

EcoAssemblages: New Perspectives on Environmental Humanities

University of Málaga (Ampliación de Teatinos Campus - [Link Building](#)). 3rd Floor

Programme

Please notice that papers should not last more than 15 minutes

5-6 March 2026

Day 1

Time	Activity
9:30-10:00	Inaugural session
10:00-11:00	Keynote “(Dis)Placing and (Un)Making: Tracing Individual and Collective Eco-Assemblages” Prof. Roberta Maierhofer (University of Graz, Austria)

11:00-11:30	Break
11:30-13:00 Water and Land EcoAssemblages Chair: Juan José Martín	“Transgressive Marine Agency Across the <i>Longue Durée</i> : An Eco-Assemblage Perspective” Manuel Álvarez-Martí-Aguilar (University of Málaga)
	“Speculative Futures: Digital Eco-Stories as Multispecies Assemblages” Nicole Haring, Eva Bauer & Fabiana Fazzi (University of Graz, Ca’ Foscari University)
	“Teaching in the Anthropocene: Symbolic Trees, Eco-Literary Imaginaries, and Rhizomatic Learning in ELT Teacher Education” Michela Gronchi & Fabiana Fazzi (Ca’ Foscari University)
	Q&A
13:00-14:30	Lunch break
14:30-16:00 Theoretical and Practical Approaches to EcoAssemblages Chair: Rosario Arias	“Digesting the Anthropocene: Critical Food Design in the Multispecies Assemblage” Anna Kwapisz (University of Wroclaw)
	“Does assemblage thinking characterise climate fiction? A study of Samantha Harvey’s <i>Orbital</i> ” Ana Tejero (University of Salamanca)

	Q&A
16:00-16:30	Break
16:30-18:00 Literary EcoAssemblages (I) Chair: Rosario Arias	“Family Abolition, Ecofeminism and (Failed) Ecoassemblages in Anita Desai’s <i>Fire on the Mountain</i> ” Lucio De Capitani (Ca’ Foscari University)
	“‘The Dragon in the Cave’: Rhizomatic Eco-stories for a Change in the Symbiocene” Juan Ignacio Oliva Cruz (University of La Laguna)
	“Becoming-with the Wild: Eco-assemblages, multispecies entanglements and metamorphosis in Sarah Hall’s <i>Mrs Fox</i> ” María Jesús Perea Villena (Camilo José Cela University)
	Q&A

Day 2

Time	Activity
9:30-11:00	“‘The isle is full of noises, sounds and sweet airs’: Eco-Assemblages in The Tempest and Margaret Atwood’s Hag-Seed” Sofía Muñoz Valdivieso

Literary EcoAssemblages (II) Chair: Manuel Hueso	(University of Málaga)
	“Eco-trauma and Relational Mourning in Diane Cook’s <i>The New Wilderness</i> ” Francisco Muñoz Pelaez (University of Málaga)
	“Poetic Phytography in <i>Piach</i> by Urszula Zajączowska” Katarzyna Majca-Lipa (University of National Education in Cracow)
	Q&A
11:00-11:30	Break
11:30-13:00 Postcolonial and Non-Eurocentric EcoAssemblages Chair: María Torres	“Indigenous Storytelling and Relational Value” Alyssa Delarosa (University of Graz)
	“Eco-Assemblages and Postcolonial Entanglements: Rethinking Environmental Crisis through African Fiction” Youssof Diallo (Cheikh Anta Diop University)
	“Beyond the Human: Ecology, Voice, and Embodiment in Canadian Eco-Stories” Seyma Yonar (University of Graz)
	Q&A
13:00-14:30	Lunch break

14:30-16:00 Criticism and EcoAssemblages Chair: Rosario Arias	“Re-Imagining Extinction in the Fiction of the Anthropocene” María Torres (University of Málaga)
	“Assembling a Queer Ecology in Theodore McCombs’s ‘Uranians’ (2024)” Manuel Hueso (University of Málaga)
	“Ecologies of Health: Environmental Illness and Planetary Thinking in Sandra Steingraber's <i>Living Downstream</i> ” Lola Artacho Martín (University of Málaga)
	Q&A
Closing words	

Speakers’ bio notes

Rosario Arias is Professor of English Literature at the University of Málaga, Spain. She has published widely on (neo-)Victorian fiction, contemporary Anglophone fiction, literary and critical theory, gender studies and feminism, as well as the intersections between literature and other disciplines as in Environmental Humanities and Health Humanities. She has co-edited (with Patricia

Pulham) *Haunting and Spectrality in Neo-Victorian Fiction* (Palgrave), (with Patricia Pulham, Christine Ferguson, and Tatiana Kontou) *Spiritualism, 1840-1930* in the Victorian Concepts series (Routledge), and, with Juan-Jesús Zaro-Vera, *Spanish Spiritualist Writings and its Dissemination through Translations* (Reichenberger). Recently she has co-authored *Women and Entertainment in the Victorian Home* (with Laura Monrós-Gaspar) (Publicacions Universitat València-PUV). She leads the [LITCAE](#) research group, and the WE-CARE Network, and she is PI of the Literary Assemblage Project ([RELY](#)), and is part of the Erasmus+ project “[EcoStories](#)”, led by University of Graz. Arias is currently the President of the Spanish Association of Anglo-American Studies ([AEDEAN](#)), and the President of Victorian and Neo-Victorian Society in Spain ([VINS](#)). She is a member of *Academia Europaea*, and Fellow of the English Association.

Manuel Álvarez-Martí-Aguilar is Professor of Ancient History at the University of Málaga (Spain). His research focuses on Tartessos and Phoenician Iberia, as well as on the impact of historical earthquakes and tsunamis on coastal communities in the Iberian Peninsula, examined from a multidisciplinary perspective within the environmental humanities. He has been principal investigator of the projects *The Tsunami in the Cultural Representations of the Ancient World*, which explores apotropaic and symbolic responses to extreme marine events; and *Earthquakes and Tsunamis in the Iberian Peninsula: Social Responses in the Longue Durée*, which focuses on societal responses to seismic and marine catastrophes across time. He is the author and editor of several volumes, including *Tarteso. La construcción de un mito en la historiografía española* (2005) and *Historical Earthquakes, Tsunamis and Archaeology in the Iberian Peninsula* (Springer, 2022). He has held fellowships at the Institute of Classical Studies (London), where he co-organized the workshop *Fluid Horizons: Charting Ancient Environmental History and Blue Humanities* (2024), and at the University of Chicago.

Lola Artacho Martín is a fully funded PhD student at the University of Málaga under the supervision of Prof. Rosario Arias. Her main research interests concern life writing and illness narratives, Health Humanities and ethics of care, which align with the main lines of the RELY research project. She is also a member of the research group LITCAE. Prior to her doctoral studies, she earned a master's degree in English Studies and Secondary Education Teaching from the University of Málaga and UNED, respectively, and a bachelor's degree in English Studies from the University of Málaga.

Eva Katharina Bauer is research assistant and PhD student at the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz, Austria, where she also coordinates the Erasmus+ project “Eco-Stories” (www.ecostories.org). Her ongoing research investigates the temporal aspects of environmental concerns in the field of ecolinguistics, intersectional environmentalism and Inter-American Studies.

Francesca Baroni is an Italian student. She has a bachelor’s and master’s degree in philosophy. Her master’s thesis focused on landscape aesthetics in dialogue with neuroaesthetics. She’s currently pursuing a master’s degree in Environmental Humanities at Roma 3 University. Her interests concern therefore, the aesthetics of landscape and the environment and environmental humanities in general.

Lucio De Capitani is a tenure-track researcher at Ca' Foscari University of Venice since 2025. His research interests include Anglophone, colonial, postcolonial, and Indigenous literatures (particularly the work of Robert Louis Stevenson, Amitav Ghosh, Anita Desai, Ursula K. Le Guin, and Cherie Dimaline), theories of world literature, connections between anthropology and literary studies, as well as ecocriticism and speculative fiction, with a focus on cli-fi, solarpunk, abolitionist, utopian, and dystopian imaginaries. He has co-edited the collection *Venice and the Anthropocene. An Ecocritical Guide* (2022, wetlands) and published *Ethnographic Narratives as World Literature. Uneven Entanglements in European and South Asian Writing* (2023, Palgrave).

Alyssa Delarosa is a second-year PhD researcher and university assistant in the Section of Moral and Political Philosophy at the University of Graz in Austria. She researches the impacts of biodiversity loss and mitigation within the context of values, justice, and morality.

Youssef Diallo is a doctoral researcher in African and Postcolonial Studies and Steering Committee member of the All Africa Intellectual Summit organisation. He has published 4 articles and have some forthcoming publications in 2026. Jointly affiliated with Université Marie et Louis Pasteur (France) and Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar (Senegal), his doctoral research reflects a commitment to interdisciplinary dialogue and global academic collaboration, particularly through the lens of neocolonialism, migration, and literature. Beyond academia, Youssef is professional services provider; tailored solutions in research, interpretation

and translation, human resource management, and tourism services. Under his leadership, has become a trusted partner for individuals, institutions, and organizations seeking reliable, high-quality, and contextually grounded expertise. As a Steering Committee Member and Committee Lead at the All Africa Intellectual Summit, Youssouf actively contributes to advancing intellectual engagement, innovation, and policy dialogue across the continent and beyond. He is also Founder of “TAKE_THE_LEAD,” a youth platform promoting intercultural dialogue and leadership, embodying his dedication to empowering the next generation of African changemakers.

Fabiana Fazzi is a PostDoc Research Fellow in Educational Linguistics and Coordinator of the Master’s degree programme in Foreign Language Teaching at Ca’ Foscari University (Venice, Italy). Her research interests lay in the area of: language learning beyond the classroom, multiliteracies and global citizenship skills development in an additional language, arts-based methods (i.e. digital storytelling, drama, and artistic methods), bilingual education (i.e. CLIL), and participatory research methods. She has been involved in several research projects including the Erasmus+ projects “Ecostories” (2024-2027), aimed at promoting environmental literacy development in ELT, and “Lit. Up Your Phones-DigLit” (2021-2023), aimed at promoting diversity and equality through the combination of Young Adult Literature, Digital Social Reading, and Digital Storytelling. In 2020, she co-founded the MILE (Museums and Innovation in Language Education) research group, working extensively with museums to challenge western narratives and ideologies and design transformative learning experiences that promote multilingualism and wellbeing. Currently, she teaches in the master’s degree courses both at Ca’ Foscari University and at the University of Bologna.

Ralf Gisinger is a lecturer at the Department of Philosophy of the University of Vienna. He has been a DOC fellow of the Austrian Academy of Sciences and research associate at the University of Vienna from 2021-2024 with the PhD-project “Insistence of Ecology. Eco-philosophical assemblages in and after Deleuze/Guattari”. In 2022-23 he was a research fellow in Paris and Montreal through a Marietta-Blau-scholarship and in 2024 awarded an excellence grant by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Since 2021 he has been coordinator of the research group “Poststructuralism, Gender Theory, Psychoanalysis” at the University of Vienna. Publications include a book on Philosophies of Pluralization between Deleuze and Nancy (in German, 2020) and articles on Deleuze/Guattari, Ecology or the Anthropocene. Recently: “The Ecosophical Condition. Guattari’s Ecologies and What is Philosophy?”, in *Deleuze and Guattari Studies*, 2026. “The Problem of Naturalization. Double Transference in Marx/Engels and Foucault” in *Foucault and Marx*, Routledge, 2026.

Michela Gronchi is a Teaching and Research Assistant in Educational Linguistics at Ca' Foscari University of Venice and a doctoral researcher at the University of St Andrews. Her research explores how EMI and CLIL educators construct and negotiate their professional identities in multilingual higher education contexts. As an EMI educator herself, Michela's work is inspired by her own experiences of the challenges and rewards of teaching through English. She adopts phenomenological, storytelling, and arts-based approaches to capture teachers' lived experiences and emotions. Passionate about bridging research and practice, Michela is committed to supporting educators in building inclusive and linguistically responsive classrooms.

Nicole Haring is (Senior) Scientist of American Studies and Director of the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz, Austria. Her research interests focus on gender and feminist theory, contemporary US-American literature, Inter-American studies, and environmental humanities. Her teaching and research are informed by participatory approaches, interdisciplinary attempts, and critical pedagogies. She is a researcher in the Erasmus+ project "Eco-Stories" (www.ecostories.org) and the co-editor of the volume *Entanglements, Narratives, and the Environment: Inter-American Perspectives* (Lexington, 2024) with E. Bauer, and R. Maierhofer.

Manuel Hueso is a lecturer at the University of Málaga (Spain). His main research interests include Victorian literature, Queer Studies and contemporary fiction. He wrote his PhD thesis on the representation of human bodies in the works of Henry James and Oscar Wilde, connecting this representation with queer discourses and styles. He is a member of the research project "Re-Orienting Assemblage Theory in Anglophone Literature and Culture" (RELY), funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities. He has recently published a monograph on the relationship between liminal spaces and the fictional representation of artists' studios in nineteenth century literature.

Anna Kwapisz is a Cultural Studies scholar and Ph.D. candidate at the Institute of Cultural Studies, University of Wrocław (Poland). Her research interests mainly focus on critical design, food design, and aesthetics of everyday life. She has published articles on food culture, contemporary art and somaesthetics in the journals: *Pragmatism Today*, *Czas Kultury*, *Prace Kulturoznawcze*, *Kultura- Historia – Globalizacja*. Her latest publication also appeared in *Brill's* series of books on studies in somaesthetics.

Roberta Maierhofer is professor of American Studies at the University of Graz, Austria, and Adjunct Associate Professor at the State University of New York, Binghamton, USA (since 1996). In 2012, she received the title Professor Honoris Causa of the University of Shkodra, Albania. From 1999 to 2011, she held a series of Vice-Rector positions for International Relations

(1999-2003), International Relations and Affirmative Action for Women (2003-2007), and International Relations and Interdisciplinary Cooperation (2007-2011). Her know-how of regional and inter-regional collaboration was fundamental for her leadership role at the *Center for Inter-American Studies*, which she directed from 2007-2025. Since 2004, she has been directing the *Graz International Summer School Seggau*, an interdisciplinary and intercultural platform in the fields of European and Inter-American Studies. Her research focuses on (Inter)-American Literature and Cultural Studies, Gender Studies, Transatlantic Cooperation in Education, Digitalization, Diversity, and Interculturality, Narrative Didactics, Ecocriticism, as well as Age/Aging Studies. She has also been instrumental in developing research projects on a national and international level, including the EU Gender-Net+ project “Gendering Age: Representations of Masculinities and Ageing in European Literatures and Cinemas”, the *Ageing + Communication + Technologies* (ACT) project, and the *Ageing in Data* project. Additionally, she has been initiating inter-cultural and transdisciplinary educational projects to develop narrative and arts-based methods for knowledge transfer.

Katarzyna Majca-Lipa, MA is a PhD candidate in the humanities, specializing in Literary Studies, at the University of National Education in Cracow, Poland. She has participated in numerous national and international academic conferences. Most recently, she presented a paper entitled “Auto-somatic assemblageness in *Granica lasu* by Małgorzata Lebda” at the international conference Poetry and Performance III: Resistance & Regeneration, held at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Porto. Her doctoral research focuses on Anthropocene and posthumanist perspectives in contemporary women’s poetry.

Francisco Muñoz Pelaez is an English Major by the University of Málaga, where he is also finishing a Masters in English Studies. He has been a beneficiary of the academic scholarship “Beca de Iniciación a la Investigación” (Plan Propio de Investigación, Transferencia y Divulgación Científica de la UMA), which was supervised by Dr. Carmen Lara-Rallo as a member of the Project PID2022-137881NB-I00. An incipient scholar, he has already presented two papers in 2024 and 2025 at the AEDEAN 47th and 48th conferences. His main research interest lies within the Environmental Humanities and contemporary eco-fiction, with special attention to dystopian and utopian narratives.

Sofía Muñoz-Valdivieso is Associate Professor in the English Department at the University of Malaga (Spain). She has published on adaptations of English classics and literary and screen appropriations of Shakespeare. She is interested in the interaction between historical and fictional texts and the rewriting of history in British fiction, in particular works that engage with issues of slavery in the British Empire. She has published articles in such journals as *Afroeuropa*, *Ariel*, *Cahiers Charles V*, *Changing English*, *Interactions*, *Journal of European Studies*, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, *Obsidian III*, and *SEDERI*.

Juan Ignacio Oliva is Professor of Postcolonial Anglophone Literatures at Universidad de La Laguna (Tenerife, Canaries, Spain). He has edited *The Painful Chrysalis. Essays on Contemporary Cultural and Literary Identity* (Peter Lang 2011), *Realidad y simbología de la montaña* (U. Alcalá 2012) and coedited *Revolving Around India(s)* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing 2019). He is currently president of the Spanish James Joyce Association (2019-) and vicepresident of SAAS, the Spanish Association for American Studies (2023-). He forms part of GIECO (Ecocriticism-Franklin Institute-U. Alcalá) and Ratnakara (Indian Ocean-U. Lleida) research groups.

María Jesús Perea Villena is a senior lecturer at the Faculty of Education, Camilo José Cela University, in Madrid, where she teaches courses on critical theory and comparative literature. She holds a degree in English Philology (2002) and a degree in Literary Theory and Comparative Literature (2005) from the University of Granada. She also completed two master's degrees at the University of Granada: one in Linguistics and Literature in English and another in Audiovisual Translation, Society and Communication (2002–2004). In 2004, she carried out a four-month research stay at the University of Westminster (London, UK) as part of her European Doctorate. Since 2004, she has participated in national and international conferences on English language and culture, contemporary anglophone literature and critical theory. Her publications include numerous conference proceedings, over a dozen articles in high-impact journals, and a forthcoming Routledge book chapter on *Spatiality in the 21st Century*. Her current research focuses on temporal and spatial relationality, experimental representations of time and space in 21st-century anglophone literature, contemporary phenomenology (including phenomenology of perception and landscape), hermeneutics and ethics of interpretation in contemporary fiction, network theory, together with approaches drawn from neuroscience, consciousness studies, and intersubjectivity.

Kamal Tasiu Abdullahi holds a Master of Arts in International Economics from Marmara University, Istanbul, Turkey, and a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria. He has participated in several international academic programs and workshops, including the Economics Summer School at the University of Glasgow, the Digital Good Network Summer School at the University of Sheffield, the Africa Faculty Development Workshop in Tunisia, and the Graz International Summer School in Austria. Kamal is also a recipient of the Scholars Incubator Program – Social Sciences Lab MENA Fellowship and the African Finance and Economic Association Graduate Experiential Fellowship.

Ana Tejero Marín is a PhD student at the University of Salamanca. Her thesis project, which focuses on the representation of the Anthropocene in speculative fiction, was fully funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities under the FPU programme. She is a member of the project “Re-orienting Assemblage Theory in Contemporary Literature and Culture” and the research group “Intersections: Literature, Art and Culture in the Limen”.

María Torres-Romero is a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of English, French and German at the University of Málaga. She completed her PhD at the same institution under the supervision of Professor Rosario Arias. She holds a BA in English Studies (2018) and an MA in English Studies and Multilingual and Intercultural Communication (2021), both from the University of Málaga. María has been an active member of the research group LITCAE (HUM858 – *Literaturas Contemporáneas en el Ámbito Europeo*), led by Professor Arias, since 2021. Her main lines of research centre on speculative fiction written in English, posthumanism, relationality, and contemporary explorations of the nonhuman.

Şeyma Yonar holds a Master's degree in English and American Studies from the University of Graz, Austria, and she completed a mobility semester at the Autonomous University of Barcelona as part of the European Joint Master's Programme. She is currently a project assistant for the Erasmus+ project Eco-Stories (www.ecostories.org), coordinated by the Center for Inter-American Studies at the University of Graz. Her research interests include North American and transnational literary studies, with a focus on Canadian short fiction, ecocriticism, and gender studies.