

STREAMS

Transformative Environmental Humanities

An International Environmental Humanities Conference

hosted by:

KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory

Stockholm, Sweden

5–8 August 2020

Open Invitation & Call for Contributions

Background

The past decade has seen the emergence and rapid growth of a new field of inquiry: the environmental humanities (EH). From the scholarly ‘turns’ of the humanities in the 1990s and 2000s and the increasing demand on science and scholarship to face global challenges, a broad gathering of humanities disciplines emerged and fostered this field.

Now encompassing a number of highly visible academic journals, book series from acclaimed academic publishers, and broader outreach opportunities, environmental humanities have reached a critical moment when it is relevant to convene for a larger meeting. This international conference will continue to experiment, envision and set out future directions for environmental humanities research and teaching, and strengthen their intersections with the social sciences, arts, technology, and the sciences.

Aims

The primary purpose of STREAMS is to invite diverse communities of EH practitioners to come together to share work, advance ideas, and craft new imaginaries that can shape present and future transformations. These aims are especially important in the current moment when it seems impossible to imagine or pursue alternatives to the multiple socio-ecological crises taking place around the world.

Who Will Participate?

EH developed as a broad and experimental field of perspectives and practices within academia and beyond. We welcome researchers, artists, activists, writers, filmmakers, journalists, practitioners, policy-makers, and scientists—everyone who wishes to contribute in shaping pathbreaking, indeed undisciplined, imaginaries for the transformative environmental humanities of tomorrow. In order to address a growing concern about academic travel, the conference will provide opportunities for remote

participation through featured talks, e-conferencing (e.g. Zoom meetings), or other kinds of virtual interactions. In the tradition of the KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory's commitment to societal engagement, the programme will also include public events co-organized with activists and open to a wider public.

There will be a limited number of travel grants. Please include in your submission a statement requesting the grant. Specify also whether your participation requires financial support or not.

Please refer to [the conference website](#) for information on background, fees, practical information, and updates.

We look forward to your application and to see you in Stockholm in August 2020!

Sincerely,

On behalf of the Local Organization Committee
Marco Armiero, Sabine Höhler, Sverker Sörlin

The Environmental Humanities Laboratory
KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

For further information, please email streamsconference@kth.se or the conference coordinator, [Johan Gärdebo](#).

The Call

We wish to design this conference through a participatory, bottom-up approach and envision it as the vibrant confluence of multiple STREAMS generated by the EH community. The STREAMS collected through this call will constitute the overarching thematic structure of the conference. Nonetheless, the call offers a diverse array of submissions in order to ensure the widest participation possible, including regular scholarly panels with individual papers.

The conference offers seven templates whereby participants can make presentations and interact with each other.

	Contribution	Deadline	Requirements
1	STREAMS (first step)	September 30th, 2019	300-word abstract describing the theme and relevance to EH
1	STREAMS (second step)	November 30 th , 2019	calls for participants for the three STREAM events
2	PANELS	November 30 th , 2019	250-word abstract of the panel 250-word abstracts for each of the 3 or more panelists names, emails, and affiliations for chair, commentator, and panelists
3	DEBATES	November 30 th , 2019	a 300-word abstract which includes: (a) the theme of the debate and (b) names, emails, and affiliations of the two speakers.
4	ARTISTIC SESSIONS	November 30 th , 2019	a 300-word abstract a detailed list of required resources (e.g. space, lights, special amplification, etc.).
5	FILMS	September 30 th , 2019	a 300-word abstract audiovisual material(s) mentioned in the abstract (e.g. a scene, a trailer, references/inspiration, stills, sound, etc.) and length of each selection
6	EXPERIMENTAL SESSIONS	November 30 th , 2019	a 500-word abstract describing the contents and the modalities of the experimental session.
7	PAPERS	November 30 th , 2019	a 300-word abstract that includes: (a) your name, email, and affiliation and (b) four keywords.

1. *STREAMS (a two-step submission)*

A STREAM is a group of at least three combined events (e.g. roundtables, panels, debates, screenings, artistic/experimental sessions, etc.) dedicated to an overarching theme. The first submission must contain an abstract (300 words) explaining the theme its relevance to EH. Those whose first submissions are approved will then make a second submission of their own calls for participants who will be selected in coordination between the organizers of the STREAM and the programme committee. A STREAM should be proposed by at least two co-organizers. The programme committee requires co-organizers to consider gender balance, career level, disciplinary variety, and any other form of diversity. DEADLINE BY SEPTEMBER 30th, 2019 (FIRST STEP). DEADLINE BY NOVEMBER 30th, 2019 (SECOND STEP).

2. *Panels*

A panel must include a minimum of 3 presenters (excluding the chair and with the possible addition of a commentator). Organizers should consider gender balance and diversity. For a panel submission, please send: (a) a 250-word abstract of the panel, (b) 250-word abstracts for each of the 3 or more panelists, (c) and the name, email, and affiliation for the chair, commentator, and panelists. DEADLINE BY NOVEMBER 30th, 2019.

3. *Debates*

In order to foster constructive discussions which acknowledge the diversity in the field, the conference welcomes proposals for two-speaker panels aiming to have a debate between two diverging positions. Please, submit a 300-word abstract which includes (a) the theme of the debate and (b) the emails and affiliations of the two speakers. DEADLINE BY NOVEMBER 30th, 2019.

4. *Artistic Sessions*

The conference welcomes any proposal for artistic sessions, including small exhibitions, poetry readings, performances, etc. Please submit (a) a 300-word abstract outlining the session and (b) a detailed form listing the kind of requirements needed for the presentation (e.g. space, lights, special amplification, etc.). Please consider that the time for each session—including if there is to be a discussion—may not exceed 90 minutes. DEADLINE BY NOVEMBER 30th, 2019.

5. *Films*

In order to submit filmic research, please provide a 300-word abstract and audiovisual material that deals with practical, theoretical, and/or aesthetic concerns (e.g. a scene, a trailer, references/inspiration, stills, sound, etc.). Be sure to include the length of the film. Only those short-listed will be asked to provide the full movie for final selection, which will then undergo a designated peer review process. DEADLINE BY SEPTEMBER 30th, 2019.

6. *Experimental Sessions*

In the spirit of being undisciplined and creative, the conference welcomes submissions for experimental sessions, that is, any kind of session which does not fit within a traditional conference frame (and cannot be included under the typologies illustrated above). In particular, we encourage sessions which will experiment with communication and interaction among the participants. Please, submit a 500-word abstract describing the contents and forms of the experimental session. DEADLINE BY NOVEMBER 30th, 2019.

7. *Papers*

For individual or co-authored papers, please submit a 300-word abstract, which includes (a) your email, affiliation, and (b) four keywords. DEADLINE BY NOVEMBER 30th, 2019.

Please consider that the deadlines for submissions are different; please see the summary below. For STREAMS and Films, the first deadline is September 30th, 2019. For all other formats, the deadline is November 30th, 2019. Acceptance will be announced in late January 2020. In composing the sessions, we invite you to seriously consider gender balance and diversity (e.g. avoiding having all participants from the same institution).