

The conference calls attention to the politics of nature, a key feature of contemporary neoliberalism and its planetary ambitions. Late capitalism has not only wide-ranging effects on the transformation of labor and subjectivities, but is also causing drastic changes in the government of nature. While the “limits-to-growth” environmentalism of the 1960s placed ecology at the center of the intellectual agenda, and the “sustainable development” movement launched in the 80’s replaced old-fashioned notions of nature with “the environment”, the current popularity of the category of the Anthropocene and climate crisis are promoting the grand narrative of an Earth-at-risk.

The purpose of the conference is to stimulate a cross-disciplinary reflection on the “states of nature” that are emerging from discourses centered on the threat of abrupt planetary environmental catastrophes, chronic conditions of ecological vulnerability, strategies of security, survival and adaptation, and the political and poetical imaginary of extinction and mutation. What is the role, responsibility, and complicity of critical theory and the arts in shaping the political and aesthetic reactions to large-scale eco-social devastations? What is the relation between the logic of coloniality and the Anthropocenic political episteme of deep history, unpredictable planetary tipping points, fear and resilience? What are the intellectual and political implications of our current, and conflicting, politics of nature?

## LOCATIONS

@UNIVERSITÄT  
CAMPUS ROSENBERG  
DUFOURSTRASSE 50  
9000 ST. GALLEN

@PALACE SG  
ZWINGLISTRASSE 3  
9000 ST. GALLEN

FREE ENTRANCE

ORGANIZATION:  
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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# POLITICS OF NATURE

11-13 OCTOBER 2018



## THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER

### STATES OF NATURE [ROOM 09-012]

14.00-14.15 Welcome

14.15-14.30 Introduction

14.30-15.30 Dario Gentili (Rome)

The Neoliberal State of Nature and its Critique

15.30-16.30 Kathryn Yusoff (London) Geopower:

Biopolitics and Matter after Life

16.30-17.00 Coffee Break

17.00-18.00 Didier Debaise (Bruxelles)

Nature and its Others. How Did Nature Become  
a Political Force?

## FRIDAY 12 OCTOBER

### MILIEUS OF LIFE [ROOM 09-012]

9.00 Welcome Coffee

9.30-10.30 Toni Hildebrandt (Bern) 'Fallen Nature':

On the Idea of Natural-History in the Anthropocene

10.30-11.30 Ferhat Taylan (Paris) Politics of Milieu.

Places as Objects of political Action and Subjects  
of Law

11.30-11.45 Coffee Break

11.45-12.45 Elettra Stimilli (Rome) Valuation as a

Political Phenomenon. 'Real Abstraction' between  
Nature and Life

12.45-14.00 Lunch

### WHICH ECOLOGIES? [ROOM 23-003]

14.00-15.00 Yuk Hui (Lüneburg)

On Cosmotechnics and the Ontological Turn

15.00-16.00 Barbara Marcel (Belo Horizonte/Berlin)

The Open Forest

16.00-16.15 Coffee Break

16.15-17.15 Benjamin Noys (Chichester)

Warscapes of Nature: Fantasy and the Politics of Nature

17.15 Discussion

### 19.30 DECOLONIZING NATURE

ARTISTIC INTERVENTIONS IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

Esther Shalev-Gerz & Uriel Orlow

(with Shela Sheikh and Emmanuel Alloa)

@ Palace St. Gallen

## SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER

### EARTH POLITICS [ROOM 01-110]

9.00-9.30 Welcome Coffee

9.30-10.30 Shela Sheikh (London)

Between Superstes and Testis: More-than-Human

Witnessing and (Post-)Representational  
Practices

10.30-11.30 Marco Armiero (Stockholm)

Bodily Stratigraphies. Toxic Lives and Rebel

Stories in the Wasteocene

11.30-12 Final Discussion

12.00-12.15 Concluding Remarks and

Farewell



ITALIAN THOUGHT  
*network*



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