WHERE HAVE ALL THE WILD THINGS GONE?

Eco-criticism and Comparative Literature

Texas Tech University, April 13-16, 2011
Organizer: John Beusterien, Director of the Comparative Literature Program
WHERE HAVE ALL THE WILD THINGS GONE?

Eco-criticism and Comparative Literature

I would like to welcome you to the 2011 Comparative Literature Symposium. Interest in the environment and the ecology has been strong, especially since the 1970s. Nonetheless, the field of Comparative Literature has not focused sufficient attention to the environmental crisis. Comparative Literature provides a unique forum inside of the Liberal Arts at aiming to provide solutions. Data from the sciences has certainly been important, but critical approaches from Comparative Literature offer vocabulary that provides cross-cultural sensitivity and theoretical depth for describing the complex global ethical dimensions of ecological problems. In light of its uniqueness as a field of study, the 2011 Symposium is designed as a forum for highlighting how the field of Comparative Literature can offer academic institutions unique tools for resolving pressing environmental problems.

We are proud to include as part of the Symposium talks by people from across the Texas Tech University community—including undergraduates, graduate students, and professors. The Symposium also includes talks from special guests from across the United States as well as from abroad. The Symposium introduces participants to Texas Tech University’s South-west Collections / Special Collections Library and an exhibition in the School of Art. We will also introduce participants to the uniqueness of West Texas through a field trip and by holding a special session on its landscape and ecology.

JOHN BEUSTERIEN
Director of Comparative Literature Program
Texas Tech University
**Wednesday, April 13**

**Pre-Conference Field Trip to Nazareth, Texas**

Tour Leader: Darryl Birkenfeld, Executive Director, Ogallala Commons.

- **8:00 AM**: Leave Lubbock
- **9:30 AM**: Arrive in Nazareth. Tour of Casa La Entereza and of the Playa Classroom.
- **12:00 PM**: Lunch
  
  *El Camino Dining Room*, 225 South 87th Avenue, Tulia, TX 79088, (866) 995-4083

- **1:30 – 2:30 PM**: Tour of SoilMender Products (south of Tulia).
- **4:00 PM**: Arrive in Lubbock.

![Miguel Gandert, Cowboy Hats, Portales, New Mexico 2004, gelatin silver print, 4 1/2" x 11 1/2"

**Thursday, April 14**

**1:00 – 1:50 PM** | Formby Room - Southwest Collection / Special Collections Library (SC / SCL)

The Sowell Family Collection in Literature, Community, and the Natural World: Texas Tech Undergraduates Celebrate an Archive,

- **1:00 - 1:10 PM**: Diane Warner, Curator for the Sowell Collection
  
  *Some Comments on the Collection*

- **1:10 - 1:30 PM**: Tracey Dove, Texas Tech University
  
  *Chains of Islands, Chains of Thought, Chains of Action*

- **1:30 - 1:50 PM**: Clara Bush, Texas Tech University
  
  *Inherently Mammal: Gretel Ehrlich’s Transformation in The Solace of Open Spaces*

**2:00 – 3:30 PM** | Formby Room - SC / SCL

Colonizing the Green World(s): Humans and Nature in Literature, Film, and Video Games

- **2:00 PM**: Joya Mannan, Texas Tech University
  
  *The Relationship between Civilization and the Green World*

- **2:15 PM**: Jason Jewell, Texas Tech University
  
  *The Western Mystique: A Critique of John Ford’s The Searchers*

- **2:30 PM**: Justin Schumaker, Texas Tech University
  
  *Taming the Wild Steed: Man’s Enacted Domination over Nature in the Video Game Red Dead Redemption*

- **2:45 PM**: Maggie Callahan, Texas Tech University
  
  *Global Manipulation in Margaret Atwood’s Oryx and Crake*

- **3:00 PM**: Melissa Kreindel, Texas Tech University
  
  *Man and Nature: Conquering Each Other in Danny Boyle’s 127 Hours*

- **3:15 PM**: Melissa Aday, Texas Tech University
  
  *Representations of the Desert Landscape in Pat Mora’s The Desert is My Mother: El desierto es mi madre*

**3:30 PM** | Coffee Break

**4:00 – 5:15 PM** | Formby Room - SC / SCL

Going Native: Class, Race, and Landscapes

- **4:00 PM**: Gabriel Keehn, Texas Tech University
  
  *The Blair Witch Project and the New Going Native: A Case Study in Transpositional Nativeness*

- **4:15 PM**: Alyssa Tanhueco, Texas Tech University
  
  *Affinity to the Natural in Linda Hogan’s Solar Storms*

- **4:30 PM**: Landon Lutrick, Texas Tech University
  
  *Application of The-Man-Who-Knows-Indians in James Cameron’s Avatar*

- **4:45 PM**: Laura Zak, Texas Tech University
  
  *Light-Eyed Images of Grace in Leslie Marmon Silko’s Ceremony*

- **5:00 PM**: Arianne Jaco, Texas Tech University
  
  *Defeating the Hostiles: A Reading of West Texas and Palo Duro Canyon*

**5:30 – 6:30 PM** | English 106

Welcome & Introductions

**Keynote Speaker:** Jorge Marcone, Latin American Studies, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, “Latin American Literature at the Verge of Environmentalism: The Predicament of Andean Ecologies in José María Arguedas’s The Foxes”

**7:00 PM** | Reception at The Combine, 3608 Ave. A, Lubbock

Host: Chris Taylor, College of Architecture
Friday, April 15

[ 8:00 AM ] COFFEE SERVICE, FORMBY ROOM, SC / SCL

[ 8:30 - 10:00 AM ] FORMBY ROOM, SC / SCL  
**Author Interventions I**

8:30 AM: Luis I. Prádanos, Westminster College  
“Ecological Justice and Border Thinking in Eduardo Galeano”

9:00 AM: Rosario Nolasco-Bell, University of Arkansas  
“Not Walden Pond: Religion, Nature and the Environment in Ana Castillo’s So Far From God and Elmaz Abinader’s Children of the Roojme.”

9:30 AM: María de Lourdes Medrano, UCLA  
“Diasporic Narratives of Belonging: Natural Order, Tourism, and the Bolero in Mayra Montero’s The Last Night I Spent with You”

[ 10:00 AM ] COFFEE BREAK

[ 10:15 - 11:45 AM ] FORMBY ROOM, SC / SCL  
**Author Interventions II**

10:15 AM: Shaheena Ayub Bhatti, Fulbright Visiting Scholar, Pakistan, University of Arizona  
“Where Have All the Salmon Gone? Power and the Powerless in Alexie’s Works”

10:45 AM: Charles Grair, Texas Tech University  
“Nature as Art in Jena Romanticism”

11:15 AM: Carmen Pereira-Muro, Texas Tech University  
“Of Oaks and Pines: Landscape, Nationalism and Ecocriticism in Spanish Regional Romantic Poetry”

[ 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM ] CATERED LUNCH FOR CONFERENCE SPEAKERS, MATADOR FACULTY LOUNGE OF STUDENT UNION BUILDING

[ 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM ] ART GRAD STUDENT LUNCH WITH JACKIE BROOKNER, ART 102

[ 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM ] SPANISH GRADUATE STUDENT LUNCH WITH JORGE MARCONE, QUALIA ROOM, CMLL

[ 1:00 - 2:30 PM ] FORMBY ROOM, SC / SCL  
**Regional Critical Perspectives**

1:00 PM: Priscilla Solis Ybarra, University of North Texas  
“Mexican American Writing’s Transnational and Bioregional Challenges to Contemporary Environmental Thought”

1:30 PM: Dooho Shin, Kangwon National University, Korea  
“Re-Vising and Re-Visioning — What Ecocriticism Needs to Eye Asia”

2:00 PM: Hsinya Huang, National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan  
“Climate Justice and Trans-Pacitic Indigenous Feminisms”

[ 2:30 PM ] COFFEE BREAK

[ 3:00 - 4:00 PM ] FORMBY ROOM, SC / SCL  
**Keynote Speaker: Dana Phillips,** Department of English, Towson University, “Posthumanism, Eco-criticism, and Natural Science: ‘Books’ versus ‘Real Knowledge’ in Moby-Dick”

[ 4:00 - 6:30 PM ] RAWLS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS LH 202  
Roundtable Presentations, “The Landscape and Ecology of West Texas”

4:00 PM: Chris Taylor, Architect and Director of Land Arts of the American West at Texas Tech University  
“Landscape as Knowledge”

4:20 PM: Urs Peter Flueckiger, Dipl. Arch. SIA  
“Sustainability and West Texas”

4:40 PM: John Zak, Professor of Biological Sciences  
“Observations from a Biologist”

5:00 PM: Karen Bone, Activist  
“Ecoactivism in West Texas”

5:20 PM: Steve Fitch, Artist, New Mexico  
“Exploring the Llano Estacado”

5:40 PM: Miguel Gandert, Artist, University of New Mexico  
“The Staked Plain: Searching for the Meaning of Stakes in Eastern New Mexico and West Texas”

6:00-6:30 PM: Q & A

[ 7:00-9:00 PM ] OPENING RECEPTION, SCHOOL OF ART  
*Llano Estacado: An Island in the Sky*  
Exhibition reception and book signing, with artists Rick Dingus, Steve Fitch, and Miguel Gandert in attendance.
saturday, APRIL 16

[ 8:00 AM ] COFFEE SERVICE, FORMBY ROOM, SC / SCL

[ 9:00 - 10:30 AM ] FORMBY ROOM, SC / SCL
Water, Deserts, and Microbes

9:00 AM: Tatiana Gajic, University of Illinois
“Histories of Water: Conflict, Containment and River-Imaginary in Recent Hispanic Film”

9:30 AM: Fares Alsuwaidi, Harvard University
“The Arabic Desert Novel and the Inchoate in Comparative-Literary Ecocriticism”

10:00 AM: Bruce Clarke, Texas Tech University
“Our Microscopic Allies: H. G. Wells among the Microbes”

[ 10:30 AM ] COFFEE BREAK

[ 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ] FORMBY ROOM, SC / SCL
Animal Interventions I

11:00 AM: Aarón Lacayo, Rutgers University
“Imaginary Beings, Imaginary Genre: Narration, Translation & the Animal in Jorge Luis Borges’ The Book of Imaginary Beings”

11:30 AM: Amanda Boetzkes, University of Alberta
“Plasticity as Eco-criticism: Animal Interventions in Contemporary Art”

[ 12:00 - 1:00 PM ] LUNCH BREAK, ART 102 (Catered Lunch for Speakers)

[ 1:00 – 2:30 PM ] FORMBY ROOM, SC / SCL
Animal Interventions II

1:00 PM: Kerry Fine, Texas Tech University
“Reimagining Subjectivity: Latour and Highway 93”

1:30 PM: Agustín Zarzosa, SUNY Purchase
“Posthumanism and the Animal Melodrama”

2:00 PM: Maria Whiteman, University of Alberta
“The Sublime Animal”

[ 2:30 - 3:00 PM ] BREAK

[ 3:00 PM ] FORMBY ROOM, SC / SCL
Keynote Speaker: Jackie Brookner, “Water Incorporated”

[ 4:00 PM ] FORMBY ROOM, SC / SCL
Keynote Speaker: Cary Wolfe, Department of English, Rice University, “Biopolitics, Biopower, and the (Non-human) Animal Body”

[ 6:00 PM ] RECEPTION AT BEUSTERIEN-PEREIRA RESIDENCE, 2711 21ST STREET, LUBBOCK

AFTER HOURS CONCERT
Prophets Of Rockabilly, Pub 50, 5001 Avenue Q, Lubbock, TX

STEVE FITCH Radio tower near Umbarger, Texas, March 11, 2005, inkjet print, 16” x 20”

LLANO ESTACADO:

An Island in the Sky

Landmark Gallery of the Texas Tech School of Art
April 15 - June 24, 2011
LLANO ESTACADO:
An Island in the Sky

Llano Estacado: An Island in the Sky is a fitting final installment to this year’s Landscape as Knowledge series of lectures and conversations during 2010-2011 because it brings the topic home. The photographs in this exhibition are just a sampling of the body of work commissioned in 2004 and 2005 by Bill Tydeman and Steve Bogener at the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library and with a generous grant from The CH Foundation. Known as the Llano Project, six artists – Peter Brown, Rick Dingus, Steve Fitch, Miguel Gandert, Tony Gleaton, and Andrew John Liccardo – were commissioned to photograph the Llano Estacado, as artists not as surveyors. Or as Bill Tydeman puts it in his introduction to the book about this body of work published by the Texas Tech Press this year,

...we had no complex shooting scripts, no list of places and objects to be photographed. We promoted no methodology and provided none of the supporting apparatus of social science surveys. Rather, we trusted everything would be enriched by the lessons of art. Photographers would find beauty in the everyday. I felt certain their work would command attention. These photographers loved this land, and their photographs would reveal the Llano’s hidden splendor.

The work speaks for itself and opens up many avenues for additional discourse. Landmark Arts in the School of Art is honored to present the opening of this exhibition in conjunction with the 2011 Comparative Literature Symposium. The pairing of the visual with language is integral to the development of knowledge.

The School of Art is delighted to support the presentations of New Mexico artists Miguel Gandert and Steve Fitch and New York based artist Jackie Brookner during the Symposium with funds from the Ryla T. & John F. Lott Endowment for Excellence in the Visual Arts. Support for the Landmark Arts Exhibits and Speaker Program comes from generous grants from the Helen Jones Foundation and The CH Foundation. Additional support comes from Cultural Activities Fees administered through the College of Visual & Performing Arts.

JOE ARREDONDO
Director of Landmark Arts
Texas Tech University School of Art
above: MIGUEL GANDERT
Parade, Western Heritage Day, Portales, New Mexico
2004, gelatin silver print, 4 1/2" x 12"

left: PETER BROWN
Wall of Garage, Hamlin, Texas
1993, chromogenic print, 7" x 9"
right: STEVE FITCH
Trophies in an abandoned school in Bula, Texas
October 24, 2004
inkjet print, 16" x 20"

below: ANDREW JOHN LICCARDO
Abandoned Gas Station and Plowed-up Playa Lake. Near Seagraves, Texas.
2004, inkjet print, 8 3/4" x 24"
above: RICK DINGUS
Buffalo mural, Hale Center, Texas
2004-2006, archival inkjet print, 20" x 46 1/2"

right: TONY GLEATON
Parishioner, Macedonia Baptist Church,
Anton, Texas
2006, gelatin silver print, 9" x 9"