

XVII INTERNATIONAL AEDEI CONFERENCE

AEDEI-2018: “Eco-Fictions & Irish Studies”

Facultade de Filoloxía, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela (USC)

31 May - 1 June 2018

Nature, the landscape and the environment have enjoyed a recurrent presence, indeed have been constant protagonists, in Irish literature and culture.

This wild isolated island, originally feared or even despised by foreigners progressively became that romanticized, pre-modern Arcadia imagined by tourists from the early twentieth century onwards. The once desolated and barren landscapes of the Great Hunger were imaginatively recreated as green pastures, nostalgically conjured up by nineteenth- and twentieth-century Irish emigrants across the world. More recently, during the decades of the economic boom, the Irish land of the Celtic Tiger was hunted mercilessly by unscrupulous property developers, and its historical sites and natural resources were appropriated as the commodities of tourism. These are just some examples of the many uses and abuses of the Irish environment in the recent cultural history of the island.

One might expect that the development of Green Studies, Deep Ecology, Ecofeminism(s), Ecocriticism and Ecofeminist Literary Criticism would in this sense be drawn especially to Ireland, yet this has not been the case. Whereas such conceptual frameworks emerged in the late seventies and early eighties, the consolidation of their basis, principles and values in the 1990s, as well as the development of their methodologies, coincided with the years of the Celtic Tiger, when Ireland and the Irish were being carried on a tide of economic prosperity, one which would have disastrous consequences, but which were discerned only by a small number of artists and intellectuals. Hence, a sound revision of, and deep reflection on, ecology and the environment in Ireland came only after the economic collapse of 2008.

The aim of this conference is to stimulate critical debate on the Irish environment through Irish literature and culture, since, as Eóin Flannery among others has observed, “the field of Irish cultural studies has yet to exploit fully the critical and analytical resources of ecological criticism” (2012: 6).

We therefore welcome twenty-minute papers addressing current debates in Irish Studies and/or focusing on, but not restricted to, the following topics:

The Natural and the Political:

Nature. The environment. Globalism *versus* regionalism. Global and Glocal identities. Urban studies. Discourse on toxicity. Do our perceptions of nature determine our institutions?

Reclaiming the Body:

Natural, technological and political bodies. Biological particularities and historical agency. Body, sex and gender. (In)fertility, reproduction and parenthood. Nutrition. Hunger. Ageing. Disability. The body as locus of knowledge.

Irish Geographies:

Landscape and national identity. Sense of place. Land *versus* landscape. Territories, seascapes, place-names. Nature writing. Bog literature. Ecopoetics. Ecoregions. The feminization of nature and the naturalization of woman. Pastoral, eco-pastoral, anti-pastoral and post-pastoral writing. Ecocinema. Virtual environments. Wilderness.

Ecocriticism, Ecofeminism and Ecofeminist Literary Criticism:

Biological and cultural diversity. Subsistence and sustainability. Interdependence and mutual co-creation. The self and the Other. Ecological justice. Ethics of care. Critique of binarisms: culture-nature, human-animal. Anthropocentrism, androcentrism, post-anthropocentrism, biocentrism and ecocentrism. Zoe. Transformative relations and activism. Hierarchical and heterarchical relations. Spiritual ecofeminism. Radical ecofeminism. Ecowomanism. Deep ecology.

Environmental Humanities:

Historical, cultural, ethical and political dimensions of the management of the environment.

Animal Studies:

Human and non-human animals. Animal tropes and motifs. Speciesism. Animal’s rights.

Submission requirements and deadline:

Abstracts of no more than 250 words for twenty-minute papers should be sent to congreso.aedei2018@usc.es by **15 February 2018**. Please, include “Abstract AEDEI 2018” in the subject line of your e-mail. Author/s information is to be provided in a separate file, including name, affiliation, contact address, paper title and author’s bio-note. Please, name the documents as follows: “Surname_Name_Abstract_AEDEI2018.doc” “Surname_Name_AuthorInfo_AEDEI2018.doc”

A selection of the papers presented at the conference will be published in book form.

VENUE:

Facultade de Filoloxía, Avenida Castelao s/n. 15782. Universidade de Santiago de Compostela (Spain)

For more information, please visit: www.aedei.es

www.discursoeidentidade.com



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In collaboration with:

- *Eco-fictions: Emergent Discourses on Woman and Nature in Galicia and Ireland* (FEM2015-66937-P). Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad, FEDER.
- *“Women’s Tales”: The Short Fiction of Contemporary British Writers, 1974-2013* (FEM2013-41977-P). Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad.
- *Grupo de Investigación Discurso e Identidade* (GRC2015/002: GI-1924). Universidade de Santiago de Compostela.
- *Rede de Investigación en Lingua e Literatura Inglesa e Identidade III* (ED431D 2017/17). Xunta de Galicia.
- **Embassy of Ireland.**
- *The AMERGIN University Institute of Research in Irish Studies* (UDC).



