



**Venice International University**  
**VIU Graduate Seminar**  
**How Can Humanities Save the Planet?**

**10 - 14 June 2019**

**General schedule:**

Morning: 9:15 – 13:00

Lunch break: 13:00 – 14:15 (VIU Cafeteria)

Afternoon: 14:15 – 17:30\*

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

**Day 1, Monday 10 June**

*9:15: Welcome coffee and registration*

**9:45** **Students present themselves:** students get into smaller groups to explain the nature of their research and to learn a little about each other.

**10:45** *Lecture 1*

**Discovering alternative worlds in the Middle Ages; Human versus divine imagination; The breakthrough of the new science.**

*(Prof. Dorit Tanay, Tel Aviv University)*

List of Readings:

- William Eamon, *Science and the Secrets of Nature*, Princeton UP, 1994, Part 2, Chapter 3: "The Secrets of Nature in the Age of Printing", pp.93-134; Part 3, Chapter 8: "Science as a Venatio", pp.269-300.
- Amos Funkenstein, *Theology and the Scientific Imagination from the Middle Ages to the Seventeenth Century*, Princeton UP. 1986, 3 - 21; 42 – 50.

*Lunch break: 13:00 – 14:15*

**14:15:** *Introduction to the Lagoon Field Trip*

*(Prof. Carlo Giupponi, Dean of VIU & Ca' Foscari University of Venice)*

**15:00** Departure for the *Lagoon Field Trip* by private boat from San Servolo pier

**Day 2, Tuesday 11 June**

**9:15** *Lecture 2*

**New Materialisms and the integration of scientific and humanistic thinking.**

*(Prof. Elizabeth Wallace, Boston College)*

List of Readings:

- Jane Bennett, *Vibrant Matter*, Duke UP, 2011;
- Karen Barad. "Agential Realism: Feminist Interventions in Understanding Scientific Practice", *The New Science Reader*, 1999, pages 1-11;
- Dianne Frost and Samantha Coole, *New Materialisms*, Duke UP: 1999, "Introducing the New Materialism", pages 1-43;
- Bruno Latour, *Pandora's Hope*, Harvard UP, 1999, Chapter Six: "A Collective of Humans and Non-humans", pages 174-215;
- Donna Harraway, *Anthropocene, Capitalocene, Plantationocene, Chthulucene: Making Kin*, [www.environmentalhumanities.org](http://www.environmentalhumanities.org).



*Lunch break: 13:00 – 14:15*

Afternoon: visit to TBA21 Ocean Space exhibition "Joan Jonas: Moving Off the Land II"

**How does contemporary art world respond to the environmental crisis?**

Working groups

**Day 3, Wednesday 12 June**

9:15: Lecture 3

**Fiction and climate change; environmentalism and social justice; Pedagogies for environmental action.**

(Prof. Shaul Bassi, Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

List of Readings:

- Amitav Ghosh, *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable*. University of Chicago Press, 2016;
- Serenella Iovino, "Cognitive Justice and the Truth of Biology. Death (and Life) in Venice", from *Ecocriticism and Italy: Ecology, resistance, and liberation*, Bloomsbury, 2016, pp.47-82.

*Lunch break: 13:00 – 14:15*

14:15: Breakout sessions on topics related to readings and lecture

15:30 (tbc): Breakout sessions at **Edmund de Waal's Library of Exile** in Venice  
(at Ateneo Veneto)

**Day 4, Thursday 13 June**

Full Day: visit to the 58th International Art Exhibition "May You Live In Interesting Times"

10:00 – 11:30 Guided tour (Giardini)

*FREE Lunch break*

14:00 – 16:00 Workshop Session at the Biennale

17:30 (optional): Lecture by Noo Saro Wiwa at Ca' Foscari University of Venice

(Venue: Ca' Bottacin, Dorsoduro 3911, Calle Crosera)

## **Day 5, Friday 14 June**

**9:15**    *Lecture 4*

### **How can the Environmental Humanities in the Anthropocene provide slow hope?**

*(Prof. Helmuth Trischler, Director Rachel Carlson Center, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität)*



#### List of Readings:

- Poul Holm et al.: "Humanities for the Environment—A Manifesto for Research and Action." *Humanities* 2015, 4, 977–992; doi:10.3390/h4040977 ([http://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key\\_docs/humanities-04-00977-1.pdf](http://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/humanities-04-00977-1.pdf))
- Christoph Kueffer et al.: *Applying the Environmental Humanities: Ten steps for action and implementation*. Bern 2017 ([http://environmentalhumanities.ch/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Applying\\_Environmental\\_Humanities\\_2017.pdf](http://environmentalhumanities.ch/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Applying_Environmental_Humanities_2017.pdf))
- Christof Mauch: "Slow Hope: Rethinking Ecologies of Crisis and Fear." *RCC Perspectives: Transformations in Environment and Society* 2019, no. 1. doi.org/10.5282/rcc/8556 (<http://www.environmentandsociety.org/perspectives/2019/1/slow-hope-rethinking-ecologies-crisis-and-fear>)
- Helmuth Trischler: "The Anthropocene – A Challenge for the History of Science, Technology, and the Environment." *N.T.M. – Journal of the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine* 24/3 (2016): 309-335.

*Lunch break: 12:15 – 13:30*

**Afternoon:**    *Workshops presenting final projects and proposals*

What is each one of us taking away from the seminar in the form of pedagogies to share, work to be researched and published, and/or ideas for broader engagement with the movement for environmental awareness?

How does our work move towards an ideal of environmental justice?

*17:00 – 18:00 Closing reception*