



Religion and the Experience of Nature: Comparative Perspectives

Conference organized by PD Dr. Matthias Egeler (CAS Young Center/LMU Munich)

Center for Advanced Studies, LMU Munich

19 and 20 March 2020

Thursday, 19 March 2020

9:00 **Matthias Egeler** (LMU Munich)
Opening Remarks

PANEL 1 **RELIGION AND NATURE IN ARCHAEOLOGY**
CHAIR: MATTHIAS EGELER (LMU Munich)

9:30-10:00 **Luke John Murphy** (University of Iceland)
Renegotiating Animal Intermediaries: the Romanisation of Hunting Goddesses and Animal-Based Rituals in Roman Britain

10:00-10:30 **Daiva Vaitkevičienė** (Vilnius)
Užolų Dewayciay ('Oaks-Gods'): the Sacred Oak in Baltic Religion

10:30-11:00 **Vykintas Vaitkevičius** (University of Klaipėda)
Foot-printed Stones in Sacred Places of Lithuania

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

PANEL 2 **RELIGION AND NATURE IN GRAECO-ROMAN LITERATURE**
CHAIR: Luke John Murphy (University of Iceland)

11:30-12:00 **Sabine Heidi Walther** (Bonn)
'They worship certain trees, the waters of rivers, hills and mountain valleys': Agathias and the Byzantine Perspective on the Nature Worship of the Alamanni

12:00-12:30 **Holger Hespén** (Budapest)
Reading the 'Book of Nature' through the Lens of the Physiologus

12:30-14:00 Lunch Break

PANEL 3 **THE SACRALIZATION OF THE BRITISH LANDSCAPE**
CHAIR: Judith Bodendörfer (Freiburg)

14:00-14:30 **Steven Sutcliffe** (Edinburgh)
Traces of Transcendence in Nature Journalism: the Example of Dugald Semple (1884-1964)

- 14:30-15:00 **Marleen Thaler** (Vienna)
The Re-Sanctification of the English Landscape: John Michell's
Influence on Eco-Spiritual Devotees of Earth Mysteries
- 15:00-15:30 Coffee Break
- PANEL 4** **APPROACHES TO METHODOLOGIES**
CHAIR: Christa Frateantonio (Hannover)
- 15:30-16:00 **Jeanet Sinding Bentzen** (Copenhagen)
Acts of God? Religiosity and Natural Disasters across Subnational
World Districts
- 16:00-16:30 **Catharina de Pater** and **Birgit Elands** (Wageningen)
Spiritual Values in Forest and Nature Management – a Framework
for Empirical Research
- 16:30-17:00 Break
- 17:00-18:00 Keynote Lecture
Kocku von Stuckrad (Groningen)
Languages of Life and the Blending of Worlds
- 18:30 Conference Dinner

Friday, 20 March 2020

- PANEL 5** **ENVIRONMENTALIST SPIRITUALITIES: CATHOLICISM, PIETISM,
THEOSOPHY**
CHAIR: Steven Sutcliffe (Edinburgh)
- 9:00-9:30 **Franziska Holzfurtner** (LMU Munich)
A European Genealogy of Treehuggers
- 9:30-10:00 **Judith Bodendörfer** (Freiburg)
The Paradox of Nature in the Theosophical Current
- 10:00-10:30 Coffee Break
- PANEL 6** **TACKLING THE CONTEMPORARY CRISIS**
CHAIR: Julia Blanc (Basel)
- 10:30-11:00 **Wendy Wiseman** (Santa Barbara, California)
Tragedy and the 'Eternity' of Nature: A Nietzschean Apocalypse
- 11:00-11:30 **Whitney A. Bauman** (Florida International University)
The Environmentalism of Rachel Carson and Marjory Stoneman
Douglas: Developing a Planetary Romantic Critical Realism

- 11:30-12:00 **Kasia Mika** (London)
 'To the world of to-morrow I turn with my strength': Environmental Futures, Faith, and the Caribbean beyond a Tropical Apocalypse
- 12:00-13:30 Lunch Break
- PANEL 7** **RELIGION AND ENVIRONMENTALISM: CRITICAL ANALYSES**
 CHAIR: Franziska Holzfurtner (Munich)
- 13:30-14:00 **Julia Blanc** (Basel)
 Are you a religious actor interested in ecological concerns or an ecologist with religious interests? The Relationship between Religion and Environmentalism on a Local Level
- 14:00-14:30 **Lutz Greisiger** (Berlin)
 Spiritual Awakening or Doomsday Cult? *Extinction Rebellion* as a Religious Movement in the German Public Discourse
- 14:30-15:00 Coffee Break
- PANEL 8** **NATURE AND CULTIC PRACTICE: CASE STUDIES FROM AFRICA AND JAPAN**
 CHAIR: Sara Kuehn (Aix-en-Provence)
- 15:00-15:30 **Endalkachew Hailu Guluma** (Arba Minch)
 The Role of Traditional Religious Beliefs, Myths and Rituals in Environmental Conservation among the Aari of Southern Ethiopia: An Ecocritical Study
- 15:30-16:00 **Bosco Bangura** (Leuven/Groningen)
 'I lift up my eyes to the hills': African Pentecostalism and Mountain-top Spiritual Retreats
- 16:00-16:30 **Markus Ruesch** (Kyoto)
 Mountains in Japanese Buddhism as Places of Permanent Practising for Others
- 16:30-17:00 Break
- 17:00-18:00 Keynote Lecture
Lisa Sideris (Bloomington)
 Experiencing Extinction: Ritual Responses to Incalculable Loss

Venue:
 Center for Advanced Studies
 Seestraße 13
 80802 München

