

The Circulation and Renewal of Knowledge about Nature and the Environment in France and Germany

Call for papers International Conference University of Strasbourg 4-5 october 2018

This international conference aims at looking in a comparative way into the construction and circulation of knowledge on nature and the environment in France and Germany, in order to reflect on the emergence and success of the field of Environmental Humanities, which led to the publication of recent textbooks.

The aim is, through an epistemological and cross-disciplinary approach – linking together Literature and the Social Sciences – to question *through Franco-German analyses* the way Environmental Humanities has emerged as a field of research – in what contexts has it emerged? what are its objects, its modes of analysis? – even as the terms used have not yet been strictly defined: examining the construction of this field in the French and German contexts is very fruitful, all the more as their approaches to nature have often been presented as two diverging “national traditions” (the French one deriving from the Enlightenment, the German one from Romanticism, roughly speaking), whereas the historical processes have been much more complex. While paying due attention to these layers of history, our approach will be a dynamic one, focusing on current evolutions in the history of ideas and in cultural studies as well as in the empirical and critical foundations of social sciences, in order to eschew perspectives that might seem too dualistic, especially if the borrowings from one culture to the other, or the dialogues with the Anglo-Saxon world, both in France and Germany, are not taken into account: several levels of comparison thus emerge, focusing our attention. The question of the new forms of knowledge on nature and the environment will thus be raised from another perspective, in a time of ongoing academic, political and social debates about the global ecological crisis.

Concretely speaking, we want to bring together French and German specialists, as well as PhD. candidates and young scholars, and having them dialogue on key underlying issues, then leading to collective discussions.

Your response will include, in French, German or English:

- a title.
- an abstract including the research question, the disciplinary affiliation and the foreseen methodology/empirical research (about 800 words).
- the Email address of the/each author as well as a short bio.

The deadline for submission is the **22nd of January 2018**.

The scientific committee's decisions will be given in March 2018; Travel costs may be partially covered by the CIERA program and its partners.

The conference will be held in French, German and English.

A collective book is foreseen in 2019 after the symposium, based on a choice of contributions, within the framework of the CIERA program.

The **scientific committee** includes the representatives of the program partners:

Aurélie Choné, Associate Professor in German Cultural Studies at the Faculty of World Languages and Cultures, Laboratory EA 1341 German Studies, University of Strasbourg.

Tim Freytag, Professor of Human Geography, *Faculty* of Environment and Natural Resources, University of Freiburg.

Philippe Hamman, Professor of Sociology at the Institute for Urbanism and Regional Development of the Faculty of Social Science, Laboratory UMR 7363 Societies, Actors, Government in Europe, CNRS-University of Strasbourg

Evi Zemanek, Junior Professor for German and Intermedia Studies at the Department of German Studies, University of Freiburg.

Feel free to contact us and send your proposal, in French, German or English, to:

Philippe Hamman (phamman@unistra.fr) and Aurélie Choné (achone@unistra.fr).

Selective bibliography

Joni Adamson, Michael Davis (eds.), *Humanities for the Environment. Integrating Knowledge, Forging New Constellations of Practice*, London-New York, Routledge, 2017.

Guillaume Blanc, Élise Demeulenaere, Wolf Feuerhahn (dir.), *Humanités environnementales. Enquêtes et contre-enquêtes*, Paris, Publications de la Sorbonne, 2017.

Aurélie Choné, Isabelle Hajek, Philippe Hamman (dir.), *Guide des Humanités environnementales*, Villeneuve d'Ascq, Presses universitaires du Septentrion, coll. Environnement et société, 2016.

Aurélie Choné, Isabelle Hajek, Philippe Hamman (eds.), *Rethinking Nature, Challenging Disciplinary Boundaries*, London-New York, Routledge, Routledge Environmental Humanities Series, 2017.

Elizabeth DeLoughrey, Jill Didur, Anthony Carrigan (eds.), *Global Ecologies and the Environmental Humanities. Postcolonial Approaches*, London-New York, Routledge, 2015.

Ursula K. Heise, Jon Christensen, Michelle Niemann (eds.), *The Routledge Companion to the Environmental Humanities*, London-New York, Routledge, 2017.

Serpil Oppermann, Serenella Iovino (eds.), *Environmental Humanities. Voices from the Anthropocene*, Lanham, Rowman and Littlefield, 2016.

Sabine Wilke, Japhet Johnstone (eds.), *Readings in the Anthropocene. The Environmental Humanities, German Studies, and Beyond*, London-New York, Bloomsbury, 2017.