



Venice International University
VIU Graduate Seminar
Defining the Human in Environmental Humanities

June 6-11, 2022

Faculty

Elizabeth Kowaleski Wallace, Boston College
Shaul Bassi, Ca' Foscari University of Venice
Helmuth Trischler, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

General schedule (Monday – Wednesday):

Morning: 9:15-13:00

Mid-morning break: 10:45-11:00

Lunch break: 13:00-14:15

Afternoon: 14:15-17:30*

**The end of the sessions could be extended, if necessary.*

Day 1 | Monday, June 6

9:15 *Welcome coffee and registration*

10:00 *Lecture 1*
"Human/Humanist"
(Professor Beth Kowaleski Wallace, Boston College)

13:00-14:15 *Lunch break*

14:15-16:30 *Small groups/guided discussion*

Students present themselves and students get into smaller groups to explain the nature of their research and to learn a little about each other.

How is the "human" defined and understood in the context of various disciplines? Where are the similarities and differences? How do the disciplines begin to speak to each other?

Day 2 | Tuesday, June 7

9:15 *Lecture 2*
The Partisan Woman at the Edge of the Water: Re-Reading a Venetian Monument
(Professor Shaul Bassi, Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

13:00-14:15 *Lunch break*

Afternoon: *Lagoon trip with Georg Umgieser, National Research Council of Italy*

14:40 – private boat leaves from San Servolo
15:00 – Stop at Riva degli Schiavoni
17:00 – Boat is back to San Servolo, with a stop at Riva degli Schiavoni



Day 3 | Wednesday, June 8

9:15 *Lecture 3*
“Who is the “Anthropos”? Defining the Agency of Humans and Non-humans in the Anthropocene?”
(Professor Helmuth Trischler, Rachel Carson Center, LMU)

13:00-14:15 Lunch break

14:50 Vaporetto to San Zaccaria

15:30 *Guided tour of Ocean Space*

19:15 Social Dinner

Day 4 | Thursday June 9, 2022 | Conference

9:30-9:45 Welcome and Introductory Remarks

9:45-11:00 **Panel One: Human/Animal 1**

Chair: Helmuth Trischler, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

1. "Ecology without Nature and Anthropocene without Anthropos: Perspectives from the Critical Animal Studies," Chiara Stefanoni, University of Bergamo and Leuphana Universität
2. "'The Nauga is ugly, but his hide is beautiful': On Human(ism) as Genre and the Death of the Other," Shelby Brewster, Michigan State University
3. "Dehumanized poachers and elite wildlife: the emergence of multispecies class society in Southern African nature conservation," Luregn Lenggenhager and Emelie Danielsson, University of Basel

11:00-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-12:30 **Panel Two: The Literary Imagination**

Chair: Kristina Gedgaudaite, Princeton University

1. "Human-Animal Metamorphosis in Three Swedish Authors: From Otherness to Togetherness," Sara Culeddu, Ca' Foscari
2. "Re-imagining the Human Through the Literary Imagination: Human, Nature, and Inner Reality in Romantic Writing," Yi-Ching Teng, National Tsinghua University
3. "Creatively Redefining the Human: Becoming Empathically Human Through Writing the Non-Human," Rosanne van der Voet, University of Sheffield
4. "'It Feels Like I'm Drowning': Transformative Immersion in Contemporary Picture Books," Jonas Vanhove, Ghent University

12:30-13:30 Lunch

13:30-14:45 **Panel Three: Human-Animal 2**
Chair: John Limon, Williams College

1. "‘I am not trapped in the body of a cow’: Dealing with multispecies reproductive justice," Antonia Anna Ferrante, University of Liege
2. "Vegetarian for Whom?: Re-centering the Absent in Ethically Motivated Consumer Choices," Laura Santer, Boston College
3. "Human and Non-Human Animals in Vedic India and 21st-century Environmental Discourse," Kresho Vuković, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
4. "Becoming-with whom? Interspecies co-habitation and the boundaries of life during the Covid-19 pandemic," Frederica Timeto, Ca’ Foscari

14:45- 16:00 **Panel Four: Bio-regional Approaches**
Chair: Elizabeth Kowaleski Wallace, Boston College

1. "Being Human: Anthropocene Ecologies of Kodagu, India," Subarna De, Rachel Carson Center, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
2. "A People-centered perspective on climate change, sea-level rise, and major environmental issues in Bangladesh," Prantor Kumar Mondal, Tsinghua University
3. "Rethinking Colonialism through Irish Mud Cabins," Colleen Taylor, The University of Notre Dame
4. "Ruderal lives and toxic entanglements: more than human storying in the ruins of industrialization," Daniele Valisena, University of Liege

Day 5 | Friday June 10 | Conference

9:15-10:30 **Panel Five: Entangled Life**
Chair: Helmuth Trischler, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

1. "Is It Too Late to be Post-human?: Redefining the Human in the Anthropocene," Patryk Szaj, Pedagogical University of Krakow
2. "Human, all too human. Knowing the Human through Relationships with non-humans," Jean Chamel, University of Lausanne
3. "Dogs and Monsters: Some Observations on the Afghan Evacuation and the Intersection of Human Rights and the Anthropocene," Kristin Ferebee, Ghent University
4. "Ecologies of Education: a pedagogical perspective beyond anthropocentrism," Alessandro Ferrante (with Andrea Galimberti and Benedetta Gambacorti-Passerini), University of Milano-Bicocca

10:30-10:45 *Coffee break*



10:45-12:00 **Panel Six: Organic Life**

Chair: Shaul Bassi, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

1. "Human as an indirect and direct creator of post-nature: benefits and threats and changes at the micro scale," Nina Maria Szukala, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan
2. "Following fermented mediums: learning seeds' messages," Huiying Ng and Sevgi Mutlu Sirakova, Rachel Carson Center, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
3. "The Human in Lewis Mumford's Organic Humanism," Jonatan Palmblad, Rachel Carson Center, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität
4. "Water Bodies: the human in between microbes and ritual/gods," Victor Secco, Manchester University

12:00-13:15 Lunch (Vaporetto leaves at 13:30)

14:00-17:00 Tour of the Venice Art Biennale

17:00-18:30 Keynote address at the Biennale

Serenella Iovino, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

"The Signs That Define Us (All): Primo Levi, Biosemiotics, and Freedom."

Day 6 | Saturday June 11 | Conference

9:30-10:15 Panel Seven: Blue Humanities

Chair: Shaul Bassi, Università Ca' Foscari

1. "Sensing from the Submerged: Focalizing an Oceanic Alterity," Renée Hoogland, University of Amsterdam
2. "Transcorporeal Immersions: Literary Merfolk and the Boundaries of the Human," Shealeen A. Meaney, Russell Sage College
3. "From Aliens to Avatars: Reframing the 'Human' in the Blue Humanities," Amanda Nichols, The University of Florida
4. "Developing the Planetary Humanities," Whitney Bauman, Florida International University

10:15-10:30 Coffee break

10:30-11:45 **Panel Eight: Reconsidering Gender**

Chair: Colleen Taylor, University of Notre Dame

1. Constructing Gender by Portraying Nature: An Eco-critical Reading of Two Old Icelandic Family Sagas," Chen Cui, University of Lausanne
2. "Of Tigers and Pearls: The Role of Environmental Factors in Discourses on Human Fertility and Gestation in Early Chinese Medical Literature," Anna Lisa Beck, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität



3. Women's Environmental Activism in Sub-Saharan Africa: Laudato Si, Ecofeminism, and Ecological Justice," Ogonna Hilary Nwainya, Boston College

11:45-13:00 **Panel Nine: Psychoanalytic and Phenomenological Approaches**

Chair: James D Wallace, Boston College

1. "God is in the Unconscious of Climate Change," Matt Mersky, Boston College
2. "Mother Earth and the Maternal Body," Kelly Gray, Boston College
3. "The Black is Not: Afropessimism's Ethics of the Real," Frances L. Restuccia, Boston College
4. "The chiasm of Human and Nature. Towards a merleau-pontyan reading of Chakrabarty's thesis on climate," Giovanni Fava, Università Ca' Foscari



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