Thinking Through the Environment
Unsettling the Humanities

Wednesday 4th December - Friday 6th December | University of New South Wales

This Event is sponsored by Environmental Humanities @ UNSW
Thinking Through the Environment
Unsettling the Humanities

Workshop Programme

Wednesday 4th December

9:15-9:30 Welcome

9:30-11:00 Session 1 - ABSENCE

- Grace Karskens: Recovering Vanished Environments
- Deborah Bird Rose: AdamAnimal: We Were Never Other
- Stephen Muecke: Goolarabooloo and Mining: Writing Across Multiple Worlds

11:00-11:30 Morning tea

11:30-1:00 Session 2 - MOISTURE

- Emily O’Gorman: Swamps, Marshes, Rice Paddies: Unsettling Wetlands in the Murray-Darling Basin
- Jess Weir: Culture, Wetland, Forest

1:00-2:30 Lunch

Coffee will be served at 2pm

2:30-4:30 Session 3 - WORLDS

- Vanessa Lemm: The Cynics' Biopolitics of Truth: Towards a Transhuman and Cosmopolitical Conception of Community
- Katherine Gibson: Ethical Concerns, Community Economies and Learning to be Affected by the Anthropocene
- Eben Kirksey: Becoming Wild: The Monkeys of Florida’s Silver River
Thursday 5th December

9:30-11:30  Session 4 - INTERVENTIONS

- Beatrice Pegard: Plastic: Nature as a theme park, a central Florida case study
- Lindsay Kelley: Dysphagic
- Jennifer Hamilton: In the Dirt between Disciplines: Practical Research and Teaching in the Environmental Humanities

11:30-12:00  Morning tea

12:00-1:00  Session 5 - POACHING

Shark nets and sea horses, bicycles and fictitious satellites, gum trees and shape-shifting spiders will feature in this intra-active discussion of research by undergraduate Environmental Humanities students at UNSW.

This special session will showcase innovative research by students in the UNSW Capstone Seminar, who conducted underwater ethnography with GoPro video cameras, who ventured into herbarium collections and museum archives, who studied multispecies encounters in fishing villages of the Philippines and the art worlds of Hong Kong, who followed critical issues and nomadic organisms to multiple sites in Sydney.

Students will be invited to showcase their work in conversation with Eben Kirksey, who will act as a poacher - inciting discussion by using this ethnographic material to push and poke at theoretical concepts.

1:00-2:30  Lunch

Coffee will be served at 2pm

2:30-4:00  Session 6 - AIR

- Thom van Dooren: Authentic Crows: Identity, Captivity and Endangered Species Conservation
- Kate Wright: Becoming-With a Super-Storm
- Donna Houston: Multispecies Rights to the City

4:00-4:30  Discussion
Friday 6th December

The final day of the symposium is an experimental ‘walking workshop’ critically exploring the Wolli Creek and Cooks River valleys in Southern Sydney. This part of the city tells a curious story about the relationship between urban development and the environment. The workshop will proceed along the Two Valley Trail and the Cooks River Bike Path in order to animate the history, politics and ecology of the site from a variety of different perspectives.

The walking workshop will commence at 9.30am at Bexley North Train Station (airport, inner-west and south line – see network map below) and proceed along the Two Valley trail.

The walk will be punctuated by interventions from:

- Sophie Golding (Urban Ecology Coordinator, City Of Sydney)
- Lesley Head (University of Wollongong)
- Andy Kissane (poet, andykissane.com)
- Peter Stevens (Wolli Creek Preservation Society)
- Ian Tyrell (University of New South Wales)
- Jennifer Hamilton (artist, earlwoodfarm.com)

We will break for lunch from 1:00-2.30pm (approx.) at the Earlwood Farm (45 Bayview Avenue, Earlwood). A vegetarian lunch will be provided on the third day of the workshop (see note on catering below).

The Wolli Creek section of the trail is a rough and at times over grown bush trail. Please come prepared with appropriate footwear, water and light refreshments.

The walking workshop will conclude at Canterbury Train Station (Bankstown Line), which is well connected for returning to the city and the western suburbs.

For those not able to attend for the whole day the walk is well served by transport links, including train connections at Tempe, Marrickville and Dulwich Hill.
Practical Information

Venue: The first two days of the workshop (Wednesday 4 - Thursday 5 December) will be held in the Pioneer International Theatre, AGSM Building, UNSW.

The Pioneer International Theatre is room G27 on the UNSW Campus Map (see below and available at: http://tinyurl.com/ovth6rz)

The final day of the workshop will be a walking workshop through the Two Valley Trail, Wolli Creek. The walking workshop will commence at 9.30am at Bexley North Train Station.

Travel: UNSW is well served by public transport. Buses to UNSW from Central Station include the UNSW Express Bus routes (890, 891, 892 and 895) which run to and from Eddy Avenue, Central Station.

For more information on getting to and from UNSW see: http://tinyurl.com/pnzobey

Catering: For the first two days of the workshop coffee, tea and light refreshments will be served. Participants will need to bring or purchase their own lunch. There are a number of cafés and restaurants on campus that will be open.

On the third day (walking workshop), lunch will be provided but participants are asked to bring their own drinks and light refreshments for the walk itself.

More information: For more information please contact Matthew Kearnes on: m.kearnes@unsw.edu.au
(02) 9385 1010
0410 308 313
The Two Valley Trail  
Cooks River and Wolli Creek  
Walking Tracks

Some points of interest:

A. The Sugar House was originally built as a sugar mill in 1840-42, and converted to residential units from 2002.
B. The Boat Harbour was built in 1864 for use by Sea Cadets, but is a popular picnic area, situated on one of the most beautiful bends in the river.
C. Decaying beautiful bends in the river.
D. The River Canoe Club was built in 1964 for use by Sea Cadets, but is a popular picnic area, situated on one of the most beautiful bends in the river.
E. Wolli Section was straightened under Hartill-Law Avenue in 1949.
F. Canterbury Velodrome opened in 1982, but there appears to have been a cycling venue here since at least the 1930s.
G. The Paperbark Creek wetland was created as a billabong when the creek was straightened under Hartill-Law Avenue in 1949.
H. Canterbury station was built in 1964 for use by Sea Cadets, but is a popular picnic area, situated on one of the most beautiful bends in the river.
I. Canterbury Velodrome opened in 1982, but there appears to have been a cycling venue here since at least the 1930s.
J. Wolli Bluff is a prominent landmark and the eastern end of Wolli Creek Regional Park.*
K. Jackson Place’s historic stone cottages from the 1920s are heritage listed.
L. The MSE tunnel ventilation stack pumps out unfiltered emissions from 160,000 vehicle movements a day (2007).
M. The weir below Turrella Reserve created a fresh water reservoir for market gardens on the flats. A fishway was due for construction in 1999.
N. Bray Avenue wetland was created as a billabong when the creek was straightened under Hartill-Law Avenue in 1949.
O. Paperbark Creek: channel reconstructed in 2007.

The Two Valley Trail Walk Planner

This leaflet sponsored by:

Credited photographs taken from the Two Valley Trail Photographic Exhibition 2008

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Winter Mist - Paul Byrnes

The Sugar House, 1840-42

LEGEND
- Bushland
- Open space
- Two Valley Trail
- Shared walking/cycle track
- Trails on streets
- Formed walking track
- Railways station
- Bus stop
- Footpath
- Point of interest
- Bush regeneration under way
- Yellow regeneration sites

Bus routes 412, 423, 471

Bus routes 460, 462, 487, 499

Bus route 412

Bus route 462

Bus route 471

Bus route 460, 462, 499