

Environmental questions have been driving interdisciplinary research in many Humanities disciplines in recent years. The intersection of culture and environment has invigorated classrooms and inspired publications, and conversations about environmental issues have extended beyond traditional disciplinary divisions. This conference will be a space to explore specific contributions of the Humanities to environmental issues of the present and their potential for the future. We are looking to discuss a wide range of questions that ask how particular Humanities approaches respond to environmental concerns and how interdisciplinary work in this area can be made productive.

Special Thanks:

Graduate and Professional Student Council

The University of Arizona Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry

The University of Arizona Department of German Studies

Gennady Sare, SILLC Administration

Natalie Olson, SILLC Administration

Conference Organizers:

Faculty Sponsor: Joela Jacobs

Co-Chairs: Yannleon Chen & Judith Menzl

Organizing Team and Moderators:

Agnes Cser, Lee Gagum, Lydia Heiss, James Howell, Kristin Lange,
Nick McNutt, A'Tres Norwood, Martin Opitz, Patrick Ploschnitzki,
Diane Richardson, and Martina Schwalm

The Department of German Studies presents
OCEANS AND DESERTS 2016
Charting Transdisciplinary Currents in Environment and Culture
APRIL 1 - 2

WHAT Conference Program: <http://bit.ly/OADprog>

WHERE University of Arizona ENR 2 / Room S107

WHO Open to the public Registration: <http://bit.ly/OAD2016>

▶▶▶ Taking the mutual interrelation between culture and the environment as object of study, OCEANS AND DESERTS spans all disciplines in the Humanities by bringing together emerging scholars to interrogate how these interrelated influences unfold in specific contexts

SPECIAL ON APRIL 3:
DESERT MUSEUM TOUR
BY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CRAIG IVANYI

Graduate & Professional Student Council
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry

Friday, April 1

12:30pm

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Joela Jacobs (German Studies, University of Arizona)
and Hans-Michael Speier (Max Kade Writer in Residence)

1-2:30pm: Panel I: Structures and Fluidity

Moderator: Diane Richardson

(German Studies, University of Arizona)

"Unlearning Sustainability:

Mapping Alternative Geographies of Health in Chicago"

Andrew Seber (History, University of Chicago)

"Handling Circulation:

Architectural and Meteorological Modes of Controlling Climate"

Inge Hinterwaldner

(Architecture and Planning/History, Theory, and Criticism,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

"Expanding the Hydraulic Turn with SCUBA"

Steph Buongiorno (English, West Virginia University)

Coffee Break

4:30-5:30pm: Panel VII: Poetic Environments

Moderator: Yannleon Chen

(German Studies, University of Arizona)

"Speaking Pictures on the Value of
the Experience of Nature in Poetry"

Agnes Cser

(German Studies, University of Arizona/University of Leipzig)

"Lassoing Time:

Collecting and Combining Time in Elizabeth Bishop's *Poem*"

Beth McDermott and Kevin Andrew Spicer

(English and Foreign Languages, University of St. Francis)

Closing remarks

Collective Dinner Opportunity

Sunday, April 3

Visit to the Desert Museum with introduction by Executive
Director Craig Ivanyi

(RSVP via <http://goo.gl/forms/mR4KucWdfJ> required)

The mission of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is to inspire people to live in harmony with the natural world by fostering love, appreciation, and understanding of the Sonoran Desert. The 98 acre Desert Museum is a fusion experience: zoo, botanical garden, art gallery, natural history museum, and aquarium. Unlike most museums, about 85% of the experience is outdoors!

3:15-4:15pm: Panel VI: Changing Nature(s) in Literature

*Moderator: A'Tres Norwood
(German Studies, University of Arizona)*

"Sea Changes:

Transportation and Transformation Across Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*"

Emma Brush (English, University of Chicago)

"Döblin's Enviromorphism: Ideological Manifestations of Nature in *The Three Leaps of Wang Lun*"

William M. Mahan
(German Studies, University of California, Davis)

Coffee Break

Poetry Exhibition by Alison Hawthorne Deming

Alison Hawthorne Deming teaches creative writing at the University of Arizona where she was recently appointed as Agnese Nelms Haury Professor of Environment and Social Justice. She serves on the board Terrain.org: A Journal of the Built + Natural Environments. She is a Senior Fellow at the Spring Creek Project at Oregon State University.

Deming is the author of five books of poetry and four books of nonfiction, including *Zoologies: On Animals and the Human Spirit*, published in 2014. She received a 2015 Guggenheim Fellowship. Her new poetry book *Stairway to Heaven* will be out from Penguin in September and her collaboration with photographer Stephen Strom, *Death Valley: Painted Light*, was released recently and excerpts from it are being displayed along the walls of the conference.

3:00-4:30pm: Panel II: Environmental Questions in China and Bangladesh

*Moderator: Martina Schwalm
(German Studies, University of Arizona)*

"Effect of ENGO in Environmental Management of Contemporary China: A Case Study of Friend of Nature"

Xin Zhou (Environmental Sociology, University of Science and Technology Beijing/Oklahoma State University)

"The Dagou Bar Channel:

Engineering Culture and Nature in a Chinese Port City"
Iris Ai Wang (East Asian History, Sam Houston State University)

"Driving Factors of Media Reporting on Climate Change in Bangladesh: A Critical Analysis"
Saleh Ahmed (Arid Lands Resource Sciences, University of Arizona/Columbia University)

4:45-5:45pm: Panel III: A Walk in the Park

*Moderator: Kyung Lee Gagum
(German Studies, University of Arizona)*

"The Mesquakie Park Field Guide:

An Artist's Tactic for Contesting Produced Ignorance"
Erica Damman (Environmental Humanities, University of Iowa)

"Creating A National Park: Yosemite's Early Tourism, Art, and Built Environment and Rethinking National Park Ideals, 1850s-1860s"

Alexandra Vicknair (Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies, Arizona State University)

6:30-8pm

Dinner & *Fisch out of Water* at Café Passé

Saturday, April 2

9:30-10:30am: Panel IV: Mediating Representations of Species Behavior

Moderator: Kristin Lange (Second Language Acquisition and Teaching/German Studies, University of Arizona)

"Ecocriticism and Ecological Ethics: Exploring the Moral Basis of Digitally Mediated Tree Planting Campaigns"

Shruti Desai

(Media and Communications, University of London)

"Colorado Potato Beetle and Sosnowsky's Giant Hogweed: Alien Species as (Bio)Political Factors in pre and post-1989 Poland"

Magda Dziabala (Translation Studies, Linguistics, and Cultural Studies, Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz)

Coffee Break

10:45-11:45am: Panel V: Philosophical Discourse

Moderator: James Howell

(German Studies, University of Arizona)

"The Metaphysics of Complexity"

John R. Bagby (Philosophy, Boston College)

"Nature As Discourse:

Co-Evolutionary Systems Approach to Transdisciplinarity"

Susanna Hays

(Interdisciplinary Studies, University of California, Berkeley)

Lunch break

2:00-3:00pm: Keynote Address

Introduction by Judith Menzl

(German Studies, University of Arizona)

"Toward a Cross-Cultural Environmental Ethics:
From Germany to Arizona"

Sean Ireton (German Studies, University of Missouri)

About Sean Ireton



Sean Ireton is an Associate Professor of German and Director of Undergraduate Studies in German at the University of Missouri. He is the author of *An Ontological Study of Death: From Hegel to Heidegger*. He has edited the journal *Literatur für Leser* (2014) and co-edited the journal *Heights of Reflection: Mountains in the German Imagination from the Middle Ages to the Twenty-First Century* (2012). Among his published articles, he has authored "Introductory Essay: Purity and Pollution — German Texts, American Contexts" and "Hölderlin's Philosophy of Nature in Hyperion: Monism, Pantheism, and Proto-Ecology." Ireton also has several forthcoming articles, including "Heidegger's Black Forest Provincialism in the Cultural Context of German Anti-Urbanism," "National Invective and Environmental Exploitation in Thomas Bernhard's *Frost*," and "Adalbert Stifter and the Gentle Anthropocene."