



## Religion and the Experience of Nature: Comparative Perspectives

9-11 April 2021

**Friday, 9 April 2021**

(all times: Central European Summer Time)

14:00 **Matthias Egeler** (LMU Munich)  
Opening Remarks

**PANEL 1** **RELIGION AND NATURE IN ARCHAEOLOGY**  
CHAIR: MATTHIAS EGELER (LMU Munich)

14:20-14:45 **Luke John Murphy** (University of Iceland)  
Renegotiating Animal Intermediaries: The Romanisation of  
Hunting Goddesses and Animal-Based Rituals in Roman Britain

14:45-15:10 **Vykintas Vaitkevičius** (University of Klaipėda)  
Foot-printed Stones in Sacred Places of Lithuania

15:10-15:30 (Virtual) coffee and informal discussion

**PANEL 2** **RELIGION AND NATURE IN GRAECO-ROMAN LITERATURE**  
CHAIR: Luke John Murphy (University of Iceland)

15:30-15:55 **Sabine Heidi Walther** (Bonn)  
'They worship certain trees, the waters of rivers, hills and  
mountain valleys': Agathias and the Byzantine Perspective on the  
Nature Worship of the Alamanni

15:55-16:20 **Holger Hespén** (Budapest)  
Reading the 'Book of Nature' through the Lens of the Physiologus

16:20-16:40 (Virtual) coffee and informal discussion

**PANEL 3** **THE SACRALIZATION OF THE BRITISH LANDSCAPE**  
CHAIR: Judith Bodendörfer (Freiburg)

16:40-17:05 **Steven Sutcliffe** (Edinburgh)  
Traces of Transcendence in Nature Journalism: the Example of  
Dugald Semple (1884-1964)

17:05-17:30 **Marleen Thaler** (Vienna)  
The Re-Sanctification of the English Landscape: John Michell's  
Influence on Eco-Spiritual Devotees of Earth Mysteries

17:30 Keynote Lecture  
**Lisa Sideris** (Bloomington)  
Experiencing Extinction: Ritual Responses to Incalculable Loss



**Saturday, 10 April 2021**

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**PANEL 4**

**NATURE AND CULTIC PRACTICE**

CHAIR: Sara Kuehn (Vienna)

14:00-14:25

**Markus Rüsç** (Ryukoku University, Kyoto)

Mountains in Japanese Buddhism as Places of Permanent Practising for Others

14:25-14:50

**Endalkachew Hailu Guluma** (Arba Minch)

The Role of Traditional Religious Beliefs, Myths and Rituals in Environmental Conservation among the Aari of Southern Ethiopia: An Ecocritical Study

14:50-15:15

**Bosco Bangura** (Leuven/Groningen)

African Pentecostalism, Traditional Cosmologies and the Experience with Nature in Sierra Leone

15:15-15:35

(Virtual) coffee and informal discussion

**PANEL 5**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SPIRITUALITIES**

CHAIR: Steven Sutcliffe (Edinburgh)

15:35-16:00

**Franziska Holzfurtner** (LMU Munich)

The Semiotic Ideology of Whales

16:00-16:25

**Judith Bodendörfer** (Freiburg)

The Book of Nature as Notebook: The Ambiguous Concept of Nature in the Theosophical Current

16:25-16:50

**Sara Kuehn** (Vienna)

Sufi Eco-Spiritual Engagement with Endangered Animal Species in Bangladesh and Pakistan

16:50-17:10


(Virtual) coffee and informal discussion

17:10

Keynote Lecture

**Kocku von Stuckrad** (Groningen)

Languages of Life and the Blending of Worlds



**Sunday, 11 April 2021**

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**PANEL 6**

**RELIGION AND CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES I**

CHAIR: Christa Frateantonio (Hannover)

14:00-14:25

**Jeanet Sinding Bentzen** (Copenhagen)

In Crisis, We Pray: Religiosity and the COVID-19 Pandemic

14:25-14:50

**Catharina de Pater** and **Birgit Elands** (Wageningen)

Spiritual Values in Forest and Nature Management – a Framework for Empirical Research

14:50-15:15

**Julia Blanc** (Basel)

Are you a religious actor interested in ecological concerns or an ecologist with religious interests? The Relationship between Religion and Environmentalism on a Local Level

15:15-15:35

(Virtual) coffee and informal discussion

**PANEL 7**

**RELIGION AND CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES II**

CHAIR: Julia Blanc (Basel)

15:35-16:00

**Kasia Mika** (London)

'To the world of to-morrow I turn with my strength': Environmental Futures, Faith, and the Caribbean beyond a Tropical Apocalypse

16:00-16:25

**Whitney A. Bauman** (Florida International University)

The Environmentalism of Rachel Carson and Marjory Stoneman Douglas: Developing a Planetary Romantic Critical Realism

16:25-16:50

**Wendy Wiseman** (Santa Barbara, California)

Tragedy and the 'Eternity' of Nature: A Nietzschean Apocalypse

16:50

Concluding plenary discussion

With kind support of:



To register for participation please contact the organizer:

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