New Ecotones pre-conference seminar
June 10, 2015 17.30 pm
Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier
Site Saint-Charles, Salle des colloques n°2

Global Ecologies and the Environmental Humanities: Postcolonial Approaches

A seminar run by Elizabeth DeLoughrey (UCLA) and Jill Didur (Concordia University)

Elizabeth DeLoughrey and Jill Didur (along with Anthony Carrigan) are the co-editors of a recent volume from Routledge that is the first to stage a dialogue between postcolonial studies and the Environmental Humanities. They will discuss their book, focusing in particular on how the history of globalization and imperialism represents a special challenge to the representation of environmental issues, and discuss the role narrative, visual, and aesthetic forms can play in drawing attention to and shaping our ideas about long-term and catastrophic environmental challenges such as climate change, militarism, deforestation, the pollution and management of the global commons, petrocapitalism, and the commodification of nature. The volume presents a postcolonial approach to the environmental humanities in conjunction with current thinking in areas such as political ecology and environmental justice. Spanning regions such as Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Australasia and the Pacific, as well as North America, the book provides new interdisciplinary perspectives on: the politics of the earth; disaster, vulnerability, and resilience; political ecologies and a justice; world ecologies; and the Anthropocene. They will discuss how a global, postcolonial, and comparative approach is essential to defining the emergent field of the environmental humanities, and how this field has much to offer in understanding critical issues surrounding the creation of alternative ecological futures. http://www.sponpress.com/books/details/9781138827721

Elizabeth DeLoughrey is an Associate Professor in English and at the Institute for the Environment and Sustainability at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is co-editor of Caribbean Literature and the Environment (Virginia 2005), Postcolonial Ecologies: Literatures of the Environment (Oxford 2011), and Global Ecologies and the Environmental Humanities: Postcolonial Approaches (Routledge 2015). She is the author of Routes and Roots: Navigating Caribbean and Pacific Island Literatures (Hawai‘i 2007) and completing a book about climate change, empire, and the literary and visual arts entitled Allegories of the Anthropocene. She has edited special issues of the journals ISLE (Interdisciplinary Studies of Literature and the Environment) on postcolonial ecocriticism (2007) and New Literatures Review on island studies (2011).

Jill Didur is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of English at Concordia University, Montreal. She is the author of Unsettling Partition: Literature, Gender, Memory (UTP 2006), and co-editor of Global Ecologies and the Environmental Humanities: Postcolonial Approaches (Routledge 2015). She is also co-editor of special issues of Cultural Critique on Critical Posthumanism (2003) and Cultural Studies on Revisiting the Subaltern in the New Empire (2003), and completing a book about imperialism, gardening, and the environment in postcolonial literature.

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