



Ecologies, Communities, Imaginaries

2021 Comparative Literature Conference

Conference Program

Keynote Speakers

Adeline Johns-Putra (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)

Jennifer R. Pournelle (University of South Carolina)

James Scott (Yale University)



March 12-13, 2021

The University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Website: https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsandsciences/dllc/study/cplt/conferences/cplt_conf_23.php

General Schedule

Friday, March 12th, 2021

1:00- 1:15 PM **Opening Remarks**

Paul Allen Miller (University of South Carolina)

1:15-3:15 PM **Keynote**

Adeline Johns-Putra (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)

“The Multi-Species, Multi-Scalar, and Multi-Author Communities of the Anthropocene”

3:30-5:30 PM **Panel A**

Ecocritical Approaches to Modernity in Latin American Literature

Saturday, March 13th, 2021

8:00-9:30 AM **Panel B**

(Re)Imagining the World in Climate Literature

10:00-11:30 AM **Panel C**

Ocean and Water through the Lens of Ecocriticism

1:00- 2:30 PM **Panel D**

Environmental Justice

3:00- 4:30 PM **Panel E**

Bodies, Development, Capitalism

7:00-9:30 PM

Keynote Session in Honor of Jennifer Pournelle’s Retirement

- I. James Scott (Yale University) “River and River-Time”
- II. Jennifer Pournelle (University of South Carolina)
“On the Marche: Borderlands, Wetlands, Occupations”
- III. Public conversation: Jennifer Pournelle and James Scott

Attending the Conference

The 2021 Comparative Literature conference “Ecologies, Communities, Imaginaries” will be held virtually on Zoom. Please access the sessions via registration as shown below:

Time	Session	Zoom Access
Friday, March 12th		
1:00-1:15 p.m.	Opening Remarks	<p>Register here: https://bit.ly/3ciiuXT</p> <p>To attend any sessions, please register in advance. You will then receive a confirmation email with a link with which you will be able to join the event.</p>
1:15-3:15 p.m.	Keynote: Adeline Johns-Putra	
3:30-5:30 p.m.	Panel A	
Saturday, March 13th		
8:00-9:30 a.m.	Panel B	
10:00-11:30 a.m.	Panel C	
1:00-2:30 p.m.	Panel D	
3:00-4:30 p.m.	Panel E	
7:00-9:30 p.m.	Keynote Session: Jennifer Pournelle & James Scott	

***NOTE:** How to join a Zoom conference?

- Click the Zoom link in the registration email to join.
 - If you have any problem with the links, click [here](#). Enter the “meeting ID” to join the session.
- The link will direct you to either launch or download the Zoom application. Follow the instructions on your pop-up window.
- You will then be put in a virtual waiting room of the meeting. Once the host approves your entrance, you will be automatically admitted into the session.

Detailed Schedule

Friday, March 12th, 2021

1:00- 1:15 PM **Opening Remarks**

[Paul Allen Miller](#) (University of South Carolina)

1:15- 3:15 PM **Keynote**

[Adeline Johns-Putra](#) (Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University)

“The Multi-Species, Multi-Scalar, and Multi-Author
Communities of the Anthropocene.”

3:30- 5:30 PM **Panel A**

Ecocritical Approaches to Modernity in Latin American Literature

Moderator: Andrew Rajca

Discussant: Laura Barbas Rhoden

Tamara Morgan: “Eco-Spatial (dis)Connection in Samanta Schweblin’s
Distancia de rescate”

Fritz Culp: “The Heartbeat of the Machine: Ecological Alternatives in
Arguedas’ *The Fox from Up Above and the Fox from Down Below*”

David E. S. Beek: “The Anthropocene, Slow Violence, and
Interspecies Ethics in Ana Paula Maia’s Brazil: An Ecocritical Analysis
of ‘carbon animalis’ ”

Saturday, March 13th, 2021

8:00-9:30 AM **Panel B**

(Re)Imagining the World in Climate Literature

Moderator: Jeff Persels

Alexandra Bichara: “Invaded: A Dismantling of Philippine Ecopoetry”

Xianmin Shen: “Didactic Fiction? Science, and Community Building in *Flight Behavior*”

Zineb Rabouj: “Re-mapping America in the Age of Civil War and Global Warming in Omar El Akkad’s *American War*”

10:00-11:30 AM **Panel C**

Ocean and Water through the Lens of Ecocriticism

Moderator: Jorge Camacho

Mia Chen Ma: “Liquid Modernity: The Polluted Ocean and Mobile Community”

Ju Wan: “Decoding the Pessimism of *The Water Knife* and Its Implications”

Chihchi Sunny Tsai: “A Material Reading of Taiwanese Ecocriticism”

1:00- 2:30 PM **Panel D**

Environmental Justice

Moderator: Rebecca Janzen

Siqi Li: “Facing Environmental Injustice: The Destruction of Nostalgic Thinking in *Waste Tide*”

Thomas Alexander: “Ghostbodies and Ghosttowns: Abandoned Bodies and Structures as Objects of Melancholy in *Nostalgia for the Light* by Patricio Guzmán”

3:00- 4:30 PM **Panel E**

Bodies, Development, Capitalism

Moderator: Yvonne Ivory

Dan Luo: “Body Modification and the Development Myth in Chinese Science Fiction”

Maximilian Gindorf: “Words for Food: The Body Politic in Anthropocene Cinema – Bong Joon Ho’s *Snowpiercer* (2013)”

Meagan Cobb: “Eco-dystopias: Reading Emilio Bueso’s *Al garete* through the lens of environmental reality”

7:00-9:30 PM **Keynote Session in Honor of Jennifer Pournelle’s Retirement**

Moderator: Jie Guo

I. James Scott (Yale University), lecture on river and river-time

II. Jennifer Pournelle (University of South Carolina)
“On the Marche: Borderlands, Wetlands, Occupations”

III. Public conversation: Jennifer Pournelle and James Scott



Keynote Speech

[Adeline Johns-Putra](#)

Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

“The Multi-Species, Multi-Scalar, and Multi-Author
Communities of the Anthropocene”

Friday, March 12th, 1:15-3:15 PM (Eastern Daylight Time)

Register here: <https://bit.ly/3ciiuXT>



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Keynote Session in Honor of Jennifer Pournelle's Retirement

- [James Scott](#) (Yale University) “River and River-Time”
- [Jennifer R. Pournelle](#) (University of South Carolina) “On the Marche: Borderlands, Wetlands, Occupations”
- Public Conversation: Jennifer Pournelle and James Scott

Saturday, March 13th, 7:00-9:30 PM (Eastern Daylight Time)

Register here: <https://bit.ly/3ciiuXT>



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The University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

List of Participants

Thomas Alexander (University of South Carolina)

David E. S. Beek (University of South Carolina)

Alexandra Bichara (University of South Carolina)

Meagan Cobb (University of South Carolina)

Fritz Culp (University of South Carolina)

Maximilian Gindorf (University of South Carolina)

Ju Wan (Lanzhou Jiaotong University)

Siqi Li (Stanford University)

Dan Luo (University of South Carolina)

Mia Chen Ma (University of London)

Tamara Morgan (University of South Carolina)

Zineb Rabouj (Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University)

Laura Barbas Rhoden (Wofford College)

Chihchi Sunny Tsai (University of South Carolina)

Bios

Thomas Alexander is currently a PhD candidate in Comparative Literature. He has an M.A. in Spanish Literature from UNC-Greensboro and a B.A. in Latin American Studies from UNC-Chapel Hill. He is from North Carolina where he lives during the summer. His work includes presentations at UNCG, “Racialized Identities in Second Language Scquisition” (Fall 2017 - 16th Annual Language Learning Series) and “Fighting the Plantation System – the UNCG Food Workers’ Strike of 1969 - Are Today’s Workers any Better off” (Spring 2019 symposium on “Music, Gender and Protest in the 1960’s”). His poem “Látigos de Cemento” won a poetry contest in 2018 and is published in *Fósforo* literary magazine. His research interests include comparative mining literature of the 19th and early 20th century and literary production of slaves during slavery in the Americas.

David E. S. Beek is a PhD Candidate in Comparative Literature at the University of South Carolina with a focus on Portuguese, Spanish, and English languages. He is the recipient of a 2019-2020 Study/Research Grant from the Fulbright Brazil U.S. Student Program, which he carried out at the Federal University of Paraíba in João Pessoa. He is the author of the article “Faulkner’s Quixotic Picaresque: Carnival, Tricksters, and Rhizomatic Intertextuality in *The Reivers*.” His dissertation research centers on Afro-diasporic connections between Black cultural production in the United States and Brazil.

Alexandra Bichara is a first-year PhD student in Comparative Literature at the University of the Philippines Diliman. She received her MA in Literature, Landscape and Environment from Bath Spa University and AB in Literature (English) from Ateneo de Manila University. Her current research interests include postcolonial animal studies and ecocriticism.



Meagan Elizabeth Cobb is a doctoral candidate in the Spanish program at the University of South Carolina. She earned an AB in Spanish and a MA in Hispanic Studies from the University of Georgia. Though peninsular Spanish dystopian literature is her field of study, her previous conference presentations include: “Female Faces of Immigration Detention,” “Using Instagram for L2 Writing” (a co-presentation with Dr. Kelly Ford of UGA), and “Corset or Codpiece: Cross-dressing in Ana Caro’s *Valor, agravio y mujer*.”

Fritz Culp is a PhD Candidate in Spanish at the University of South Carolina. He is the recipient of a 2020-2021 fellowship from the Bilinski Educational Foundation. Fritz is the author of the article “Hibridez, letramiento y ecofeminismo: imágenes de resistencia en Hija de la laguna de Ernesto Cabellos.” His dissertation explores the transformations of material space in the Andes, ecocriticism, mining-induced development, ontology, and indigenismo.

Maximilian Gindorf received his M.A. in Philosophy and Comparative Literature from the Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany, and his M.A. in German from the University of South Carolina, where he currently pursues his PhD in Comparative Literature. His academic scholarship explores the connections and exchanges between American and German philosophy, literature and film with a special focus on Nietzsche, Emerson and Thoreau in the 19th and Wittgenstein, Cavell and film in the 20th century.



Siqi Li is an MA student in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Stanford University. She is also a translator, currently working on the Chinese translation of *Luxury: A Rich History* (by Oxford University Press in 2016) which will be published in China soon. Her research focuses on STS (science, technology and society studies), environmental humanities, biopolitics, and posthumanism. She is interested in studying modern literature and cultures from transnational and transmedia perspectives.

Dan Luo is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Literature at the University of South Carolina. Her research area includes modern Chinese literature, Chinese cinema, and women in popular culture. In her project on contemporary Chinese science fiction, she explores cultural autonomy in speculative accounts of Chinese science and technology, alternative histories, and discourses on the local origin of science fiction.

Mia Chen Ma is a doctoral candidate at SOAS, University of London, and Co-Director of the London Science Fiction Research Community. Her research interests lie primarily in the increasing role of science fiction as a critique of ecological conundrums. Her current research project is funded by the Universities' China Committee in London. By looking into recent eco-oriented Chinese science fiction works, her analysis associates ecological narratives closely with the complexity of China's changing socio-political discourse over the past two decades. She considers that the central question posed, and often left unresolved, by eco-oriented Chinese SF is how to resist the universal narratives of centrality and exceptionalism regarding specific types of society—whether they be human, more-than-human, dystopian, utopian, socialist or capitalist.



Tamara Morgan is a PhD Candidate in Spanish at the University of South Carolina with a focus on 20th- and 21st-century Argentine narrative. Her dissertation examines the search for identity and belonging in the globalized world, specifically the juxtaposition of time and space and how this conjunction affects human connection with surrounding people and places. Her research interests include space, flânerie and phantasmagoria, subjectivity, the fantastic, and ecocriticism.

Zineb Rabouj is a Moroccan PhD student at Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University, the Faculty of Humanities, Fes. Her PhD thesis is entitled “The Moroccan-American Literary Encounters: Images of America in Postcolonial Moroccan Literature.” In addition to her interest in topics pertaining to Comparative Literature and Postcolonial studies she is also interested in diverse gender-related issues in the MENA region as she is also currently working on a project on Female Rapping in Morocco.

Laura Barbas Rhoden is Professor of Spanish at Wofford College. She is the author of two books, *Writing Women in Central America* (Ohio UP, 2003) and *Ecological Imaginations in Latin American Fiction* (UP of Florida, 2011), and numerous articles on Latin American environmental humanities, as well as public engagement and global learning in higher education. She is co-President of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, an international professional organization, and founder of Alianza Spartanburg, a social impact network dedicated to fostering the inclusion of Latinx residents in improving quality of life in Spartanburg.



Xianmin Shen is currently assistant professor of the School of Foreign Studies at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics. Her research interests include ecocriticism, gender studies, and contemporary American fiction.

Chihchi Sunny Tsai is a Ph.D. student in Comparative Literature at the University of South Carolina. Her research interests include twentieth century Sinophone Taiwan, postcolonial ecocriticism, and world literature. She is currently interested in the relations between literary works, history and memory. Her past research has focused on two writers Wu Ming-Yi and Wuhe.

Ju Wan is a postgraduate student majoring in translation theory and practice at School of Foreign Languages, Lanzhou Jiaotong University, Lanzhou City, China. Her research interests mainly include translation theory studies, corpus translation studies, and comparative literature. She has published “*Mona Baker and Translation Studies*” on *Journal of Educational Research and Policies* (JERP) in 2020.



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Sponsored by: The Program in Comparative Literature and the Department of Languages, Literature, and Cultures, UofSC

Conference Directors: Jie Guo, Xianmin Shen, and Alexander Beecroft

Conference Assistants: Tingting Hu and Chihchi Sunny Tsai

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If you have any question, please email to: cpltconf@mailbox.sc.edu