

**READING AND WRITING THE WORLD:  
Perception and Identity in the Era of Climate Change**

5-6 April 2019

Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3  
Auditorium Site Saint-Charles 2



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**PROGRAMME**

## FRIDAY 5 APRIL

9.00: Welcome coffee

9.15: Welcome address

### PANEL 1: CHALLENGING ANTHROPOCENTRIC HIERARCHIES

Chair: Christine Reynier

9.30: **“Levelling Hierarchies: Alternative Voices and Perspectives in the Work of Thomas Hardy”**

Emanuela ETTORRE, D’Annunzio University of Chieti–Pescara (Italy)

10.00: **“It floats away/From you’ Marianne Moore and the Impossible Project of Object-Oriented Ontology”**

Tomas BUTENDIJK, Dublin City University (Ireland)

10.30: **“Eco-logical Reading of Szczepan Twardoch’s *Drach*”**

Milosz MARKIEWICZ, University of Silesia (Poland)

11.00: Coffee break

### 11.30: KEYNOTE LECTURE: “Writing Worlds Reading With Merwin Munro and Bowen”

Thomas DUTOIT, University of Lille SHS (France)

Chairs: Sarah Jonckheere and Laura Lainvae

12.30: Buffet lunch in Saint-Charles 2

### PANEL 2: CLASHING PERCEPTIONS AND NARRATIVES

Chair: Claire Omhové

14.00: **“Nuclear Semiotics: How to Read Nuclear Energy and Attitudes Towards It”**

Stefan GAILLARD, H+ Dojo / Dutch Institute for Praxeology (Netherlands)

Jobke VISSER, H+ Dojo (Netherlands)

14.30: **“Environmental Justice in Indian Country: Ecocide and Genocide in Narratives of the Indian Reservation”**

Flore COULOUMA, University of Paris Nanterre (France)

**PANEL 3: PROJECT PRESENTATIONS**

Chairs: Sarah Jonckheere and Laura Lainvae

15:00 Presenting “Ecotones: Encounters, Crossings, and Communities” (2015-2020)

Judith MISRAHI-BARAK, EMMA, UPVM (France)

15:15 Presenting “UPVD Eco poetics and Ecocriticism Workshop”

Bénédicte MEILLON, University of Perpignan (France)

15:30 Presenting the “Imagining Climate Change” initiative

Terry HARPOLD, University of Florida (USA)

15:45 Presenting the IRAE project (“Irreversibility as a principle – Rethinking the mutAtion of Earth”)

Thomas DUTOIT, University of Lille SHS (France)

16:00: Coffee break

**16.30: Film screening followed by discussion with Sylvère Petit, film director (France)**

Chairs: Thomas Dutoit, Sarah Jonckheere, and Laura Lainvae

*Les Assoiffés* – 23' – 2014

*Les Ventiluses* – 30' – 2010

20:00: Dinner in town

**SATURDAY 6 APRIL**

**PANEL 1: MATTER, WASTE, AND I IN THE ANTHROPOCENE**

Chair: Thomas Dutoit

10:00: **“The Ethics of Waste and Bush Mechanics in Alexis Wright’s *Carpentaria*”**

Temiti LEHARTEL, UPVM (France)

10:30: **“Elaborate Entanglements: Making Sense of Self in the Anthropocene”**

Adrian TAIT, independent scholar

11:00: Coffee break

**11.30: KEYNOTE LECTURE: “What Matters Sings: A few Incursions into Eco-poetics as Ways of Reading, Writing, and Singing along with the Earth’s Wild Music”**

Bénédicte MEILLON, University of Perpignan (France)

Chairs: Sarah Jonckheere and Laura Lainvae

12.30: Buffet lunch in Saint-Charles 2

**PANEL 2: SHIFTING PERCEPTIONS OF LANGUAGE, CONSCIOUSNESS, AND EARTH**

Chair: Monica Michlin

**14.00: “The Wilderness Outside of Paradise: Ursula K. Le Guin’s Yin Utopianism”**

David CREUZE, University of Lille SHS (France)

**14.30: “Writing by Furrows”**

Asker Bryld STAUNÆS, Aarhus University (Denmark)

**15.00: “Restoring the Dialogue with ‘More Than Human World’: Theory and Practice of Inter-Being”**

Angela BIANCOFIORE, UPVM (France)

15.30: Coffee break

**PANEL 3: CLIMATE CRISIS AND CRISES OF CULTURE, NATURE, AND LANGUAGE**

Chair: Bénédicte Meillon

**16.00: “Can We Still Marvel at Nature in the Anthropocene? A Study of Claire Vaye Watkins’s Apocalyptic Nature Writing”**

Claire PERRIN, University of Perpignan (France)

**16.30: ““What is?”: *Gold Fame Citrus*’s Climate Crises of Language”**

Terry HARPOLD, University of Florida (USA)

17.00: Final words, future prospects

17.30: End

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

**Thomas Dutoit**, Université de Lille SHS, France

Thomas Dutoit's teaching has, for the past three years, been entirely focused on climate-changing humanity and the climate-changed humanities (links to some courses are below). He is interested in how scalar framing, and emergent unreadability (in the wake of Timothy Clark's work for example), should oblige major curricular changes in tertiary and secondary education, even though old boundaries, belonging to the extractivist or fossil-fuel past 250 years still structure everything. Curricular change should be correlated by epistemological and behavioural changes in every area. He has submitted, with others, numerous requests for funding to help implement teaching and research projects on climate-changed humanities. His academic career started with the sublime in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and was long about the periodicity of life and death (much work on Persephone and Hades). Jacques Derrida's generalisation of writing as trace, therefore beyond the human, also is part of how he perceives climate change as the need for the most fundamental world changes. Against the backdrop of climate-change thinkers and writers, his presentation will focus on some poetry of W.S. Merwin, on Elizabeth Bowen (mainly *The Little Girls*) and on Munro's three stories "Heirs of the Living Body," "Working for a Living," and "Dear Life," and try to suggest ways they contribute to Perception and Climate Change. He is also eager to hear all the other papers.

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**Bénédicte Meillon**, Université de Perpignan Via Domitia, France

Bénédicte is Associate Professor of English Studies at the University of Perpignan Via Domitia where she teaches literature and translation. She runs the Perpignan ecopoetics and ecocriticism research workshop. She has written papers on the ecopoetics of Barbara Kingsolver, Annie Proulx, Linda Hogan, Ron Rash, and Ann Pancake. Some of her other work has led her to publish papers on Paul Auster, Russel Banks, and Roald Dahl. Her research specifically explores ecopoetics of reenchantment, focusing on magical realism, mythopoeia, neoregionalism, and ecofeminism, with close attention to the intra-actions between human and nonhuman naturecultures and the texture of language itself. She has co-edited a special issue in French of the international *Crossways Journal*, [Lieux d'enchantement: approches écocritiques et écopoét\(h\)iques des liens entre humains et non-humains](#) with Dr. Margot Lauwers (2018), and is currently

working on a joint volume in English on *Dwellings of Enchantment: Writing and Reenchanted the Earth*. She has organized an international conference on the same subject, held in Perpignan in June 2016, as well as its sequel, to take place in June 2019, also in Perpignan on “Reenchanted Urban Wildness: To Perceive, Think and Live with Nature in Cities.”

**Sylvère Petit** (film producer, photographer), France

« *Les animaux ont insisté dans sa vie, et c'est cette insistance qui fabrique ses histoires.* »  
Vinciane Despret, ethologist and philosopher

French producer Sylvère Petit, a tireless wanderer interested in all living things, has been convinced from a very young age that man is just another animal. He chose cinema and photography as modes of expression to shake up our self-centered, anthropocentric gaze. Staying clear from any form of proselytism or sentimentalism, his work is an invitation to reconsider the environment and our own existence among other living beings. Born in Nîmes in 1981, he has been producing feature films and television movies, as well as documentaries intended for screen or television viewing, since 2009. His first feature-length movie, which is currently in the pipeline and which is entitled *Une baleine dans la tête* (*A Whale in the Head / Dreaming of a Whale*), spurred into existence the correlated cultural initiative *LES LABOS de la baleine*. This cultural action was awarded the 2018 Prize for artistic and cultural audacity (Prix de l'Audace artistique et Culturelle 2018) by the Foundation for Culture and Diversity (Fondation Culture et Diversité).

**Concurrently to the symposium, Sylvère Petit's photography work will exhibited at the Chai du Terral gallery in St Jean de Védas.** <https://www.chaiduterral.com/1718galerieforwomen>

**Exhibitions**

*Nature(s)* · Chai du Terral Gallery, St Jean de Védas, 2019

*Une baleine dans nos têtes* · Natural Regional Park of the Narbonnaise, 2018/2019

fiction film, 30'

with Marie-Madeleine Martinet and Mario Leccia

**Filmography**

*Une baleine dans la tête* · feature-length movie (in progress)

*Ani-maux* · 2017, Les Films d'ici, Les Films d'ici Méditerranée – documentary, 52'

*Biou* · 2014, Les Films d'ici Méditerranée – documentary 7'

*Les Assoiffés* · 2014, C-P Productions, Ten to Ten Films – fiction film, 23'

with Mohand Fellag and Jean-François Balmer  
*Entre miel & terre* · 2012, Pages et Images – documentary, 52'

*Les Ventilieuses* · 2010, Les Arts buissonniers –



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## Keynote speakers:

Thomas Dutoit, Université de Lille SHS, France

Bénédicte Meillon, Université de Perpignan Via Domitia, France

## In collaboration with:

Sylvère Petit (film producer, photographer), France

Organised by EMMA (Etudes Montpelliéraines du Monde Anglophone) in collaboration with CECILLE (Centre d'Etudes en Civilisations, Langues et Lettres Étrangères)

Convened by doctoral students: Laura Lainvae (EMMA), Sarah Jonckheere (CECILLE)

**Scientific Committee:** Thomas Dutoit (Université de Lille SHS), Daniel Finch-Race (U. of Bristol), Jean-Michel Ganteau (Paul Valéry Montpellier 3), Sarah Jonckheere (Université de Lille SHS), Laura Lainvae (Paul Valéry Montpellier 3), Judith Misrahi-Barak (Paul Valéry Montpellier 3), Claire Omhovère (Paul Valéry Montpellier 3), Christine Reynier (Paul Valéry Montpellier 3), Nicholas Royle (U. of Sussex), Jesse Oak Taylor (U. of Washington), Sarah Wood (Independent Scholar)

**Organizing Committee:** Yahya Daldoul (Paul Valéry Montpellier 3), Maroua Mannai (Paul Valéry Montpellier 3), Katia Marcellin (Paul Valéry Montpellier 3)

## Support comes from:

