

## Centre for Environmental Arts and Humanities Launch and Symposium Programme

11-12 September 2013, Penryn Campus

15:00 on Wednesday 11 September to 15:30 on Thursday 12 September

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### Wednesday 11 September – CEAH Launch and Public Lecture

- 15:00 Public launch event with cream tea (Environment and Sustainability Institute)
- 17:00 Lecture: Creatures of heritage: enshrining animals as national and global treasures  
Peter Coates, introduced by Nicola Whyte (Chapel Lecture Theatre)
- 18:30 Drinks reception and dinner with CEAH partners and Symposium participants  
(Photography Gallery)

### Thursday 12 September – Environmental Humanities Symposium

- 9:00 Gather, ESI, Trevithick Room
- 9:15 Welcome and Introduction (Caitlin DeSilvey and Nicola Whyte)
- 9:30 **Working together (and working apart)** (Chair: Richard Noakes)
- Reflections on the Landscape and Environment Programme and the 'environmental humanities'  
Steven Daniels (Geography, Nottingham)
- Environmental sciences and humanities: teaching across the divide  
Tom Greaves (Philosophy, UEA)
- Finding common ground? Reflections on a collaborative project  
Adeline Johns-Putra (English, Surrey)
- Social sciences and the environmental humanities in weather, climate and society  
Neil Adger (Geography, Exeter):
- Literary ecocriticism: interdisciplinary and intercultural initiatives  
Axel Goodbody (Literature, Bath)
- On telling them how bad it is, while trying to instil a sense of purpose: the dilemmas  
of a jobbing humanities teacher in the epoch of the high-Anthropocene  
Mark Levene History, Southampton
- 10:30 Tea/coffee break

10:50 **Thinking through time/Thinking through place** (Chair: Catherine Leyshon)

Thinking about time from an environmental humanities perspective  
David Farrier (English Literature, Edinburgh)

On the place of the 'Anthropocene' within contemporary philosophical thought  
Pepe Romanillos (Geography, Exeter)

Place-based approaches to thinking and learning about environment, nature and sustainability  
Alun Morgan (Environmental Education, Exeter)

Preserving the Fethaland Fishing Station, Shetland  
Tom Dawson (Archaeology, St Andrews)

The intersection of landscape and historical memory at celebrated historical sites  
Philip Levy (History, University of South Florida)

11:50 Break

12:00 **Arts of change** (Chair: James Ryan)

Caitlin Kight (Behavioural Ecology, Exeter): Cultural artefacts, conservation and human-nature relations

Mat Osmond (Illustration, Falmouth): Fostering cultural re-orientation in light of ecological crisis

Ria Dunkley (Sustainable Places Research Institute, Cardiff): The value of environmental arts and humanities in the context of community engagement with sustainability

Anna Kiernan (Writing, Falmouth): A voyage round new territory: collaborative poetry of (and in) the environment

Matt Kearnes (Environmental Humanities, University of New South Wales): TBC

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Open Discussion of Thorny Questions (Chair: Steven Daniels)

15:00 Closing Comments (CEAH members)

15:15 Tea/coffee

15:30 End

## **Symposium participant biographies**

**Neil Adger** is a Professor in Geography at University of Exeter. He is a social scientist who has worked on climate change, extreme weather and on the resilience of societies to such environmental change. He leads the Environment and Society theme of the University's Humanities and Social Science Strategy.

**Peter Coates** is professor of American and Environmental History at the University of Bristol. His research has taken him from the Alaskan Arctic to Somerset's Quantock Hills, Animal history is one of his specialities and he has written about the wolf, sparrow, salmon and squirrel. He has led various research projects funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council - recently on militarized landscapes and local places & global processes, currently on orchard decline in the Quantocks, and will soon begin a new AHRC project on the rivers Severn and Tyne. Among his books are *Salmon* (Reaktion, 2006); *American Perceptions of Immigrant and Invasive Species* (University of California Press, 2007); and *A Story of Six Rivers: History, Culture and Ecology* (Reaktion, 2013). He is also currently pursuing an assignment on the cultural dimensions of ecosystem services.

**Stephen Daniels** is Professor of Cultural Geography at the University of Nottingham and from 2005-2013 Director of the AHRC Landscape and Environment Programme. He is presently holds a three year Leverhulme Major Fellowship to research a book on the 19th century topographer and antiquarian John Britton.

**Tom Dawson.** Archaeologist Tom Dawson is a research fellow at the University of St Andrews, managing director of The SCAPE (Scottish Coastal Archaeology and the Problem of Erosion) Trust and a Commissioner on the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. His research is focussed on the archaeology of Scotland's coast.

**Caitlin DeSilvey** is Senior Lecturer in Environmental Social Science/Cultural Geography at the University of Exeter's Penryn Campus, and co-director of the Centre for Environmental Arts and Humanities. Her research explores the cultural significance of material change. She uses visual imagery and narrative to engage people in imagining changing environments and places, and looks to patterns from the past to try to understand what the future might bring. She is also interested in how things age over time, and in the value of repair and mending skills. Her research approach is collaborative and interdisciplinary, and has involved work with environmental scientists, artists, archaeologists, photographers, humanities scholars and heritage practitioners.

**Ria Dunkley** is a Research Associate at the Sustainable Places Research Institute at Cardiff University, where her research focuses on Sustainable Communities. She also holds a Research Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning (IATL) at the University of Warwick, where she leads work on the Education for Sustainability research programme, funded through an alliance between Warwick University and Monash University, in Melbourne, Australia. Ria is currently involved in the coordination of the 'Environmental Futures Dialogue' an arts-social science network, funded by the AHRC under the Connected Communities theme, to explore the relationship between the arts and sustainability. Previously, Ria has led research projects on sustainability education and training programmes at the leading Environmental Education charity the Eden Project.

**David Farrier** is Lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Literature at the University of Edinburgh. He convenes the Edinburgh Environmental Humanities network, and has written books on nineteenth century travel writing (*Unsettled Narratives: the Pacific writings of Stevenson, Ellis, Melville and London*) and representations of asylum and refugees in contemporary literature and visual culture (*Postcolonial Asylum: seeking sanctuary before the law*).

**Adeline Johns-Putra** is Reader in English Literature at the University of Surrey. She is also the Chair of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (UK and Ireland). Her books include *Process: Landscape and Text* (2010; co-edited with Catherine Leyshon) and *The History of the Epic* (2006). She has published papers on climate change fiction in *English Studies* and *Wiley Interdisciplinary Research: Climate Change*. She is guest editor of a forthcoming issue of the journal *symplokē* on climate change and critical theory.

**Axel Goodbody** is Professor of German Studies and European Culture at the University of Bath. A past President of the European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture and Environment, he is Associate Editor of the online journal *Ecozon@*. Recent publications include the edited volume *Ecocritical Theory: New European Approaches* and an essay on 'Frame Analysis and the Literature of Climate Change'.

**Tom Greaves** is a lecturer in philosophy at the University of East Anglia. His work in environmental philosophy focuses on ecological phenomenology and environmental aesthetics. He has collaborated with artist Rosanna Greaves for a project exploring the aesthetics of wind turbines and is politically active for various environmental groups, including the Green Party.

**Matthew Kearnes** is Co-Convenor of the Environmental Humanities programme in the School of Humanities, University of New South Wales, Australia. Matthew's research is situated between the fields of Science and Technology Studies (STS), environmental sociology and contemporary social theory. His current work is focused on the social and political dimensions of nanotechnology and synthetic biology, climate change and society, and the social and political dimensions of climate modification and geoengineering. He is an associate editor for the journal *Environmental Humanities*.

**Anna Kiernan** is a writer, editor and Senior Lecturer in Writing at Falmouth University. Previously a fiction editor, she mostly writes about publishing, life writing and the arts. Anna's books include the anti-war anthology *Voices for Peace* (Scribner, 2001) and *Bit on the Side: Work, Sex, Love, Loss and Own Goals* (Parthian, 2007) as well a book about literary drinkers. Anna was a co-investigator on the AHRC-funded oral history project *Museum Lives*, at the Natural History Museum.

**Caitlin Kight**. I am a behavioral ecologist interested in the effects of humans on animal behaviour and reproductive success. I am also a science communicator; I run the science blog *Anthrophysis*, host a local radio show called *Wild Side*, publish articles in conservation and ornithology magazines, and have just written a popular science book about flamingos.

**Mark Levene**, though better known academically for his work on genocide, is active on climate change through Crisis Forum and Rescue!History (both available on <http://www.crisis-forum.org.uk>). His most recent published book, with Rob Johnson and Penny Roberts, eds., is *History at the End of the World? History, Climate Change and the Possibility of Closure* (Penrith, 2010)

**Philip Levy** is Associate Professor of History at the University of South Florida. He is a member of the Department of History and is affiliated to the Patel College of Global Sustainability (USF). He teaches early American History, Historical Archaeology and Public History. His research covers a broad range of topics including colonialism, historical landscapes, built environments and the issues and politics of preservation. He has been involved in a number of museum and heritage projects. Professor Levy is author of *Where the Cherry Tree Grew: The Story of Ferry Farm, George Washington's Boyhood Home* (2013) and *Fellow Travellers: Indians and Europeans Contesting the Early American Trail* (2007).

**Catherine Leyshon.** My first degree was in Geography and English Literature and had a huge influence on the sort of geographer I have become, giving me an appreciation of the importance of arts and humanities approaches to understanding a range of environmental issues. Over the last five years I have been working alongside the National Trust, Natural England and other agencies in a partnership called Linking the Lizard, looking at how expert and non-expert knowledges about landscape, place, and the future can be brought together to inform decisions about landscape management and practice. I am an Associate Professor of Historical and Cultural Geography at the University of Exeter's Penryn Campus, and a member of the Centre for Environmental Arts and Humanities.

**Alun Morgan** is a Research Fellow and Lecturer in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Exeter. My work focuses on the epistemological and lifelong learning dimensions of human-nature/environment transactions in terms of personal and collective understandings of 'nature' and 'environment' and their existential significance; and how these relate to complex socio-scientific issues associated with the concept of 'sustainability'. A necessary dimension of this work has been an exploration of both intra- and inter-cultural perspectives on nature, environment and sustainability (such as those framed by particular worldviews or knowledge systems with their attendant epistemological commitments); and, crucially, the nature of intercultural encounters - or 'border crossings'- between such alternative perspectives.

**Richard Noakes** is a Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Exeter's Penryn Campus, and a member of the Centre for Environmental Arts and Humanities. My research centres on the history of the physical sciences in the period roughly 1750-1930, the relationship between the sciences and occult, and the history of telecommunications since 1800. I have also worked on the ways in which the Victorian mass media engaged with scientific, medical and technological issues and on the social and cultural history of mathematical physics. I am currently finishing a monograph on the relationship between physics and psychical research in Britain in the decades around 1900 and developing a more recent interest in the history of research and development in cable and wireless businesses from 1850 to the 1930s.

**Mat Osmond** is a writer and illustrator, interested in what storytelling and poetry offer us in coming to terms with ecological crisis. He is employed as a Senior Lecturer on MA Illustration at Falmouth University, where he also works on MA Art and Environment. He is part of the R.A.N.E. (Research into Art, Nature, and Environment) research group at Falmouth University, convened by Professor of Art and Environment Daro Montag. He is currently commencing a PhD at U.W.E. titled Stories for Seeing the Dark.

**Pepe Romanillos** is a Lecturer in Human Geography in the College of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Exeter. Pepe's research interests centre on the cultural geographies of literary and visual representations, the geographies of death and finitude, and contemporary spatial theory.

**James Ryan** is Associate Professor of Historical and Cultural Geography at the University of Exeter's Penryn Campus, and a member of the Centre for Environmental Arts and Humanities. His research interests lie in three main areas: Geographies of colonialism and post-colonialism; photography, visual culture and geography; and the history of geographical knowledge and science.

**Garry Tregidga** is Assistant Director of the Institute of Cornish Studies, University of Exeter. His research interests include the use of oral history and cultural memory in investigating constructions of Cornish and Celtic landscapes. Previous projects on this subject have included multimedia studies of Cornwall's Clay Country, Gyllyngdune Gardens in Falmouth

and the Tamar Valley. He is the editor of *Memory, Place and Identity: the Cultural Landscapes of Cornwall* (2012) and is currently the principal investigator of the community-based digital storytelling project Tallys an Tir: Stories and Traditions of the Land.

**Joannie Willett** is a Lecturer in Politics at the University of Exeter's Penryn Campus, and a member of the Centre for Environmental Arts and Humanities. Her current research looks at theories of complexity, evolutionary development, perception, representation, emergence and sustainability. She has been using these themes to explore eco-town development in the UK, the relationship between 'core' and 'peripheral' areas, and comparative work between Cornwall, Wales and Brittany.

**Nicola Whyte** is a Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Exeter's Penryn Campus, and co-director of the Centre for Environmental Arts and Humanities. My research lies the interface of early modern social history and post medieval landscape studies and is concerned with two broad, yet interconnected strands of enquiry. The first is concerned with the material and spatial ramifications of the social, economic and cultural developments of the period c.1500-c.1750. I'm interested in contemporary perceptions and experiences of landscape and environmental change, and have carried out extensive archival work on customary law, land use rights, conflict over the management of resources, the extent and nature of enclosure, and contested meanings of improvement. The second strand of my research focuses on the relationship between landscape, place, memory and identity, and draws upon the expanding body of archaeological scholarship concerned with 'the uses of the past in the past' and the 'life- histories' of material objects including everyday artefacts, monuments, natural features and entire landscapes.