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ASLE 2024 SYMPOSIUM  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA

**Draft Schedule Update 4.4.24**

**Thursday, May 16**

**Welcome Festivities and Opening Keynote: 5:30 - 07:30 PM**

*Robinson Theater, Fine Arts Center*

***Musical performance by the Jacksonville Gospel Choir, followed by Keynote by Janisse Ray***

**“AI and the Wild Energies of the World”**

We humans face a lot of reductionism, which is the practice of reducing the world to what can be proven. Many of our institutions are adept at diverting us from the invisible forces of the world. We allow ourselves to be convinced that mysteries and connections do not exist. But two worlds exist in parallel, the tangible world and the imaginal realm, this world and another world. Every person has one foot in the “real world” and the other in the realm of spirit. Every living system has a neural network, usually invisible, often larger than our own. Ray proposes a new kind of intelligence in which we encompass not only human intelligence, but also the intelligences of the earth. Ray talks about how we personally can connect with wild intelligence in an ecological restoration of our interior world and a restoration of our capacity to feel.

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## Friday, May 17

### Session 1: 9:00-10:30 AM

#### Panel 1A: Pop Culture Energies

*Student Union West Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3804*

- Roberta Grandi, Università della Valle d'Aosta, "Parasite Energy Sources: Disney's Strange World (2022) and Gaia's Delicate Balance" (Zoom)
- Jacob McElroy, Independent researcher/scholar, "The Green"
- Will O'Brien, Eau Claire Memorial High School, "The Spirit Bomb: Energy as Hyperobject"
- Ryan Peshek, University of North Florida, "Swamp Thing: An Esoteric Approach to Consciousness and Environment"

#### Panel 1B: Contact with Nonhuman Energies

*Lufrano Intercultural Gallery of Art, Student Union East Building, 2nd Floor*

- Vivian Lauver, Temple University, "'These Noxious Plants Have Come Unbidden': Representations of Invasive Flora and Fauna in Susan Fenimore Cooper's Rural Hours" (Zoom)
- Allen Scott, University of North Florida, "The Shimmer of Ecofeminism in Lily Brooks-Dalton's The Light Pirate"
- Kailan Sindelar, University of North Florida, "Walking a Wetland Line: Resisting Extraction in VR Environmental Communication"

#### Panel 1C: Labor and Extractivism in the American Anthropocene

*Student Union West Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3805*

Chair: Rebecca Ballard, Florida State University

- Athena Salinas, University of North Florida
- Joseph Gaines, University of North Florida
- Juliette Guido, University of North Florida
- Rebekah Goodrich, University of North Florida  
"Labor and Extractivism in the American Anthropocene"

### Session 2: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

#### Panel 2A: Theories of Energy

*Student Union West Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3804*

- Li-Ru Lu, National Sun Yat-sen University, "Coal, Energy, and Empire: English and American Travelers' Writings on Formosan Coal Mines, 1847-1895"

- Jason Mauro, University of North Florida, Jason Mauro, “In(t)(f)ernal Combustion: Anxiety in the Anthropocene”
- Cailey Poirier, Florida Atlantic University, “Sultana’s Dream: The ‘Handyman’ to a Feminist Utopia”
- Weiwei Ye, Shanghai University/Stanford University, “Why Matters Become More Matter”

### **Workshop 2B: Activism**

*Healing Garden in front of Building 39, aka J. Brooks Brown Hall (weather permitting)*

- Tru Leverette Hall and Maureen McCluskey, University of North Florida, “Motivation: Renewing Our Energy for Action”

### **Panel 2C: Avian Energies**

*Student Union West Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3805*

Chair: TBD

- Alex Tischer, “Seeing Eye to Eye: 20th Century Environmentalism and Audubon’s Representations of Human-to-Nonhuman Eye Contact”
- Ashkan Tabatabaie, New College of Florida, “Gray Catbird”

### **Lunch and Zoom Talk: 12:45 PM - 01:45 PM**

*Student Union Ballroom, West Building 3rd Floor*

Featuring a Zoom talk entitled “Green Fire” given by Jane Caputi of Florida Atlantic University

### **Session 3: 2:00-3:30 PM**

#### **Panel 3A: Indigenous Perspectives I**

*Student Union West Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3804*

- Gregory Hitch, Lawrence University “A Forest of Energy: Menominee Knowledgeways and Inter-Species Ethics of Reciprocity” (Zoom)
- Laura Loth, Rhodes College, “Power Lines: Hydroelectric Energy and the Politics of Francophone Indigenous Literature in Québec”
- Jane Robbins Mize, Hamilton College, “Infrastructures of Time: Protest, Progress, and the James Bay Project in Linda Hogan’s Solar Storms (1994)”

### **Panel 3B: Imagining (In)justice in Energy Futures**

*Lufrano Intercultural Gallery of Art, Student Union East Building, 2nd Floor*

- Isabel Lane, Harvard University, “Electrifying the Prison: Rachel Kushner’s *The Mars Room* and Energy Injustice”
- Jennifer Lieberman, University of North Florida, “The Prison as Techno-Dystopia”
- Alba Tomasula Y Garcia, UC Berkeley, “Lively Energy and Living Ethically in the Post-Post-Post Apocalypse World(s)”

### **Panel 3C: Activism**

*Student Union West Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3805*

- Gloria Muñoz, St. Petersburg poet laureate, Holiday House Publishing
  - Nora Shalaway Carpenter, Hachette Book Group and Charlesbridge
  - Padma Venkatraman, Penguin Author
  - Xelena Gonzalez, Author / storyteller
- “Ecoliteracy Can Change the World: How Reading and Writing About Our Environments Can Inspire Hopeful Activism”

### **Session 4: 4:00-5:30 PM**

#### **Panel 4A: Indigenous Perspectives II**

*Student Union West Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3804*

- Jaroslav Kusnir, University of Prešov, Slovakia, “Place, Nature and Natural Energies in Louise Erdrich’s *The Porcupine Year*”
- Betsy Nies, University of North Florida, “Australian Young Adult Fiction and Dreamtime: Ambelin Kwaymullina’s *The Interrogation of Ashala Wolf* (2012)”

#### **Workshop 4B: Green Literacy (Education)**

*Student Union West Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3805*

- Jen Cullerton Johnson, Green Literacy, "Nurturing Green Literacy: Harnessing Personal, Cultural, and More-Than-Human Energies to Resist Extractivism and Prevent Burnout"

### **Keynote Address by Kendra Hamilton: 7:00 - 08:30 PM**

*Student Union Ballroom, West Building 3rd Floor*

Dr. Kendra Hamilton is currently associate professor of English at Presbyterian College, and has a wide-ranging resume--she also spent a decade as a newspaper journalist and two years as vice mayor of Charlottesville, VA. Hamilton is the author of the forthcoming *Romancing the Gullah: Race and*

Authenticity in the Age of Porgy and Bess, which analyzes artistic appropriations of Gullah Geechee culture in coastal South Carolina, and *The Goddess of Gumbo: Poems* (2006). She has also partnered with local leaders to grow the vibrant and inclusive Clinton Community Garden in Clinton, SC.

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## **Saturday, May 18**

### **Session 5: 9:00-10:30 AM**

#### **Workshop 5A: Global Perspectives I**

*Student Union West Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3804*

- Alice Fox, University of Brighton, and Hannah Macpherson, Freelance Leader in Creative Co-Production, “Building Equity in Transdisciplinary Partnerships: Insights from the Towards Brown Gold Research Program”

#### **Panel 5B: Petrocultures and Energy Humanities I**

*Lufrano Intercultural Gallery of Art, Student Union East Building, 2nd Floor*

- Arianna Bartolone, Florida Atlantic University, “Picturing Tomorrowland: Transitioning Away from Infrastructures of Colonial Development and Into a Sustainable Future in the Time of Climate Change”
- Ana Llubra, Rutgers University, “Aerosolar Sculptures and Sustainability: Aerocene's Vision for a Fossil Fuel-Free Future”
- Marvellous Taiwo, West Virginia University, “‘We Should Have Known the End Was Near’: Translating the Unconscious among Human-Energy Relations in Imbolo Mbue’s *How Beautiful We Were*” (Zoom)

#### **Panel 5C: Spiritual Energies**

*Student Union West Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3805*

- Daniel Medina, The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, “On Reclaiming Nature’s Energy as Spiritual Transformer of the Social Order”
- Aditi Basu, Independent Researcher, “Analysing Prakriti and Shakti Concepts in Hindu Cosmology as Eco-Energy in the 21st Century”
- Maia Chowdhury, Thomas Edison State University, “Narrating Energy: Intersections of Ecocriticism, Reiki Practice, and Eco-Fiction in Shaping Alternative Cosmovisions”
- DERYA AGIS, University of the People, “Energies and Nature in Paolo Mantegazza’s *Futuristic Novel Year 3000 (1897)*” (Zoom)

## **Session 6: 11:00 AM -12:30 PM**

### **Panel 6A: Global Perspectives II**

*Student Union West Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3804*

- Andrea Gaytan Cuesta, University of North Florida, “Returning to the Onyx Womb (Benjamín Alcántara, 2021): Collective Identity and Social Mining”
- Jordan Grunawalt, Illinois State University, “Padi Berbudi; Getuh Melatah: Representations of Environmental Energy Systems in Keris Mas' Rimba Harapan”
- Taku Jong, University of Buea, Cameroon, “Community Theatre and the Fight against Water and Energy Resources Crises in Buea-Cameroon”
- Joseph Schneider and Layla McDermott, University of Chicago, “Apocalyptic Imaginaries and Cultural Production: Comparative Perspectives from West Asia and Japan”

### **Panel 6B: Petrocultures and Energy Humanities II**

*Student Union West Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3805*

- Iemanja Brown, University of Tampa, “Speculations in the Shale Play”
- Dagmar Lorenz-Meyer, Charles University, “Rearticulating the Potentials of Solarity from Below”
- Jessica Reilly-Moman, Klima International, “Remaking the Energies of Climate Narratives: Engaging Colonial Contexts and Practices of Care in Offshore Wind and Horsemanship”

## **Lunch: 12:45 - 1:45 PM**

## **Session 7: 2:00-3:30 PM**

### **Panel 7A: Postcolonial Perspectives**

*Student Union West Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3804*

- Beatriz Rivera-Barnes, Penn State University, “Fires in the Caribbean: A Landscape Transformed, from the Triangle Trade to Cruise Destinations”
- Ryan Mchale, Florida State University, “Telling the Half That Has Never Been Told: Colonization, the Anthropocene, and Posthumanism in Brodber's Myal”
- Nisha Paliwal, “Where is the ‘Waste’land?: Appropriation and Territorialisation for Green Energy Transition in Rajasthan, India” (Zoom)
- Jenna Cox, University of North Florida, “Illegitimate Flesh: Frankenstein in Baghdad as Petrofiction”

## **Panel 7B: Coal**

*Student Union West Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3805*

- Charles Closmann, University of North Florida, and Nathan Richardson, Jacksonville University, “Getting a Seat at the Table: Environmentalism and Coal-Fired Power in Florida, 1975 to 1990”
- Barbara George, Carnegie Mellon University, “Communicating Energy Transitions in the Appalachian Rustbelt”
- Bart Welling, University of North Florida, “Restor(y)ing Energy Pluralism”

## **Session 8: 4:00-5:30 PM**

### **Panel 8A: Literary Energies**

*Student Union West Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3804*

- Keith Cartwright, University of North Florida, Title Forthcoming
- Xiaoyao Guo, Princeton University, “Wahllandschaften: Landscape and Energy in Goethe's Wahlverwandschaften (Elective Affinities, 1809)”
- Megan Lolley, University of Idaho, “One Big Soul: An Ecocritical Reading of John Steinbeck’s The Grapes of Wrath”
- Caylee Weintraub, University of Florida, “‘The Little Creature Seemed Quite Changed’: Animal Magnetism, Mesmerism, and the Electrical Beings of Bram Stoker’s Lair of the White Worm”

### **Panel 8B: Plant Power!**

*Student Union West Building, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3805*

- Adriana Craciun, Boston University, “Curious Engines: The Strange Power of Seeds” (Zoom)
- Susana Pomba, University of Lisbon, “An Analysis of Agnes Denes’ Wheatfield – A Confrontation and Adrienne Rich’s ‘What Kind of Times are These’” (Recording)
- Asmita Saha, Illinois State University, “Terraneous Tessellations: Embodiment of Energy in Richard Powers’ The Overstory”

## **Closing Dinner and Keynote by Heidi Scott: 5:30 - 7:30 PM**

*Student Union Ballroom, West Building 3rd Floor*

### **The Force That Through the Green Fuse Drives the FEWture: Thoughts on Food-Energy-Water Loops**

My talk will germinate from humanist soil, as I discuss how my bio-literary background has supported my evolution to fully interdisciplinary, cross-campus work among scientists and environmental organizers. The frolic between literary and scientific perspectives is a leitmotif. I'll share thoughts on the ways we can retrofit petroculture to enable more green flows of energy, species, and matter in our lived environment. Cultures of waste depend upon a profit-driven system that is designed to junk its end products; this paradigm shrugs off steep environmental costs and offers little benefit to living things. I'll discuss an ameliorating paradigm of waste-to-wealth by profiling case studies of closed loops using

basic technologies that are replicable and scalable across the world. Lastly, I'll detail how my path to becoming a fully interdisciplinary faculty member may be replicable by younger environmental humanities scholars who face daunting job markets and seek options beyond the receding tenure track. My example, though far from triumphant, may provide outlets for creative scholars to imagine their part in rewarding, actionable, relevant environmental collaborations that isolated humanist scholars too seldom achieve.

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## **Sunday, May 19**

Field trips: Kayaking, Kingsley Plantation, Emerald Trail service project (separate ticket purchase required)