



Environmental Humanities

International Online Symposium

Climate | Changes | Global Perspectives

August 2–13, 2021

Hosted by the University of Würzburg

The environmental crisis has consistently been framed as a crisis of representation – a crisis in which previously established form(at)s of understanding meet their own limits. Thinking about environmental crises as crises of representation in a globalized world requires a dual understanding of the concept of ‘representation.’ The politics of representation pertain both to the object of study and to our very own scholarly practices in a globalized world. In the spirit of the Environmental Humanities, which foster not only interdisciplinarity, but also an international character in research, this symposium calls together different perspectives in order to question standardized patterns of representation and understanding. Together participants will explore the ways in which the “entangled epistemologies” (Houser, *Infowhelm 2*) produced by cultural representations of the environment require new, entangled forms of scholarship in the humanities. What are possible new forms, and what are the methodologies that best contribute to understanding the complex sources of the current environmental crisis? In order to facilitate an exploration of new forms, this symposium will begin with critical exploration in the first week and move towards practical experimentations in creative approaches to academic writing in the second week. Prioritizing experimental forms of scholarly production may serve as what Braidotti terms “the starting point for alternative ways of becoming-subjects-together” (*Posthuman Knowledge 73*).

The symposium will be hosted via Zoom and organized into two week-long explorations, one theoretical and the other formal. Week one will open with a critically oriented keynote followed by thematic sessions led by professorial guests. This initial week of critical exploration will generate the intellectual and textual fodder for creative production oriented towards the development of multi-modal creative academic productions that will be published both in a print edition issued by Würzburg University Press, an open access publishing service of Würzburg University Library, and via an online platform. The unique provocation to explore how climate changes global perspectives is manifested in this dualistic approach to theory and praxis.

The Challenges of Modernity Summer Symposium is part of “WueGlobal – Writing, Learning, Digital Connection” funded by the International Virtual Collaboration Program (IVAC), the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), and the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF). Further support has been provided by the American Studies Department of the University of Würzburg and the Graduate School for the Humanities' PROVED Program.

Participation in the symposium can be applied to the WueGlobal certificate. Please visit the WueGlobal-website for more information: <https://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/schreibzentrum/wueglobal/wueglobal-certificate/>.

Application Requirements

PhD candidates and advanced MA students from any country are welcome to apply. Both weeks of workshops will be conducted in English; however, participants are welcome to produce texts in English, French, or German. Please submit your application in English as a **single PDF file** to eh@uni-wuerzburg.de. Your application should consist of 1) a short letter of motivation (400–700 words), 2) an abstract of your current project (c. 250 words), and 3) a short bio-note (c. 150 words). Please be aware that acceptance is limited to 25 individuals and contingent upon participation in both week one and week two; it is not possible to join for only one week of the symposium.

Please note possible time differences: All sessions will take place in the afternoon (CET). The timing of the sessions in week two is subject to change depending on the participant makeup of the symposium.

Application deadline: May 30, 2021

For more information please visit: <https://go.uniwue.de/wueglobaleh>

Schedule

August 2–13, 2021

WEEK 1	Mon. 2 August	Tue. 3 August	Wed. 4 August	Thurs. 5 August	Fri. 6 August
UNIT 1 3 – 4:30pm CET	Introductory Session	Decolonizing the Environmental Humanities Hannes Bergthaller (National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan)	Environmental Violence/Justice Louis Mendy (Cheikh Anta Diop University, Dakar, Senegal)	Environmental Activism and Literary Practice Catrin Gersdorf (University of Würzburg, Germany)	Globalizing(ed) Knowledge Cultures: Production, Representation, Transmission Michaela Fenske (University of Würzburg, Germany)
Break					
UNIT 2 5 – 6:30pm CET	KEYNOTE Heather Houser, (University of Texas, Austin)	Decolonizing the Environmental Humanities Continued	Environmental Violence/Justice Continued	Environmental Activism and Literary Practice Continued	Globalizing(ed) Knowledge Cultures: Production, Representation, Transmission Continued
WEEK 2	Mon. 9 August	Tue. 10 August	Wed. 11 August	Thurs. 12 August	Fri. 13 August
UNIT 1 1 – 2:30pm CET	Introductory Session	Writing: World Building	Writing: Voice Mode	Writing: Genres 1	Concluding Day
Break					
UNIT 2 3 – 4:30pm CET	KEYNOTE Susan Morrison, (Texas State University) & Catriona Sandilands, (York University)	Writing: Characters	Writing: Perspectives	Writing: Genres 2	Continued