

WORKSHOP (Post) Nature / Natur(T) Räume

Thursday 1 & Friday 2 December 2016

Katholische Privat-Universität Linz, Bethlehemstrasse 20, A-4020 Linz

Umweltfragen, der Klimawandel und die damit verbundene Angst vor Naturkatastrophen, die die menschliche Existenz bedrohen, haben Natur heute – mehr noch als im 19. Jahrhundert – verstärkt zum Thema in Kunst und Architektur werden lassen. Selbst der Begriff Natur ist heute umstritten. Der Philosoph und Ökologietheoretiker Timothy Morton spricht von einer post-nature Phase. In 'Ecology without Nature' argumentiert er, dass unsere Vorstellungen von Natur romantisch geprägt, idealisiert und sozial konstruiert seien und damit ein umweltbewusstes Denken und Handeln verhindern. Der Kunsthistoriker und Theoriekritiker T. J. Demos wiederum sieht Anzeichen für einen konzeptionellen und ideologischen Wandel im unserem Verständnis von Natur – nicht mehr als 'das Andere', Externe, uns Umgebende, sondern als integralen Bestandteil unseres Selbst und Seins: eine holistische Verschmelzung von Natur und Kultur – Natur sind wir alle und alles, was uns umgibt.

Der diskussionsorientierte workshop will den Einfluss solcher und anderer Ideologien zu Natur, Kultur und Umwelt auf Architektur und Kunst kritisch reflektieren. Auf max. 30-minütige Präsentationen folgen ca. 30-45 Minuten Diskussion.

The subject of 'nature' in art and architecture resounds louder now than it has done since the nineteenth century, thanks to a growing acknowledgement of the environmental catastrophes that threaten human existence. The term 'nature' is itself contested. Ecological theorist Tim Morton believes we are in a 'post-natural' age, arguing, in *Ecology without Nature*, that Romantic visions of nature are not only socially constructed but hinder environmental thinking. In contrast, for art historian and critical theorist TJ Demos, the current period of ideological change is redefining nature from something 'out there' and external to us, to something that is 'right here' with us: a holistic blend of nature and culture.

This workshop will explore and discuss how these and other varying conceptualisations of nature and the environment are addressed by art and architecture. The workshop is exploratory and dialogue orientated, so the six presentations will each be followed by ca. 30-45 minutes of discussion.

Thursday 1 December (Hörsaal 4)

14:00 – coffee, followed by welcome from **Anna Minta** (Catholic Private-University Linz)

14:30 – **Louise Malcolm** (University Zurich). *Introducing (Post)Nature / Natur(T)Räume* and 'Affective' artistic approaches that bring ecology closer to human experience

15:30 – **Verena Kuni** (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main). *GREEN ENCLOSURES. Cabins, Cells and/as Climate Capsules: Contemporary Re-Enactments of a Romantic Concept*

16:30-17:00 – coffee break

17:00-18:00 – **Anna Volkmar** (Leiden University). *The trouble with radioactive wilderness: accessing Chernobyl's post-nuclear nature through the lens of documentary photography*

18:00-19:00 – **Ellen Braae** (University of Copenhagen). *Designing Urban Natures - ambiguous concepts of (urban) nature in contemporary urban space design in Copenhagen, Denmark*

19:30 – dinner

Friday 2 December (Seminarraum 2)

9:00 – coffee

9:30-11:00 – **Ana Bilbao** and **Pavel Reichl** (University of Essex). *Between Earth and the World: Built Environment, Natural Siting and Aesthetic Intelligibility in the work of James Turrell*

11:00-11:30 – coffee break

11:30-13:00 – **Seraina Renz** and **Demian Berger** (University Zurich). *Adorno and Derrida. Das Mensch-Tier Verhältnis als Verhältnis des Menschen zu seiner Natur*

13:00 – concluding discussions

List of participants

Demian Berger lic.phil. is a PhD candidate in Philosophy at the University of Zurich. His research focuses on the mysticism of modernity, as seen in particular in the writing of Gustav Landauer and Walter Benjamin.

Ana Bilbao MA is a PhD candidate in Art History and Theory at the University of Essex, with specialisation in Curatorial Theory and Practice. Her research explores the emergence and proliferation of Small Visual Arts Organisations (SVAOs) in various parts of the world from the 1990s-present.

Prof. Dr. Ellen Braae is Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Copenhagen. She is also head of the research group 'Landscape Architecture and -Urbanism'. Ellen is a trained architect and landscape architect and her research focuses on the preservation and transformation of the post-industrial urban landscape.

Prof. Dr. Verena Kuni is Professor of Visual Arts at Goethe University Frankfurt am Main. Her research deals with transfers between material and medial cultures, focusing on the image and imagination space of zones of the representation and communication of (bio) diversity as well as experimental and artistic approaches to citizen Science.

Louise Malcolm MA is a Ph.D. candidate in Art History, University of Zurich / KU Linz. She is also a member of Professor Minta's research group 'Sacred Spaces in Modernity: Transformations and Architectural Manifestations'. Her research focuses on Modernity's sacralisation of the landscape and contemporary concepts of nature.

Prof. Dr. Anna Minta is Professor for the History and Theory of Architecture at the Catholic Private-University of Linz and holds an SNFS-professorship in Art History at Zurich University. Her research focuses on auratic spatial constructions and the process of sacralisation in modernity. She teaches architecture and art history in the 19th and 20th centuries, considering their integration into identity constructions in Europe, Israel and the USA.

Dr. Pavel Reichl is a lecturer in Philosophy at the University of Essex. His recently-completed PhD dealt with Heidegger's relation to the idealist tradition, particularly in reference to ideas of objectivity and object constitution. Current research focuses on Kant, continental philosophy, philosophy of history and psychoanalytic theory.

Dr. Seraina Renz is a lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Art History at the University of Zurich. In 2015 she completed her PhD 'Performance Art in Belgrade (Yugoslavia) during the 1970s'. Her current research work deals with the human-animal relation in art and philosophy in the 20th century.

Anna Volkmar MA is a PhD candidate in Art History at Leiden University. Her research explores contemporary artistic responses to radioactive contamination within the conceptual framework offered by ecocriticism and post-humanism.

Organisation :

Prof. Dr. Anna Minta
Louise Malcolm MA
Institut für Geschichte und Theorie der
Architektur, Kath. Privat-Universität Linz

Contact:

Louise Malcolm MA
Louise.malcolm@uzh.ch
+44 7908577857



Universität
Zürich^{UZH}