from all over the World...
- Angelika Krebs** | Univ. of Basel, Switzerland
Why Beauty Matters
- Ludwig Nagl** | Univ. of Vienna
The Human 'Language Animal' and Its Varied Relations to Nonhuman Nature
- 13:00–15:00** LUNCH BREAK
- 15:00–16:30** **Rivers and Regions in the Americas**
Chair: Jacques Pothier | Univ. of Paris-Saclay
- Carmen Birkle** | Univ. of Marburg, Germany
The Power of Water and the Mighty Mississippi
- Birgit Weiler** | Pontifical University, Lima, Peru
Neo-Colonialism and Extractivism in the Amazon Biome
- Christoph Irmscher** | Univ. of Indiana, Bloomington, IN, USA
Reclaiming the Rainforest: On Anita Ekman's Art

SATURDAY, 20 APRIL

- 09:30–11:00** **Ecological Risks and Literature**
Chair: Siegfried Beer | Univ. of Graz, Dept. of History
- Tatiana Konrad** | Univ. of Vienna
Weather, Smoke, and Climate Change in British Industrial Fiction
- Lisa Mullen** | Univ. of Cambridge, GB
Gardening at the End of the World: Ecologies of Resistance in Derek Jarman's Visual and Horticultural Practice
- Verena Winiwarter** | ÖAW and Univ. of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna
Beyond Control: Hot Legacies of the Cold War
- 11:00–11:30** COFFEE BREAK
- 11:30–12:30** **Climate Change and Its Literary Futures**
Chair: Alexandra Ganser | Univ. of Vienna, Department of English and American Studies
- Sylvia Mayer** | Univ. of Bayreuth, Germany
Planetary and Resilience in U.S. Climate Change Literature
- Carin Gersdorf** | Univ. of Würzburg, Germany
On the State of Utopia in the Anthropocene