

# PASTS AND FUTURES OF REWILDING SYMPOSIUM

## Pre-symposium Lectures

Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

Université Paris Cité  
Olympe de Gouges Building,  
Room 830, 8<sup>th</sup> floor

3.30pm-5pm

FLT/ Environmental Humanities Seminar

**Burak SEZER (Technical University Dortmund): “Aesthetic Rewilding:  
On Bewilderment in American Literature.”**

5.30pm-7pm

**Tobias MENELY (UC Davis): “One Thousand and One Climate Futures: Models,  
Scenarios, Fictions” – Moderator: Thomas Dutoit (U. de Lille)**

In recent decades, new modes of representation have been developed to forecast planetary futures defined by specific degrees of climatic discontinuity. In this talk, I'll examine a wide spectrum of possible Earth futures, beginning with the quantitative climate models that underlie climate targets such as the 1.5°C and 2°C futures at stake in international climate negotiations. I'll then turn to scenarios such as the IPCC's Shared Socio-Economic Pathways, which integrate Earth System models with predictions about how societies and states might mitigate and adapt to global warming. Finally, I'll consider how climate fiction, as an emergent literary genre, has internalized epistemological features of modeling and scenario planning even as it also speculatively imagines implausible, nonlinear, and plural futures.

Each of these futurological modes seeks to represent feedback between Earth systems and social systems, including the role of planetary forecast itself in mediating decisions. The formal condition of such decision-making, I'll suggest, is the branching timeline, which represents the present as a node potentially leading to a variety of determinate futures. As I reflect on the proliferation of possible futures circulating in our tumultuous present—from solar communism to hothouse Earth—I'll focus on the position and identity of the auditor to whom these futurological forecasts are addressed, the sovereign, like Shahriyar in the *One Thousand and One Nights*, whose power is at stake in the multiplication of stories. Representations of planetary futures anticipate a new (geo)politics, a form of sovereignty adequate to an integrated yet self-differing planet that is the structuring condition of all (geo)political relations.

**PASTS AND FUTURES OF REWILDING  
SYMPOSIUM**

**Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> – Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Université Paris Cité**

**Organized by Tobias Menely (UC Davis), Thomas Dutoit (Université de Lille) & Cécile Roudeau (Université Paris Cité/CNRS ECHELLES UMR 8264), with the collaboration of Valentine Alloing ((Université Paris Cité/CNRS ECHELLES UMR 8264)**

Made possible by the EMERGENCE Idex project: “EcoHealthCultures: Ecologies and Health Humanities in the Literature and Culture of the Nineteenth-Century United States”

This symposium invites scholars to share research on rewilding as a socio-ecological practice. How should we understand rewilding as restorative or reparative but also as experimental or utopian? What pasts does rewilding seek to restore and what futures does it seek to create? How should we conceptualize rewilding in terms of the tensions between intervention and withdrawal, management and release? What forms of the human (or the Anthropos) are at stake in rewilding? What role does technology play in rewilding? How might we understand rewilding as a site of political struggle or geopolitical contestation? What meanings are at stake in wildness? What is the relation of wildness as a political category, implying willfulness or autonomy, and ecological justifications for rewilding related to resilience, functionality, complexity, and/or self-organization? How do cultural and literary forms shape rewilding practices? What are historical precedents for contemporary rewilding?

**Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Université Paris Cité  
Olympe de Gouges Building  
Room 830, 8<sup>th</sup> floor**

**10am-10.30am. Welcome and coffee**

**10.30am-12pm. Panel 1 – The Wild is Cultural (Chair: Tom Nurmi, NTNU)**

**Antoine TRAISNEL (U. of Michigan) – “Biodiversity Must Be Preserved: Biopolitics After Climate Change”**

**Tobias MENELY (UC Davis) – “Rewilding Multispecies Cultures”**

12pm-1.30 pm: Lunch break

1.30pm-3pm. Panel 2—Narrating Rewilding: The European Scene

Arnaud GANE (U. Louvain) – “Cybernetic Natures and Wild Natures: Exploring the Relationship between Conservation Science and Modernity through Ethnographies in French-speaking Europe”

Régis BARRAUD (U. de Poitiers) – “The Storytelling of Rewilding in Europe: Narrative Frameworks, Imagination and Agency”

3pm-3.30pm: Coffee break

3.30pm-5.30pm. Panel 3 – Be-wild-ing (Chair: Tom NURMI, NTNU)

Burak SEZER (Technical University Dortmund) – Texts of Bewilderment. Toward a Mind-Ecology of the Wild

Michael JONIK (U. of Sussex) – “Rewilding and Degrowth: Re-reading Thoreau”

Thomas DUTOIT (U. de Lille) and Cécile ROUDEAU (U. Paris Cité) – “Of Palms and Plovers: W.S. Merwin in Hawaii”

Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Université Paris Cité  
Halle aux Farines Building,  
HF 027 C, groundfloor

10am-12pm: Panel 4 – Land and Agency (Chair: Tobias Menely, UC Davis)

Monica VASILE (Maastricht U.) – “Takahe Tensions: Interventions and Disturbance in Species Recovery Histories”

Linde DE VROEY (U. of Antwerp) – “Who Owns the Wild? Land Ownership, Global Narratives and Local Agency in Scottish Rewilding”

Gala MORRIS (U. of Glasgow) – “Echoes of the Land: Reimagining Rewilding Through Multisensory Connections”

12pm-1.30pm

Lunch & Discussion: Towards European Environmental Humanities?

1.30pm-3.30pm: Panel 5 – Speculative Rewilding (Chair: Valentine ALLOING, U. Paris Cité)

Peter SANDS (U. of York) – “Rewilding and Ecotechnology: Between Hopepunk and Misanthropy”

Ben DE BRUYN (UC Louvain) – “Homewaters: Marine Sanctuaries in Blue Anthropocene Fiction”

Sarah BEZAN (U. of Cork) – “Aging, Epochalization, and Rewilding World-Flesh in Matt Bell’s *Appleseed*”