



The Greening of Everyday Life: Reimagining Environmentalism in Post-Industrial Societies

Time 19–21 June 2014

Venue The Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich, Germany

Conveners John Meyer (RCC/Humboldt State University) and Jens Kersten (RCC/LMU Munich)

Abstract Environmental challenges including climate change threaten the very fabric of our lives, such that the present course of our societies appears literally unsustainable. Ambitious efforts to address these issues rarely seem to resonate with the everyday concerns and ideas most pressing to citizens in post-industrial societies. The workshop will focus upon the normative implications of everyday material practices for environmental action. The aim is to approach the political challenges of environmental sustainability by examining these everyday practices and the concerns they foster directly, rather than a more abstract environmental discourse that suggests the need to overcome these concerns.

Thursday 19 June 2014

09:00 – 10:00 **Welcome, Overview, Introductions**

10:00 – 10:15 **Break**

10:15 – 12:00 **“Concepts and Movements” Part I**

Andrew Case (Michigan State University)

Just Another Brick in the Toilet: *50 Simple Things That You Can Do to Save the Earth* and the Popular Culture of Consumer Ecology

David Schlosberg (University of Sydney)

The New Environmentalism of Everyday Life: Sustainability, Material Flows, and Movements

Commentator: Nicole Seymour (University of Arkansas)

12:00 – 13:15 **Lunch**

13:15 – 15:00 **“Households” Part I**

Fiona Allon (University of Sydney)

The Household, Porosity, and Sustainability: Material Practices of Everyday Environmentalism

Teena Gabrielson (University of Wyoming)

Making Visible the Toxicity of Everyday Life: An Anti-Toxics Discourse that both Greens and Whitens the Home

Commentator: Mathew Booker (North Carolina State University)

15:00 – 15:15 **Break**

15:15 – 17:00 **“Households” Part II**

Cecily Maller (RMIT University)

Homemaking practices of provision and maintenance: Implications for environmental action

Brad Mapes-Martins (University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point)

“... alone in a world of wounds”: Home Repair and the Environmental Politics of Tending

Commentator: Markus Wilczek (Harvard University)

18:00 **Conference Dinner**

Friday 20 June 2014

08:30 – 10:15 “Concepts and Movements” II

Jonathan Clapperton (University of Alberta)

Making the Pacific Northwest “Green”: Everyday Environmental Activism in Metropolitan British Columbia

Romand Coles (Northern Arizona University)

Environmentalism of Everyday Life: New Materialist Flows, Resonance, Autocatalysis, and the Dynamics of Transformation

Commentator: Thomas Princen (University of Michigan)

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 12:15 “Mobility”

John Meyer (Humboldt State University)

Automobility and Freedom

Yogi Hendlin (Kiel University)

The Bicycle as a Social and Environmental Force: Analyzing the Current Trend in cycling as a mode of transportation

Commentator: Massimo Moraglio (TU Berlin)

12:15 – 13:15 Lunch

13:15 – 15:45 “Lessons from Alternative Practices”

Karen Litfin (University of Washington)

What Are People For? Ontology and Sustainability in Ecovillage Culture

Chelsea Schelly (Michigan Technological University)

Everyday Household Practice in Alternative Residential Dwellings: The Non-Environmental Motivations for Environmental Behavior

Jennifer Robinson (Indiana University)

Making the Land Connection: Local Food Farms and Sustainability of Place

Commentator: TBA

15:45 – 16:00 Break

Optional evening activity: Biergarten Outing (open to friends, family, RCC staff and fellows)

Saturday 21 June 2014

09:00 – 12:00 “Urban Spaces”

(Break 10:30 – 10:45)

Michael Lorr (Aquinas College)

Greening Homes, Urban Infrastructure, and Everyday Lifestyles in an Age of Post-Democracy: An Exploratory Analysis of Chicago, IL and Jacksonville, FL

Sarah (Sayd) Randle (Yale University)

At Home in the Watershed: Spatial Politics and Environmental Imaginaries in Los Angeles

Jens Kersten (LMU Munich)

Urban Biodiversity: Ambivalences, Conceptions, Policies

Commentator: Sherilyn Macgregor (Keele University)

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch

13:00 – 14:45 “Property and Common Good”

Piers Stephens (University of Georgia)

The Tragedy of the Uncommon: Property, Possession and Belonging in Community Gardens

Shannon Orr (Bowling Green State University)

Reimagining the Backyard: Environmental Sustainability and Private Property

Commentator: Emily Brock (University of South Carolina)

15:00 – 16:00 **Wrap-up discussion, future plans, and evaluation**

Optional evening activity:

All members of the RCC community, including participants in the Greening of Everyday Life workshop, are invited to join the group at Iffeldorf on Saturday evening, 21 June, for a municipal summer solstice bonfire. Food and drink will be available for purchase at the location of the bonfire. Trains travel to Iffeldorf every hour from the Munich central station (Hauptbahnhof); the last train returns to Munich from Iffeldorf at 23:38 on Saturday night.

