



## Radical Hope: Inspiring Sustainability Transformations through Our Past

**Time** 3-4 July 2017

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

**Conveners** John Barry (Queens University, Belfast), Erika Bsumek (University of Texas, Austin), Christof Mauch (Rachel Carson Center, Munich)

**Abstract** This workshop aims to bring together people from different disciplines and professions: scholars, scientists, architects, urban planners, poets, community activists, politicians, filmmakers, artists, policy makers, faith communities, and business leaders to spark conversations about the past, present, and future of the environment (from local to global) and our relationships with it. The workshop aims to provide a space between naïve “wishful thinking” on the one hand, and “realistic dystopianism” on the other. We are interested in how realistic or even radical hope can: 1) reframe contemporary discussions, and 2) influence sustainability transformations that can help us think about how to be reactive and responsive in shaping those transformations in ways that are both feasible and hopeful. To quote Raymond Williams, “To be truly radical is to make hope possible rather than despair convincing.”

Rachel  
Carson  
Center

## Monday, 3 July 2017

9.30–10 am Arrival and Check-in

10–10.30 am Welcome

10.30–12.00 am **Envisioning Hope**  
Moderator: Christof Mauch

Amy Hay (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley)  
"The Art of Protest: Visual Texts and Environmental Protest"

Lisette Gebhardt (Goethe University Frankfurt)  
"Human Resilience in Japanese Nuclear Narration: Kirino Natsuo's Hopeful Dystopian Novel 'Baraka'"

Christopher Conte (Utah State University) and Daniela Adorni (University of Parma)  
"Landscape, Repeat Photography and History in Africa: Cases of Continuity and Change in Agrarian Localities"

12.00 am–13.30 pm Lunch and Slideshow/Artist Talk by Patrick Reed

1.30–3 pm **Overcoming Crisis**  
Moderator: John Barry

Sophia Kalantzakos (New York University at Abu Dhabi)  
"Recurring Earthquakes and the Rebirth of Hope"

Tania Katzschner (University of Cape Town)  
"Towards Reclaiming Relationships with Nature in Cape Town, South Africa"

Elin Kelsey (Royal Roads University)  
"Crowd-sourcing Hope and Cultivating Interspecies Relationships in the Age of the Anthropocene and the Digital Revolution."

3.00–3.30 pm Break

3.30–5.00 pm **Responses in Hope**  
Moderator: Erika Bsumek

Hal Crimmel (Weber State University)  
"Air Pollution in Utah: Issues and Solutions"

Monica Seger (College of William & Mary)  
"Hope/Hemp: Responding to Italy's Dioxin Crisis through Phytoremediation  
(and Walking)"

Carsten Wergin (Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg)  
"Beyond the Resources Boom: Inspiring Radical Hope for Settler-Colonialist  
Australia"

**6.00 pm**                      **Dinner and Socializing (on your own)**

## **Tuesday, 4 July 2017**

**10.00–12.00 am**            **Experiments in Hope**  
**Moderator: Christof Mauch**

Kara Thompson (College of William & Mary)  
"On Love and Property"

Simon Werrett (University College London)  
"Shiftspaces"

Kieko Matteson (University of Hawaii at Manoa)  
"Galvanizing Hope in an Anxious Age: In Search of a New Manifesto for  
Environmental Mobilization"

**12.00 am–12.30 pm**      **Buffet Lunch**

**12:30 p.m. 1:30 pm**      **Hunter Lovins**  
**"Radical Hope for a Finer Future"**  
**Public Lecture**  
Location: KHG, Leopoldstr. 11, 1st floor conference room

**1.30 pm–3.00 pm**            **Technologies of Hope**  
**Moderator: John Barry**

Daniel Barber (University of Pennsylvania)  
"The Solar House and 'Not-So-Utopian' Futures, c. 1953"

Kostas Latoufis (University of Athens & Nea Guinea) and Telis Tympas  
"The Answer is Blowing in the Wind: Grassroots Technological Networks of  
Wind Energy"

3.00–3.30 pm

**Break**

3.30–4.30 pm

**Roundtable: Politics and Innovations of Hope**

**Moderator: Erika Bsumek**

Damian White (Rhode Island School of Design) and Allan Shearer  
(University of Texas at Austin)

4.30–6.00 pm

**Beyond the Workshop**

**John Barry, Erika Bsumek, Christof Mauch**

Concluding Comments, Summary, Feedback, and Final Discussion

6.30 pm

**Conference Dinner**

Cover image:

Patrick J. Reed

Distant Hammers #13

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Graphite, oil paint, colored pencil, collage on handmade paper