

# Oceans and Deserts 2015

*Charting Transdisciplinary Currents in Environment and Culture within the Arts and Sciences*

**March 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

University of Arizona  
Student Union Memorial Center  
Union Kiva Room

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

12:00 - 12:20 Registration and Coffee

12:20 - 12:30 Opening Remarks: James Howell (Department of German Studies, University of Arizona)

12:30 - 2:30 **Panel 1: Linguistic Environments**

**Eric Magrane** (School of Geography & Development, University of Arizona):  
“Ecological Encounters: Exploring Human and Non-Human Co-Aesthetic-  
Production at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum”

**Robert Poole** (Second Language Acquisition & Teaching, University of  
Arizona): “Project or Proposal: An Ecological Discourse Analysis of the  
Rosemont Copper Mine Debate”

**Steve Przymus** (Second Language Acquisition & Teaching, University of  
Arizona) “A Tale of Two Tucsons: The Language of Street Signs and Classroom  
Instruction”

**Dr. Tamara MC** (Center for English as a Second Language, University of  
Arizona) “Reclaiming Lithuania: Reclaiming Myself”

*\* Panel will conclude with a discussion of all four presentations. Panel  
Moderation: Antonella Cassia (Department of German Studies, University of  
Arizona)*

2:45 - 3:45 **Keynote Address**

**Dr. Joellen Russell** (Department of Geosciences, University of Arizona)  
“Deserts and Oceans in the Earth System: From What Is to What If?”

*Introduction and Discussion Moderation: Dr. Albrecht Classen (Department of  
German Studies, University of Arizona)*

4:00 - 6:00

**Panel 2: The Changing Nature of Culture**

**Dr. Stephanie Buechler** (School of Geography & Development, University of Arizona)

**América Lutz Ley** (Arid Lands Resource Sciences, University of Arizona)

“Female and Male Youth's Education and Labor-Related Choices in a Changing Environment in a Ranching Community in Sonora, Mexico”

**Emily Bell & Ariel Tinney** (School of Government & Public Policy, University of Arizona) “Nature Versus Nurture: Drivers of Cooperative Behavior”

**Lily A. House-Peters** (School of Geography & Development, University of Arizona)

“Socio-Ecological Transformations in Desert Forests: Theorizing the Power of Nature and the Nature of Power in Arid-Region Riparian Corridors”

**Mark Malisa** (School of Education, The College of Saint Rose)

“Of Diamonds, Deserts, Education and the Right to Life: The San People of Botswana in the 21st Century”

*\* Panel will conclude with a discussion of all four presentations. Panel Moderation: Lee Gagum (Department of German Studies, University of Arizona)*

**Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 - 1:00

**Panel 3: The Nature of Aesthetics**

**Erika Colombi** (School of Dance, University of Arizona) “Fabled Landscapes, Dancing Stories”

**Carolyn Radtke & Ethan Rogers** (Department of German Studies, University of Arizona) “The Globalized Workspace in Terézia Mora’s *Der einzige Mann auf dem Kontinent*”

**Dr. Annette Brauerhoch** (Institute for Media Studies, Universität Paderborn) “(Ab)using the Sublime: Oceanic Desert in Antonioni’s *Zabriskie Point* (1970)”

**Natalie Lettenewitsch** (Institute for Media Studies, Universität Paderborn) “Figuring the World beneath the Sea: Marine Science, Underwater Film, and Experimental Approaches”

*\* Panel will conclude with a discussion of all four presentations. Panel Moderation: Agnes Cser (Department of German Studies, University of Arizona)*

1:15 - 2:15

**Keynote Address**

**Dr. Eva Hayward** (Gender & Women's Studies, University of Arizona)

“**Ocean Black: Art of Ellen Gallagher**”

*Introduction and Discussion Moderation: Dr. Steve Martinson (Department of German Studies, University of Arizona)*

2:30 - 4:30 **Panel 4: The Shores of Humanity**

**Katherine G. Sammler** (School of Geography & Development, University of Arizona) “Knowing the Abyss: Seeking Geographies of Ocean Space”

**Dr. Benedict Colombi** (Department of American Indian Studies, University of Arizona) “The Inverse Relationship between Salmon Biodiversity and Indigenous Peoples’ Political Standing Directionally across the North Pacific”

**Dr. Albrecht Classen** (Department of German Studies, University of Arizona) “Travel by Sea in Medieval and Early Modern German Literature: Epistemological Experiences”

**Ricardo Rivas** (School of Sociology, University of Arizona) “Global Capitalism and Local Actors: Farmed Salmon Industry in Chile”

*\* Panel will conclude with a discussion of all four presentations. Panel Moderation: Martin Opitz (Department of German Studies, University of Arizona)*

4:30 – 5:00 Closing Remarks: **Dr. Barbara Kosta** (German Studies Department, University of Arizona) & **Zafer Senocak** (Max Kade Writer-in-Residence, German Studies Department, University of Arizona)

### **BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS**

#### **Panel 1: Linguistic Environments**

Eric Magrane (School of Geography & Development, University of Arizona)

“Ecological Encounters: Exploring Human and Non-Human Co-Aesthetic-Production at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum”

*As the first Poet in Residence at the Desert Museum, in a broad-scaled collaboration with the UA Poetry Center that will result in poetry installations throughout the Desert Museum grounds, I imagine poetry in the widest sense. It’s a way to inspire conservation, a form of creative geography, and a site of encounter. I’ll share examples from early poetry installations, including a scorpion poem that only appears under blacklight as scorpions literally move through it and a riparian poem that composts language from water policy documents. I’ll also reflect on readings that I’ve done with Miss Marple, a ringtail and Arizona’s state mammal.*

Robert Poole (Second Language Acquisition & Teaching, University of Arizona)

“Project or Proposal: An Ecolinguistic Discourse Analysis of the Rosemont Copper Mine Debate”

*This presentation will discuss an ecolinguistic discourse analysis of the Rosemont Copper Mine debate and its integration of GIS and corpus linguistics techniques. In the talk, I will briefly detail the linguistic features whose co-occurrence in the interest group texts produce oppositional depictions of the mine and the mountain. I will also discuss the potential for integrating corpus linguistics and GIS for the study of environmental discourse.*

Steve Przymus (Second Language Acquisition & Teaching, University of Arizona)

“A Tale of Two Tucsons: The Language of Street Signs and Classroom Instruction”

*This multimodal analysis of the linguistic landscape of the American Southwest borderland city of Tucson, Arizona demonstrates how the language of street signs subconsciously influences language ideologies and daily justifies public education policy regarding when the Spanish language is privileged or prohibited for classroom instruction.*

Dr. Tamara MC (Center for English as a Second Language, University of Arizona)

“Reclaiming Lithuania: Reclaiming Myself”

*Reclaiming Lithuania is a Vlog series hosted on YouTube where I document and deliver my reclamation. It is a search for identity, a search for home, and search for peace amidst a horrific historical past. My presentation hopes to show never seen footage of my journey, probe questions about language, culture, and identity, and especially identities that are trans, speak about culture and ecologies of culture, and delve into social media.*

**Dr. Joellen Russell, (Department of Geosciences, University of Arizona)**

**Keynote Address: “Deserts and Oceans in the Earth System: From What Is to What If?”**

*Deserts and Oceans are connected in the earth system by the winds and ocean currents. Scientists use math and computers to simulate these relationships using earth system models in order to help policymakers, stakeholders and the public consider the consequences of our collective actions on our shared habitat. Some of the most dramatic effects of climate change are being felt in the sensitive mid-latitude regions that host our deserts. I will demonstrate some of these connections as we observe them today and discuss the simulations that support our consideration of “what if?”*

## **Panel 2: The Changing Nature of Culture**

Dr. Stephanie Buechler (School of Geography & Development, University of Arizona)

América Lutz Ley (Arid Lands Resource Sciences, University of Arizona)

“Female and Male Youth's Education and Labor-Related Choices in a Changing Environment in a Ranching Community in Sonora, Mexico”

*With rapidly changing environmental conditions such as water resource availability and climate change, decision-making in communities highly dependent on natural resources has become increasingly complex. This NSF-supported study examines this issue in Rayón, an agricultural community in the San Miguel river basin in Sonora, Mexico. Age as a variable in decision-making regarding gendered agricultural livelihoods has been neglected in the environmental change literature. Intersectionality and feminist political ecology frameworks both examine gender but are largely silent on the intersections of gender with age; this study therefore addresses this lacunae. This multi-method study examines the environmental, socio-economic, political, and geographical factors most influential in female and male youths' (ages 15 to 29) education and labor-related decision-making. In addition to youth, parents, teachers, school principals, employers of youth and government agency staff members were interviewed. The goal of this ongoing study is to gain a better understanding of the future of agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods in a semi-arid region.*

Emily Bell (School of Government & Public Policy, University of Arizona)

Ariel Tinney (School of Government & Public Policy, University of Arizona)

“Nature Versus Nurture: Drivers of Cooperative Behavior”

*How do social norms and ecosystems interact to affect cooperative outcomes? Our study seeks to address this interplay to understand the determinants of land use. Netting (1976) supports the notion that ecosystems affect land use decisions, while Ostrom (2005) argues that this is driven by social systems. To test whether ecosystems and social systems interact to produce cooperative land use practices, we generated an online survey to measure subject responses varied under different weather-related condition scenarios (i.e. unusually harsh or mild winter, compared against a control of an average winter). Experimental results demonstrate partial support for our hypothesis that ecosystems and social systems interact to produce land use practices.*

Lily A. House-Peters (School of Geography & Development, University of Arizona)

“Socio-Ecological Transformations in Desert Forests: Theorizing the Power of Nature and the Nature of Power in Arid-Region Riparian Corridors”

*This paper examines the politics of social and environmental transformation in Sonoran desert-region riparian landscapes. In arid/semi-arid regions, the dense bands of cottonwood-willow forest, relative abundance of surface water and shallow groundwater, and fertile soils that comprise riparian corridors support socio-ecological narratives of marked by both conflict and cooperation.*

Mark Malisa (The College of Saint Rose – School of Education)

“Of Diamonds, Deserts, Education and the Right to Life: The San People of Botswana in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”

*My paper examines the challenges faced by the San people of Botswana, especially after corporations discovered diamonds in some of the areas that were designated as belonging to the San. I argue development need not lead to the extinction of ways of life that offer alternatives to consumerism and that perhaps with different forms of education; we have the potential to realize that all have a right to life, even those in the Kalahari Desert.*

### **Panel 3: The Nature of Aesthetics**

Erika Colombi (School of Dance, University of Arizona)

“Fabled Landscapes, Dancing Stories”

*This presentation will explore folk tales about specific environments, and putting movement to the stories. I will be looking specifically at folk tales from Iceland, Brazil and Western Europe. There will be filmed dance, and live improvisation to read material. The idea is to show that 1) folk tales have long been warning us about the perils and treasures of environment 2) dance is an embodied approach to demonstrate this relationship and 3) question and investigate more contemporary folk tales about climate.*

Carolyn Radtke (Department of German Studies, University of Arizona)

Ethan Rogers (Department of German Studies, University of Arizona)

“The Globalized Workspace in Terézia Mora’s *Der einzige Mann auf dem Kontinent*”

*In her novel “Der einzige Mann auf dem Kontinent” (2009), Terezia Mora’s protagonist Darius Kopp battles to find his place in the globalized workplace while at the same time trying to maintain a healthy relationship with his wife. Being represented as the „only man on the continent“, we argue that Mora is a vanguard author of depictions of paradigm shifts in globalized work spaces of the 21st century and their effect on the individual through her narrative style and the general structure of the book, shaping a new form of bureaucracy.*

Dr. Annette Brauerhoch (Institute for Media Studies, Universität Paderborn)

“(Ab)using the Sublime: Death Valley in Antonioni’s *Zabriskie Point* (1970)”

*Big studio, big budget, great expectations. But when Antonioni’s first and only „American“ film came to the theatres it was received with great hostility by most American critics. Most of the film is shot in the deserts of California and Arizona. In times of political upheaval the desert appears as sublimely empty space, in which engagement with actual politics is naively circumvented. Enough reason for criticism. Reason enough for intense rejection? Antonioni’s projections of an „oceanic desert“ seem to conflict with preestablished mythologies of an American space.*

Natalie Lettenewitsch (Institute for Media Studies, Universität Paderborn)

“Figuring the World beneath the Sea: Marine Science, Underwater Film, and Experimental Approaches”

*Long before Jaques Cousteau became the popular protagonist of underwater cinema, the French biologist Jean Painlevé started to work with film. Closely connected to the Surrealist movement, he did not just regard it as a tool for researching and presenting scientific 'facts', but as a way to express aesthetic as well as political ideas. His work echoes in book titles like *Science is Fiction* (2001) and, recently, the expanded cinema performance *Intertidal* (2012) by the Canadian filmmaker Alex MacKenzie. My paper will explore such experimental approaches between film art and science dealing with 'intertidal' and interdisciplinary zones.*

**Dr. Eva Hayward (Gender & Women's Studies, University of Arizona)**

**Keynote Address: “Ocean Black: Art of Ellen Gallagher”**

*Looking at the artwork of Ellen Gallagher, this talk asks how race and racial thinking have shaped our understanding of seawater, oceans, and undersea life. Problematically, oceans are often deracinated in art history and cultural studies, reinforcing an assumption that the politics of race stop at the shoreline. In her ongoing project titled *Watery Ecstatic* (2001-present), Gallagher juxtaposes Freud’s often-overlooked interests in oceanography (a researcher of marine zoology in Trieste) with her own studies of the mythical Drexciya, an undersea world populated by the those who were murdered or committed suicide along the slave routes of the Middle Passage. In this paintings, reliefs, and drawings, Gallagher asks us to reflect on the relationship between Freud’s “oceanic feeling” and geopolitical trauma. How has ocean life become a melancholic domain for what cannot be remembered? In what ways does race shape marine matter(s)?*

#### **Panel 4: The Shores of Humanity**

Katherine G. Sammler (School of Geography & Development, University of Arizona)

“Knowing the Abyss: Seeking Geographies of Ocean Space”

*The vast and deep ocean floor has often been compared to a desert landscape; imagined bereft of flora and fauna, as vacant stretches of sand and rock. More recent and nuanced investigations find these ‘voids’ are actually spaces of unique and biodiverse ecological communities. Increased understanding of seamounts, hydrothermal vents, and benthic zones have revealed not only a variety of marine life, but also a multitude of rare metals and minerals. This research investigates how law, science, technology and economics combine to produce distinct knowledges of the deep sea.*

Dr. Benedict Colombi (Department of American Indian Studies, University of Arizona)

“The Inverse Relationship between Salmon Biodiversity and Indigenous Peoples’ Political Standing Directionally across the North Pacific”

*Along with the many parallels and concordances across the reaches of the North Pacific, this paper identifies a significant “double movement,” provoking debate about how best to deploy the finding for policy purposes. This finding involves the inverse relationship between salmon biodiversity and Indigenous peoples’ political standing directionally across the North Pacific. In the richly biodiverse areas of the Kamchatka Peninsula, Indigenous peoples find themselves to be virtually powerless spectators to local- and global-scale extractive industries: commercial fishing, roe poaching, gold and platinum mining, and oil and natural gas development. Yet in these biodiverse areas salmon represent a significant portion of the Indigenous diet, provide ecosystem services as an important keystone species, and have drawn global attention as a “stronghold” for ecological preservation (Quammen 2009). Indigenous nations in Canada and the United States, though they have limited ability to exercise full sovereignty over their natural and cultural resources, have a stronger legal standing within their host nations from which to undertake that effort, even as they may be the only witnesses to the decline of salmon biodiversity in their own territories. Thus, in neither the Pacific West nor East do enmeshment in twenty-first century economic exchange systems, Indigenous rights movements, or global environmentalism provide simple solutions.*

Dr. Albrecht Classen (Department of German Studies, University of Arizona)

“Travel by Sea in Medieval and Early Modern German Literature: Epistemological Experiences”

*This paper looks at the archetypal experience of traveling by sea which carries epistemological functions throughout time, here focusing on the Middle Ages and the Early Modern world. Everytime an individual embarks on a voyage, his/her life goes through a profound transformation.*

Ricardo Rivas (School of Sociology, University of Arizona)

“Global Capitalism and Local Actors: Farmed Salmon Industry in Chile”

*Chile has had a significant increase in the amount of farmed salmon exports over the last two decades, becoming the second largest exporter in the world after Norway. This field research explores the farmed salmon industry in Chile and its interaction with communities, the natural environment and other economic activities. Ethnographic work*

*was carried out in the archipelago of Chiloé and in communities around the Gulf of Reloncaví. The results of this exploratory research confirm and also challenge prior understandings of the role and effect of this industry on rural livelihoods as well as the cultural life of this region. Finally, several new research questions are raised.*