

Dear EHN Members,

I hope this finds you and your loved ones well and healthy in the current situation.

On Thursday 4th at 4pm GMT, our very own Esthie Hugo will be delivering an exciting talk entitled **“Pain, Pleasure, and the World-Food-System: Plotting the Afterlife of the Plantation in the Poetry of Grace Nichols”**, see abstract attached, hosted by Durham University’s Centre for Culture and Ecology and Research in English At Durham (READ), please find the links and details below if you’re interested to join:

Time: Jun 4, 2020, 4pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://durhamuniversity.zoom.us/j/93672786965?pwd=cXdQOHBiWTJ4NWRESEw1Z0dZMkpuQT09>

Meeting ID: 936 7278 6965

Password: 547801

See below additional links to new publications, call for papers and other opportunities:

New publications:

- See attached the ALECC Newsletter including a list of exciting new publications.
- A new journal entitled *Anthropocene* has launched its first issue and volume, please see more [here](#).
- A curated selection of essays from *Environmental History*’s archives highlight the centrality of gendered approaches to environmental history, see more [here](#).
- Volume 6, Issue 1 of the *International Review of Environmental History*, is out now, please see more [here](#).
- New publication: *Spatial Literary Studies: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Space, Geography, and the Imagination* By Robert T. Tally Jr., see more [here](#).

Online talks and webinars:

- If you have missed the 2020 *Orphan Film Symposium* on “Water, Climate and Migration”, full talk can be find on Vimeo through a link on the website [here](#).
- From June 15th to 19th the *Energy In/Out of Place: A Virtual Energy Humanities Research-Creation Workshop* will be taking place, please see more details [here](#).

Call for papers:

- See more details [here](#) on a cfp for an edited collection to be published with Peter Lang Oxford on **“Documentary film cultures in the age of COVID-19”**, **deadline 30th June 2020**.
- Please find attached an updated call for papers for the workshop *Ecocriticism and Old Norse Studies*, taking place at the University of Agder in Kristiansand, Norway, 26-27 November 2020. **The deadline for paper proposals has been extended to 31 August 2020**. Participation will be possible both on site in Kristiansand, and online. We encourage people who do not wish to travel to participate online. For participants on site without own travel funding, some bursaries for covering accommodation costs are available. If travel restrictions are still in place in autumn, the whole workshop will be organized digitally.
- *The Goose: A Journal of Arts, Environment, and Culture in Canada* seeks submissions for **issue 18.2**, for publication in November 2020. We want your intellectual sidecar projects, your desktop clutter, your knick-knacks, your trifles, your mixtapes, your long-abandoned projects, your slow thinking and half-baked masterpieces about the kinds of spaces we are inhabiting right now—environmental and/or more. In an effort to bend our minds away from the COVID-

19 tractor beam and to skirt the productivity imperative, we want this issue to be extra-open; we welcome work that is expansive, genre-bending, informal, and improvisational. *The Goose* is the journal of ALECC (Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada / L'Association pour la littérature, l'environnement et la culture au Canada) and is published biannually at <http://scholars.wlu.ca/thegoose/>. This open-access journal encourages the production and study of environmental literature and art, ecocriticism, ecotheory, and green cultural studies in Canada.

Funding and work opportunities:

- The Society for Latin American Studies Covid-19 Hardship fund for PhD students and ECR is now open, deadline for application is Friday 19th June at 12pm noon GMT, please see more details [here](#).
- New MPhil in Environmental History at Trinity College Dublin with available awards and studentships for 2020-2021 entries, see more [here](#).

Have a lovely day.

All the best,

Giulia

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[Warwick University Environmental Humanities Network](#)

Organising Committee

[Olga Smith](#) (IAS/History of Art)

[Jonathan Skinner](#) (English and Comparative Literary Studies)

[Maria Puig de la Bellacasa](#) (Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies)

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[Giulia Champion](#) (Hispanic Studies and English and Comparative Literary Studies)

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Attachments:

Pain, Pleasure, and the World-Food-System: Plotting the Afterlife of the Plantation in the Poetry of Grace Nichols

Global capitalism, as feminist scholars have long argued, cannot be fully understood without recourse to its impact on women's agricultural relations (Shiva and Mies 1993; Dalla Costa, 2009; Federici, 2009; Oloff, 2016; 2017). The privatization of land, along with the development of exchange-value, radically reorganized women's relations with the earth through the creation of a division between food production for direct consumption and food production for profit. As Silvia Federici suggests, "there is a direct relation between the destruction of the social and economic power of women and the politics of food in capitalist society" (2009). One way of understanding this relation is through a study of the Caribbean plantation, which not only enabled the accumulation of capital needed to create the modern industrialized world, but also facilitated the emergence of the world-food-system through its inauguration of the cash-crop and agro-industrial structures required for global food production (Mintz, 1985; 2011).

Drawing on these insights, this chapter considers how the study of literature can assist us in considering how vital black women's labour has been to the forging of the Caribbean plantation in the contemporary global order. To this end, I consider how the lyrical poetry of Guyanese poet Grace Nichols looks to script the afterlife of the plantation through a literary investment in black women's painful and pleasurable associations with food. I suggest that this scripting serves as much to surface the horrors of the plantation as it does to furnish a literary mode of dissent against the continued extraction of race and gender under the global food order. Focusing on how Nichols encodes a politics of race, gender, and food into the lyric form, I make a claim not only for the significance of Nichols's poetry to the study of the world-food-system but also to the growing field of food and literature.

Esthie Hugo is a PhD scholar based at the University of Warwick's Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies. Her research forms part of a Leverhulme-funded project that examines the relationship between world-literature and commodity frontiers.



Call for Papers

ECOCRITICISM AND OLD NORSE STUDIES

Fourth Workshop of the Ecocritical Network for Scandinavian Studies (ENSCAN), University of Agder, Kristiansand, Norway, 26-27 November 2020

Please note: Participation is possible both on site in Kristiansand, and online. We encourage people who do not wish to travel to participate online. For participants on site without own travel funding, some bursaries for covering accommodation costs are available. If travel restrictions are still in place in autumn, the whole workshop will be organized digitally.

Ecocriticism, that is, research on the relationship between literature, culture and environment, is a rapidly growing field. With some exceptions, the focus of ecocritical research so far has been on the present and the recent past. However, the current environmental crisis also makes it relevant to consider how humans in pre-modern times perceived their environments and interacted with them. Pre-modern Nordic literature and culture include a huge variety of sources that can be explored from an environmental humanities perspective.

The fourth workshop of the *Ecocritical Network for Scandinavian Studies* will therefore ask how approaches from ecocriticism and related fields can be utilized in Old Norse studies. How, for example, do the sagas of Icelanders imagine the environmental conditions of the Viking Age? What roles do environmental risks play in the bishops' sagas, contemporary sagas and the kings' sagas? What kinds of environmental imagination can we find in legendary sagas and chivalric sagas? What insights can documentary sources such as annals, law codes, charters and other administrative records give us regarding environmental issues of the time? To what extent do runic inscriptions relate to environmental aspects? Does Eddic and skaldic poetry preserve memories of pre-historic changes in climate and environment? What results might material-ecocritical or posthumanist readings of Old Norse literature yield? And what are the potential pitfalls when applying concepts from contemporary environmental discourse (such as sustainability, resilience, or the Anthropocene) to the interpretation of pre-modern texts?

We invite papers combining theoretical approaches drawn from ecocriticism and related fields with the study of any aspect of Old Norse literature and culture. Researchers from all career stages are encouraged to submit a proposal of up to 300 words for a 20-minute paper (that will be followed by a 10-minute discussion) to reinhard.hennig@uia.no by **31 August 2020**.

The language of the workshop will be English. Papers presented at the workshop will be published as part of a peer-reviewed edited volume.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the workshop organizers Reinhard Hennig (reinhard.hennig@uia.no), Emily Lethbridge (emily.lethbridge@arnastofnun.is), and Michael Schulte (michael.schulte@uia.no). Further information can also be found on the ENSCAN website at www.enscan.net.