



Scarcity and Environment in History and Literature

Time	25-27 September 2014
Venue	The Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich, Germany
Conveners	Frederike Felcht (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt), Katie Ritson (Rachel Carson Center), and Susanne Bär (Institut für Nordische Philologie, LMU Munich)
Abstract	What is scarcity and how has it been represented in historical and aesthetic contexts? This workshop will attempt to take a cross-disciplinary approach in considering the nature of scarcity, and its significance in historical and modern-day debates. Historians and literary scholars will present on scarcity and abundance in, among other things, video games, the cornfields of the USA, medieval Icelandic literature, and contemporary science-fiction and look at ways in which the spectre of scarcity has shaped and continues to shape our thinking.

Thursday 25 September

- 14:30** **Welcome and Introduction**
- 15:15** Samer Alatout (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
 “Scarcity and Empire”
- 16:00** Özge Ertem (Koç University Istanbul)
 “The British Gentlemen and Ottoman and Indian Peasants in ‘Famine-Prone’
 Lands (1873-1875)”
- 16:45** **Coffee Break**
- 17:00** Annka Liepold (LMU Munich)
 “The Morality of Scarcity”
- 17:45** **Refreshments**
- 18:15** **Keynote**
 Fredrik Albritton Jonsson (University of Chicago)
 “The Rise and Fall of Cornucopianism?”

Friday 26 September

- 10:00** **Keynote**
 Klaus Benesch (LMU Munich)
 “Writing Grounds: Ecocriticism, Supermodernity, and the Scarcity (and
 Replenishment) of Place”
- 11:30** **Coffee Break**
- 12:00** Sebastian Huber (LMU Munich)
 “Making Oneself Scarce: The Poetics and Politics of Scarcity in Herman Melville’s
 Bartleby, the Scrivener”
- 12:45** **Lunch**
- 14:00** Franziska Jekel (LMU Munich)
 “Urban Poverty. The City as a Place of Scarcity in Baudelaire, Rilke and Hamsun”
- 14:45** Oliver Völker (Goethe University Frankfurt/M.)
 “‘Hang on to the words’. Language and Memory in C. McCarthy’s *The Road* and
 M. Atwood’s *Oryx and Crake*”
- 15:30** **Coffee Break**

- 15:45** Christian Hoiß (LMU Munich)
“Scarcity and Abundance in The Hunger Games – A Chance for Value-based Teaching”
- 16:30** Robert Baumgartner (LMU Munich)
“Don’t Starve’: The Representation of Scarcity in Contemporary Video Games”
- 17:15** **Coffee Break**
- 17:30** Jesse Ramirez (Goethe University Frankfurt/M.)
“Anti-Anti-Abundance; or, Scarcity and Abundance in American Science Fiction Since 1945”

Saturday 27 September

- 10:00** Reinhard Hennig (University of Bonn)
“Constructing Collective Environmental Memory: Representations of Scarcity and Abundance in Medieval Icelandic Literature”
- 10:45** Karen Oslund (Towson University)
“Scarcity and Abundance in the Arctic: A Colonial Condition?”
- 11:00** **Coffee Break**
- 12:00-13:00** **Final Discussion, Closing Remarks**



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