Graduate Conference in Religion and Ecology
April 18th – 20th 2018
Yale University
Hosted at Yale University, the Graduate Conference in Religion and Ecology reflects a desire to provide a space for students to engage in dynamic, interdisciplinary conversations across curricular boundaries, and strives to connect ethos with ethics, and ethics to applicable practicality. How do beliefs about the environment affect the use of and engagement with the natural world? As an international interdisciplinary conference, we host students researching Environmental Studies, Environmental Humanities, Forestry, Conservation, History, Historiography, Social Sciences, Food Studies, Philosophy, Ethics & Morals, Theology, Religious Studies, Animal Ethics, Law & Policy, and Business & Management, among others. We strongly encourage interdisciplinary work across these topics to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of this conference. Our presenters range from undergraduate students to PhD candidates, and even include recent graduates who are implementing this academic work in the workplace.

This year’s GCRE would not have been possible had it not been for the generous sponsors and partnerships across Yale University.

- Yale Divinity School (YDS)
- Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (FES)
- Tsai Center for Integrative Thinking at Yale (CITY)
- Yale Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS)
- Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology
- Center for Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration (RITM)
- MacMillan Center at Yale
- Yale Office of Sustainability
- Harvest Restaurant
Connect and Discover

For more information, please visit www.gcre.weebly.com.

Check out YDS FERNS website www.ydsferns.weebly.com and subscribe to our newsletter.

Interested in publishing your work? We have created a new student academic journal on environmental stewardship. Visit www.fernsjournal.com to learn more!

Conference Organizers

Julia Johnson

Julia is an M.Div. candidate (2018), interested in exploring the human-animal relationship of land and sea animals, especially regarding food, death, and the afterlife. She is the co-chair of the environmental and animal student groups at YDS, as well as the Sustainability Coordinator for YDS and the Editor in Chief for the new journal FERNS. Julia is also pursuing her M.S. in Anthrozoology at Canisius College and ordination as an Animal Chaplain with Emerson Theological Institute. Before arriving at Yale, Julia graduated from Michigan State University (2015) with a B.A. in Religious Studies, a concentration in Nonprofit Leadership, and a Specialization in Environmental Public Policy. She is excited to begin her journey to create a more humane world for farm animals.

Emily Bruce

Emily is currently studying for her MDiv. Yale (2019), with an intent to pursue ordination in the Unitarian-Universalist faith tradition. She is the co-chair of the environmental group at YDS and is also the Assistant Editor in Chief for the new journal FERNS. Emily's vocation plans are interfaith chaplaincy work in higher education, combined with environmental justice work that intersects congregational and campus ministries to address climate crisis issues from a faith-based perspective. With her ministry, she also hopes to address the broader issues of human withdrawal from the natural world due to technology, consumer culture and social isolation, with aims to cultivating a rediscovery of interconnection and interdependence between humans and the environment.
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Wednesday April 18, 2018
5:00 - 6:00 PM Registration and Wine & Cheese Welcome Reception, Kroon Hall, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
6:00 - 7:30 PM Keynote Speaker: Rev. Nancy Wright, Kroon Hall, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

Thursday April 19, 2018
8:00 - 9:00 AM Breakfast & Registration, 8:30 Welcome Remarks from YDS and FES Deans
9:00 - 10:15 AM Panel 1
10:30 - 11:30 AM Chapel and Coffee Hour
11:30 - 12:15 PM Panel 2
12:30 - 1:45 PM Lunch
2:00 - 3:15 PM Panel 3
3:30 - 4:30 PM Workshop with Rev. Nancy Wright, Rev. Stephanie Johnson, and Rev. Rachel Field on environmental activism in the church
4:30 - 5:15 PM Panel 4
5:15 - 6:30 PM Dinner, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
6:30 - 8:00 PM Film Screening of Journey of the Universe, with Professors Mary Evelyn Tucker & John Grim, Kroon Hall, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
8:00 - 10:00 PM GPSCY Graduate & Professional Student Center at Yale, Pub Lounge | Free Miller High Life, No Cover, and $2 drinks!

Friday April 20, 2018
8:00 - 9:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 - 10:15 AM Panel 5
10:30 - 11:30 AM Chapel with Rev. Steve Blackmer & Coffee Hour
11:30 - 12:15 PM Panel 6
12:30 - 1:45 PM Lunch
2:00 - 3:15 PM Panel 7
3:30 - 4:30 PM Workshop with Rev. Steve Blackmer
4:30 - 5:15 PM Panel 8
5:30 - 7:00 PM Yale Office of Sustainability Event, Yale Divinity Farm and Firepit
Panelists

Panel 1: Ecofeminism & Ecowomanism

Reclaiming Water Epistemologies for All of Creation: A Womanist Perspective | Candace M. Laughinghouse, Chicago Theological Seminary

Rites and Rights of Women and Water: Healing Environmental and Sexual Trauma with the Wisdom of Women’s Early Religion and Culture" | Isabel Maria Mareș, Union Theological Seminary

Liquidity of Plasticity: A Movement Prayer | Khokhoi (Kk de La Vida), The New School of Public Engagement

Panel 2: Pollution, Waste, Drought, and Debris

Pollution and Sin in the Athens Riviera | Joy Charikleia Maidou, Boston University

An Arid, Flooded Land: Land Ethics and Natural Law | Carl Friesen, University of Notre Dame

Filling the Ark: Cross-species Stewardship in an Age of Surplus | Rachel Levine, University of Toronto

Panel 3: Art, Literature, and Poetry

Living in Antediluvian Times: Reading Victorian Climate Fiction | Eva-Charlotta Mebius, Yale University / UCL English Department

Murky | Jennifer Maidrand, Drew University

Panel 4: Political Ecology and Spiritual Resistance

Solidarity with Water: Sovereignty of Earth at Standing Rock | abby mohaupt, Drew Theological School GDR

Interdisciplinary Approaches to Climate Change Denial | Kate Lootens, Florida State University

To Kill a God: The Sociology of Spiritual Decline and River Degradation in Four Case Studies, Margaux Crider, Centre College

Tunneling Deeper into Trouble: Rethinking Water Rights in California’s Central Valley | Sara Bernard-Hoverstad, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry
Panel 5: Sacred Traditions & Rituals

Handwashing: Sacramental Exchange and Normative Occasion | Kieran L. Campbell, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

Splitting Water with Wood | Matthew D. Smith, University of Colorado-Boulder

Water across the Abrahamic Traditions | Michelle E. Lewis, Emory University

Panel 6: Eastern Perspectives

An Ecology of Mind: A Daoist Stream of Taiji (太極) in Dynamic-Recursive Consciousness | Bryce Detweiler, West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Memorializing the Water and Mountain Deities: Effects of the Reconstruction of Ritual Space in Contemporary Rural Japan | Carolyn Pang, Columbia University

Beyond Water: An Ecofeminist View of Wind/Water and Dao | Liz Scianna, West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Panel 7: Redefining Ethics

The Ideal Millennial Water Ethic | Genevieve Schmidt, Oakland University

Fluid Ethics: Water as Source and Symbol for Ethical Reimagination | O’Neil Van Horn, Drew University

Pleasing to the Eye and Good for Food | Grady Zuiderveen, Pennsylvania State University

Respecting “the Other” Through Widening the Concept of “Alive”: Reading Ibn Arabi’s Concept of “Aliveness” as a Solution of the Environmental Problems | Cennet Cavus, Marmara University/Institute of Social Sciences

Panel 8: Ted Talk

Planetary Health: Break the Silos | Elsie Moore & Rose Sulentic, Yale School of Public Health