



Call for Papers

Ecological Inscriptions: a postgraduate workshop

24th June 2013

University of Nottingham

Conventional ecological imaginings point to relationships between organisms and environment. Yet, the term has provided fertile ground within a range of disciplines as a way of framing and articulating broader sets of relations between, for example, humans and non-humans (animals and technologies) and between lives and environmental attributes, affects and intensities. This workshop explores the ways in which ecologies come to be written, or manifest themselves, as material processes of inscription and description.

Ecological inscriptions appear on the land, the body, the page, the monument and the surface. Yet, inscriptions also run deep, cutting into stone and skin, taking root in habits, actions and imaginations, and persisting over time in behaviours, practices, habits, discourses and performances.

This workshop is concerned with when, where, by and for whom, ecologies become inscribed and with the ways in which ecologies are inscribed by social, political and cultural forces. It considers how ecological inscriptions take shape in a range of places and through a range of scales. It asks how ecological inscriptions make themselves known empirically, whilst pausing to reflect upon what ecological inscriptions look like and how they feel, how they might be read and what we might read from them.

Papers are invited on – but are by no means limited to – the following themes:

- Ecologies inscribed in land art, environmental art, minimalism and performance art in a range of media: sound, sculpture, paint, words, letters, etching.
- Ecological inscriptions manifest in environmentalist discourses, protests or movements at local and global scales.
- Ecologies inscribed through scientific, artistic, military or literary knowledges, interventions and moments.
- Ecologies inscribed in and on the body in mood, outlook, appearance, behaviour, emotion, performance, habit or dress.
- Biographical accounts of those hunting, chasing, tracking, documenting or observing ecological inscriptions, such as biologists, ethologists and archaeologists.
- Multiple ecological inscriptions irrupting in motion, through transport, migration and transition.

- Ecological conceptions inscribed in the self both within and at the edges of language.

This is an interdisciplinary workshop that seeks to offer postgraduates an opportunity to present related work at any stage of their research within a friendly, supportive and stimulating environment. Papers will be followed by a roundtable discussion with responses from Dr. Isla Forsyth from the Department of Geography and Dr. Neal Alexander from the Department of English at the University of Nottingham. This is the seventh annual postgraduate workshop to be run by the Landscape, Space, Place Research Group. The event has been made possible through generous support from the AHRC Landscape and Environment Programme and the Department of English at the University of Nottingham.

Abstracts of 250-300 words for 20 minute papers should be sent to ecological_inscriptions@nottingham.ac.uk by Friday 3rd May 2013.

