

42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Portuguese Association for Anglo-American Studies  
31 March – 2 April, 2022 - Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Coimbra

Call for Papers

ENVIRONMENTS: ECOLOGIES AND (IN)HOSPITALITIES

At a time when we have been invited to withdraw, escape or find solace in virtual atmospheres, notions of environment are in pressing need of re-examination or re-materialization. The recent pandemic context reinforced generalised anxieties about the multiple factors that act upon us as organisms and organic communities and have forced us to consider the challenges but also the possibilities of placing ourselves in direct contact with the natural, technical and political *other*.

Coined by the German zoologist Ernst Haeckel, the term *oekologie* signals the relation between the animal worlds and their organic and inorganic environments. Debates as specific as those about ecological solidarity vs environmental corporatism, or as wide as those about the evolution of our social, technical or financial ecosystems can be illustrative of the multiple cultural, linguistic or cognitive issues that need to be further re-examined from an ecological perspective, not least within the environment of our academic ecologies. Ecological approaches also result in questioning the central role of human language activity and the need to rethink language itself at the crossroads of a myriad of other semiotic possibilities, physical space, material objects and embodied resources. It may be useful to return to the Derridean discussions about hospitality and inhospitality resurrected by the so-called Refugee Crisis and exacerbated by other contexts.

Many disciplines have joined forces under the banner of the Environmental Humanities (EH). In the wake of the crisis of the Humanities, this broad interdisciplinary field emerged largely as a response to the awareness of the limits of planetary resources as a consequence of long periods of violent and unequal exploitation of 'nature'. The deep and complex changes produced by humans on the environment define the current era, the Anthropocene, as proposed by Crutzen and Stoemer. Seeking inspiration in the notion of ecology, EH championed an ecological perspective to address anew not only the relation between culture and nature, but other established dyads, such as matter / emotion, body / land, agency / inaction, materiality / humanity, animal / human, or *physis / nomos*.

We hope the 2022 APEAA meeting will allow us to promote a hospitable and interdisciplinary forum to discuss these and other related matters. We invite creative and critical insights that press the field ahead and evince the contribution – and the difference – the Humanities (in particular Anglo-American Studies) can make to the debates at stake, in and beyond academia. Pieces of research unrelated to the EH will be considered as long as they focus on Anglo-American Studies.

The organisers will welcome **proposals for 20-minute papers in English** responding to the above. The sessions format includes single papers and 4 paper panels; we also accept proposals for post-graduate panels.

Suggested topics:

- the politics and poetics of scientific, literary and artistic discourse on ecology
- ecology and academia
- ecologies of language and translation
- language, multilingualism, and translanguaging
- inclusive language pedagogies
- the Anthropocene and ethnocentrism
- public causes: political action, ecology, ethics, and rewriting
- ideology crises and new beliefs: disruptive humans and post-truth
- subaltern identities and protest: gender, class, nation, race, sexuality
- humanities, materialities, and the posthuman
- mobility, (in)hospitality, and community
- new forms of regulation, sanitation, and surveillance
- rights and citizenship in vulnerable environments
- beyond city and country: new definitions of environment
- animal studies and zoopoetics
- histories of the environment / historicizing ecology

Areas covered (but not exclusive): linguistics; literary and cultural studies; translation; language learning/teaching; other disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**

Ana Luísa Amaral (Institute for Comparative Literature Margarida Losa, University of Porto)  
Alastair Pennycook (University of Technology Sydney)  
Mike Baynham (University of Leeds)

The conference will be in presence, unless the pandemic situation changes.

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 30 December 2021**

Acceptance notice by 30 January 2022

Submit abstracts (300 words) to <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=apeaa2022>

**Registration Fee:**

**EARLY BIRD (1 – 28 February 2022)**

APEAA members – 50€

APEAA student members (undergraduate, MA and PhD) – 15€

Non-members – 90€

**LATE REGISTRATION (after 1 March 2022)**

APEAA members – 70€

APEAA student members (undergraduate, MA and PhD) – 25€

Non-members – 110€