

DLLC Symposium 2026
"Eco-logics: Reading and Writing Environmental Change"

&

International Speaker Series 2026



International Speaker Series

"The Topographic Imaginary: Art and the Environs of Greater Paris"

Guest Lecture and Workshops

by **Dr. Ari Blatt**

Tuesday, March 24, 2026, from 5-7:30 p.m.

Plemmons Student Union 417 (Beacon Heights)

Moderator: **Stephanie Tsakeu Mazan**

Presenter: **Dr. Ari Blatt**

*Dr. Blatt is professor and chair of the Department of French at the University of Virginia, where he teaches courses on modern and contemporary French literature and visual culture. He is the author of *Pictures into Words: Images in Contemporary French Fiction* (Nebraska, 2012) and co-editor, with Edward Welch, of *France in Flux: Space, Territory, and Contemporary Culture* (Liverpool, 2019). Blatt's most recent book, *The Topographic Imaginary: Attending to Place in Contemporary French Photography* (Liverpool, 2022), is about picturing place. He is currently working on French culture's fascination for the *diagonale du vide*, or "empty diagonal," and has been pondering what it might look like to make the work we do in the humanities less coolly detached and clinical and, instead, more expressly personal.*

"The Topographic Imaginary: Art and the Environs of Greater Paris"

Dr. Blatt will give an interdisciplinary lecture that crosses disciplines from literature to fine arts. He touches on literature, photography, walking, and writing as we begin attending to space and place, finding beauty in the banal. Building on *The Topographic Imaginary*, Blatt encourages us to think about everyday environments — both natural and manmade — at the intersection of image and memory, history, and affect.

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Wednesday, March 25th, 2026
Beacon Heights (417 PSU)

Panel

"Language, Identity, and Belonging in the Comunidad Latina"
(1:00 - 2:30 pm)

Moderator: **Benito del Pliego**

- Judah Bawcombe: **Language Accessibility for Spanish-Speaking Residents of Watauga County, NC**
- Vivian De Los Santos: **The Spanish Language and its Importance to the Latin-American Community**
- Adrienne Erazo: **"What Contemporary Narrative Reveals about U.S.- Latine Workers' Health"**



Panel

"Harvesting Harm: Colonial Logics and the Commodification of Nature"
(3:00 - 4:30 pm)

Moderator: **Kinji Ito**

- Stephanie Diane Tsakeu Mazan. ***Post-colonial lands, colonial logic, Global poisoning: Toxic Tropics, a Horror Story of Environmental Injustice.***
- Jewel Parker: ***Calvin J. Cowles, Medicinal Roots, and Overharvesting Botanical Remedies in the Long Nineteenth Century***



Poetry readings & presentations.
"Voicing Beyond the Human"
Wednesday 25th
Beacon Heights (417 PSU)

(5:00-6:00 pm)

Moderator: **Tonya Nagle**

- Kathryn Kirkpatrick: **“Bodying Forth”: Poems About Other Animals. Reading, presentation.**
- Benito del Pliego: **“Fabula mundi: Poetic Voices for All Beings”**

Thursday, March 26th, 2026
Price Lake (201A, PSU)

Panel

“From Climate Policy to Ecological Consciousness”

(1:00-2:30 pm)

Moderator: **Christoph Schmitz**

- Katharina Smith : **Green Solution: Germany’s Energy Crisis and the Future of Climate Policy**
- Kevin Kennedy: **Listening to the Land: Ecological Consciousness, Identity, and Moral Order in Anthony Winkler's *The Lunatic***