



**THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES**  
CAVE HILL CAMPUS, BARBADOS, WEST INDIES

**Faculty of Humanities and Education**

**Department of Language, Linguistics and Literature**

**39<sup>th</sup> West Indian Literature Conference – Virtual Event**

**Call for Papers**

**Contemporary Currents in Caribbean Literature**

**October 28-30, 2021**

For this, the 39<sup>th</sup> year of the West Indian Literature Conference, the Department of Language, Linguistics, and Literature of the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, is inviting abstracts that explore emerging themes, ideas, experiences in contemporary currents in more recent Anglophone works. We are keen on hosting discussions that center more recent works published within the last 20 years of the current millennium. We are aware of how the world within which much of the literature we explore has continued to change, how the concerns have evolved and how emerging perspectives, voices, and aesthetics challenge established ideas of canon and trouble what it means to exist and write from a Caribbean perspective. We are interested in exploring how the current literary landscape engages with these changing and challenging times.

To this end we are inviting submissions that center, but are not limited to:

- Imagining Caribbean Futures
- LGBTQIA literature
- Climate Change and Caribbean Eco-states
- Caribbean Apocalypse
- Survival strategies
- Pedagogy and Caribbean Literature
- Digital Caribbean landscapes

- Graphic Novels
- Feminist Futures
- Indigenous literature

Additionally, we are inviting abstracts that celebrate the life and works of Edward Kamau Brathwaite, who transitioned in February 2020.

Abstracts of 250 words and a brief bio should be sent to [wilitconference39@cavehill.uwi.edu](mailto:wilitconference39@cavehill.uwi.edu) by **August 30, 2021**



## **Culture and the Impending Ecocatastrophe:**

### **Narratives of Ecology and Sustainable Futures**

University of Turku, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Keynote speaker: **Reinhard Hennig**, University of Agder (Norway)

“Nostalgia, Ecocatastrophe, or Sustainability?  
Environmental Storytelling and Ecocritical Theory”

### **Call for Papers**

Nordic Summer University Study Circle ‘Narrative and Violence’ is inviting proposals for presentations for the Summer Session. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year’s Summer Session has been exceptionally rescheduled to October and will be held online or in hybrid format.

Culture’s interest in nature has a long tradition, as illustrated by the biblical texts, Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*, the ancient Chinese poetry of Li Po, the European pastoral novel and, more recently, eco-dystopian fiction, exemplified by Octavia Butler’s and Margaret Atwood’s prose. However, it is only in response to the impending ecocatastrophe that ecocriticism has emerged as a major field of study. Defined as ‘earth-centred approach’ (Glotfelty and Fromm, 1996), it brings into dialogue cultural and environmental studies, and draw attention to culture’s reciprocal relationship with the natural world. More recently, critics have deconstructed and criticised the human-oriented approach of early ecocriticism, raising the question of nonhuman agency and establishing race and gender as ecological concepts. Moving beyond Western prominence, they have also endeavoured to emphasise the global character of ecological concerns.

The one-day symposium hopes to provide a platform for a discussion of culture’s reciprocal relationship with the natural world, as manifest in recent productions. Presentations given at the symposium might address, although need not be limited to, the following questions:

- How does contemporary culture address the ongoing environmental crisis?
- How does culture itself affect the environment (museums, installations, murals, guided tours, memorial practices etc.)?
- How do cultural texts and practices thematise and critique the culture-nature dichotomy?
- What specific representational strategies are used by writers and artists to draw attention to the two-way relationship between culture and endangered nature?

- What parallels do cultural productions draw between the oppression of human groups and our destruction of the natural environment?
- What impact does the figurative language that draws on the natural world have on our relationship with the environment?

Please send proposals for 15-minute presentations (max. 200 words) with a title and a short biographical note (100 words) to Helena Duffy ([helena.duffy@utu.fi](mailto:helena.duffy@utu.fi)) by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.

### **Nordic Summer University Membership**

To participate in the symposium, you need to become a member of the Nordic Summer University (NSU). The annual membership fee facilitates the existence of NSU. As a member you can sign up for all events organised by NSU, take part in the democratic decision-making process on which NSU is based, and become part of the extensive network of NSU. There are two rates: a standard fee of €25 and a discounted membership of €10 for students, self-financed/freelance/independent scholars and artists.

Circle 4 ‘Narrative and Violence’ (2000–2022) is one of the nine circles operating under the auspices of the Nordic Summer University (NSU). Founded in 1950, the Nordic Summer University is a non-hierarchical, democratic and volunteer-based organisation that provides opportunities for intellectual exchanges. It builds on the values of equality, inclusion, and sustainability by combining two traditions: the continental ideals of learning and cultivation of the self, and the Nordic heritage of *folkbildning* and self-organization, with its investments in open-access education and collaboration through participation and active citizenship.

For more information about Nordic Summer University, please visit: <https://www.nsuweb.org>.

## **Living with Extinction: After the Tipping Point**

Call for Contributions to a Special Issue of New Formations

Please Circulate Widely

New Formations: a journal of culture / theory / politics  
(<https://journals.lwbooks.co.uk/newformations/>)

2021 was the year that several environmental ‘tipping points’ – polar meltdown, aquifer exhaustion, permafrost warming and methane release, destabilised ocean currents, deforestation, rising air and sea temperatures, rates and extents of wildfires, storms and flooding – were allegedly approached or even surpassed, rendering the prevention of global warming beyond 1.5 C impossible and 2.0 very unlikely. Given the feedback effects of these phenomena, such increases were predicted to lead to increasing – and irreversible -- degradation. Where the global scale of ecological collapse previously posed the difficulty of its representation, there is now increasing acceptance among governments and populations that climate catastrophe is ‘real’.

But this brings with it new challenges, including the obvious one of despair in the face of the seeming impossibility of reversing the inevitable – and now apparently imminent -- annihilation of human life and that of most other species, or deferral of action to a subsequent generation imagined to be technically superpowered.

How can we respond to this? What contributions can cultural theory, cultural studies, critical theory, radical philosophy, political theory, media studies, and the wider critical humanities and social sciences, make to our understanding of this situation, and even to its possible remediation?

For this special issue of the journal we invite contributions addressing this question from any perspective.

Possible topics may include, but need not be limited to:

Ecological and anti-individualist paradigms in the twenty-first century

Democracy and ecology

Anti-colonialism and the climate emergency

Ecocriticism today

The climate and the commons

Ecological anti-capitalism in the Age of Platforms

New materialism, biosemiotics, panspsychism

Knowledge and legitimacy in the age of post-consensual politics

Posthumanisms and ecofeminisms

After the Anthropocene

Uneven extinction: the significance of race, gender, class and geography

The hermeneutics of tipping points, domino effects, cascades

Doomsday clocks: from atomic to environmental

Natural and political ‘feedback’

Indifferent ontologies and ethical responsibilities

Critical Climate Change and anti-humanism  
Apocalyptic exaltation  
Climate grief – mourning or melancholy?  
Greta Thunberg and the accusation of the elders  
Extinction Rebellion and the outlawing of protest  
Green New Dealing and greenwashing  
The consolation of virtual realities  
Escape: plutocrats in space  
Downsizing: rescaling as remediation  
Animal futures  
Living and dying with disease: pathogenic ecologies and antimicrobial resistance  
Burn this issue: the archive without readers

We invite proposals in the form of a title, 300 word abstract and biographical note. The deadline for submission of proposals is September 15th 2021. Proposals will be selected by the end of September 2021, and the deadline for the delivery of full articles (7,000-9,000 words) will be April 30th 2022.

Proposals should be emailed to [nfsubmissions@me.com](mailto:nfsubmissions@me.com) with the subject line 'Extinction Proposal'.

# Call for Papers 2021/22

## Cambridge Oceanic and Maritime History Workshop



The Cambridge Oceanic and Maritime History Workshop is pleased to announce its first Call for Papers for the academic year 2021/22. The Workshop welcomes applicants from the Cambridge Faculty of History and all related disciplines that investigate the human engagement with the sea. The Workshop aims at providing a space where graduate students and early-career researchers can engage in a stimulating interdisciplinary, inter-epochal, and trans-oceanic conversation about maritime encounters, spaces, exchanges, cultures, and identities. The Workshop is expected to be taking place in-person at St. Catharine's College and will be meeting on the second, fifth, and eighth Friday of each term at 5 pm. After the Workshop, we are looking forward to continuing our stimulating discussions at a nearby pub. If you are applying from outside of Cambridge or as an external, we are planning to experiment with 'hybrid' formats that combine the best of in-person and online events.

We particularly welcome papers on maritime 'worlds' and societies, the sea as a sacred space, maritime knowledge networks, 'terraqueous' spaces (e.g. littoral and insular spaces), encounters that took place because of the sea, migration and trafficking of people, motions of objects, the subaltern sea, diasporas, maritime identities, environmental history, and water cultures.

If you are interested in applying, please send a short abstract (max. 300 words) with a provisional title and some biographical information to [camoceanichistory@gmail.com](mailto:camoceanichistory@gmail.com) or contact one of the convenors, Jean-Marc Hill ([jmh259@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jmh259@cam.ac.uk)), Alice Whitehead ([arw84@cam.ac.uk](mailto:arw84@cam.ac.uk)), Aldri Cela ([ac2343@cam.ac.uk](mailto:ac2343@cam.ac.uk)), or Lavinia Gambini ([lg625@cam.ac.uk](mailto:lg625@cam.ac.uk)).

[Deadline: 1 September 2021!](#)