The preservation of the biosphere as a habitat for plants, animals and humans is one of the most urgent global concerns today. In the face of overexploitation and rapid urbanization, the question of man’s self-image in the context of nature is being raised anew.

The Symposium “Nature as Resource, Aesthetic Experience, and Source of Danger: International Interdisciplinary Conference” will discuss the areas of tension from the perspectives of literary studies, cultural ecology, philosophy and theology, but also from the biosciences, shedding light in particular on the beginnings of the problematic developments of modernity as depicted in the poetry and visual arts of the 18th and 19th centuries. Extractivism in the Amazon biome and the legacies of the Cold War will also be addressed. Finally, philosophical approaches will be discussed that emphasize the importance of experiencing natural beauty as a sensitive way of dealing with nature.
PROGRAM

THURSDAY, 18 APRIL
14:00–14:30 Welcome Address
Michael Rössner | on behalf of the President of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

14:30–16:30 Global Perspectives
Mogobe Bernhard Ramose | Univ. of Pretoria, South Africa
An  histórico Defence of the Wholeness of Life in the Unfolding Destruction of the Environment
Intro. Herta Nagl-Docekal

Hubert Zapf | Univ. of Augsburg, Germany
Call to Rigor in Decolonial Perspectives
Intro. Waldemar Zacharasiewicz

Alan C. Braddock | College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA, USA
Migrant Images: The American Romantic Landscape as International Imperial Style
Intro. Christoph Irmischer

16:30–17:00 COFFEE BREAK

17:00–18:00 Visions of Nature
Chair: Martin Löschnigg | Univ. of Graz

Walidemar Zacharasiewicz | Univ. of Vienna
Visions of Sublime Nature across the Globe in Anglophone Poetry and Thought in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

Yve Figueroedo | Univ. of Paris-Saclay, France
Navigating Nature’s Edge: Balancing Urbanization and Wilderness Preservation in California, 1864‒1920

18:00 onwards Welcome Reception

SATURDAY, 20 APRIL
09:30–11:00 Ecological Risks and Literature
Chair: Siegfried Beer | Univ. of Graz, Dept. of History

Tatiana Konrad | Univ. of Vienna
Weather, Smoke, and Climate Change in British Industrial Fiction

Lisa Mullin | Univ. of Cambridge, GB
Gardening at the End of the World: Ecologies of Resistance in Derek Jarman’s Visual and Horticultural Practice

Verena Winocur | OAW and Univ. of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna
Beyond Control: Hot Legacies of the Cold War

11:00–11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30–13:00 Climate Change and Its Literary Futures
Chair: Alexandra Ganser | Univ. of Vienna, Department of English and American Studies

Sylvia Mayer | Univ. of Bayreuth, Germany
Planetarity and Resilience in U.S. Climate Change Literature

Carin Gerstorfer | Univ. of Würzburg, Germany
On the State of Utopia in the Anthropocene

FRIDAY, 19 APRIL
09:30–11:00 Ecological Issues
Chair: Kirsten Rüther | Univ. of Vienna, Department of African Studies

Martin Gerzabek | Univ. of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna
Soil Resources in the Galapagos Islands: The Tension between Nature Reserve, Population Growth and Tourism

Jörg Türschmann | Univ. of Vienna
Pollution as a Social Metaphor in the Literature of the La Plata Region

11:00–11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30–13:00 Ethics and Aesthetics of Nature
Chair: Herta Nagl-Docekal | Univ. of Vienna

Yacouba Konaté | Univ. of Abidjan-Cocody, Ivory Coast
Gardening from all over the World…

Angelika Krebs | Univ. of Basel, Switzerland
Why Beauty Matters

13:00–15:00 LUNCH BREAK

15:00–16:30 Rivers and Regions in the Americas
Chair: Jacques Fother | Univ. of Paris-Saclay

Carmen Birdie | Univ. of Marburg, Germany
The Feuer of Water and the Mighty Mississippi

Birgit Weiler | Pontifical University, Lima, Peru
Neo-Colonialism and Extractivism in the Amazon Rainforest

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