

## **The Guiding Question:**

**[How can Ecology be Communicated through Culture?]**

### **Call for Papers**

# **Ecology and Culture**

*Mohamed I University*

*Faculty of Humanities*

*Oujda, Morocco*

***June 28, 29 and 30, 2018***

The natural environment is not only the air we breathe, the water that covers most of the earth's surface, the plants and animals around us, it is everything that makes up our surrounding and affects our ability to live on the earth. The environment is that magical biosphere that encompasses the interaction of all living species, humans and non-human animals, climate, and natural resources. It is a body that constantly affects and gets affected (hence the meaning of ecology as interaction of all organisms) since all humans, non-human animals, and other organisms depend on a sane environment to moderately fulfill needs and sustain their existence. Therefore, interaction with/within the environment has the greatest impact on nature in the ways humans understand nature, culturally, preserve natural resources, and ecologically contribute to the protection of their surroundings. Therefore, human activity vis-à-vis nature and non-human animals, in case not carefully and consciously managed, will lead to damage and negatively affect people, animals, plants, waterways, and other parts of the natural world and cause insecurity, risk, and disaster. Hence, a sane and safe environment-friendly communicative culture of green initiatives, green alternatives, and green activities and practices, stands, nowadays, as a necessity and not a choice.

Green consciousness and action should in fact be the new culture, and can only be communicated through cultural means. For, the ways we understand and interact through with the natural world are the most important elements that decide about the future of the environment. Different human cultures have had varying effects on their environments. Some cultures, particularly hunter-gathering and small-scale agricultural, for example, have had little environmental impact, while urban and industrial societies have the greatest negative effects. Therefore, it is high time for humans to take the right action towards saving the earth from major ecological problems. If ignored today, these destructive effects are sure to restrain the lives of human and non-human animals and render existence for all life processes entirely impossible.

This first conference on **Ecology and Culture**, one of a kind in Morocco, seeks to examine the connections between ecology and humanities. Its main aim is to initiate a multi-layered academic discussion treating the issue of ecology from different perspectives exploring issues related to justice, science, literature and religion. Therefore, the conference is interdisciplinary in perspective and our call for applications extends to scholars from all relevant fields of research.

Inspired by the previous discussions in all over the world and the growing ecological wisdom, we propose a dialogue that is ecologically and culturally oriented. The symposium also seeks to tease out some of the sensitive issues related to environmental sustainability. It is a call for more critical attention to the influence of cultural/communicative dimensions on the ecological efficiency with the aim of getting under way greater tendency towards environmentally positive behavior. Therefore, we invite scholars from around the world to join the debate and ask questions for reflection on the various issues related to the following proposed items:

- ✓ **Ecology and Environmental Justice**
- ✓ **Ecology, Science & Ethics**
- ✓ **Ecology, Literature, and ecocriticism/ecofeminism**
- ✓ **Ecology and Postcolonial Ecocriticism**
- ✓ **Ecology and Religion**

## Keynote Speaker

**Prof. Scott Slovic** (University of Idaho, Editor of ISLE Journal)



**Scott Slovic** joined the Faculty at the University of Idaho in 2012 after teaching for 17 years at the University of Nevada, Reno, where he helped to create the prominent graduate program in literature and environment and develop the Center for Environmental Arts and Humanities, the Academy for the Environment, and the undergraduate environmental studies program. He has published more than 250 articles, interviews, op-eds, and reviews and is the author, editor, or co-editor of 25 books, including “Going Away to Think: Engagement, Retreat, and Ecocritical Responsibility” (2008), the textbook “Literature and the Environment” (1999/second edition 2013), and “Ecoambiguity, Community, and Development: Toward a Politicized Ecocriticism” (2014). His latest books include “Ecocriticism of the Global South” (2015), “Currents of the Universal Being: Explorations in the Literature of Energy” (2015), “Numbers and Nerves: Information, Emotion, and Meaning in a World of Data” (2015), and “Ecocriticism in Taiwan: Identity, Environmental, and the Arts” (2016). Much of his current research and teaching focuses on “information management” (how information is collected, communicated, and received) in the contexts of humanitarian and environmental crises.

Scott served as the founding president of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) from 1992 to 1995, and since 1995 he has edited the journal “ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment.” He currently serves on the editorial boards for fourteen scholarly journals and two book series and on the board of directors of the Idaho Humanities Council, and in recent years he has been a Fulbright National Screening Committee member for the Institute of International Education (IIE) and a panelist in American studies and American literature for the National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH) and the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). He has been a Fulbright Scholar in Germany (University of Bonn, 1986-87), Japan (University of Tokyo, Sophia University, and Rikkyo University, 1993-94), and China (Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, 2006) and has been a visiting professor at many universities around the world. In addition to his position as professor and chair of the Department of English at Idaho, he has an affiliate appointment in the Department of Natural Resources and Society. He helped to develop the university’s Semester in the Wild Program and teaches the environmental writing course in the annual fall-semester program, which takes place at the Taylor Wilderness Research Center in the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness in central Idaho.

## Proposals:

The organizing committee welcomes abstracts and proposals *strictly* on the above issues. A 250-WORD abstract, along with a ONE PARAGRAPH curriculum vitae, should be submitted electronically (preferably in Word or Rich Text format) by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 to the following email: [ecologyandculture@gmail.com](mailto:ecologyandculture@gmail.com). **Acceptance, however, unfortunately does not include any financial support - participants are responsible for their own funding (i.e. securing grants, etc.) to pay for travel expenses. As for food and lodging, the conference organizers will take charge of that.** Selected conference papers will be published in a special volume upon the approval of the scientific committee. Submitters of accepted proposals will be notified within three weeks of the above deadline and all decisions of the scientific committee are final.

**Registration Fee:** 100 Euros paid upon arrival, at the registration desk, during the opening ceremony.

### Important Dates & Deadlines:

- ✓ Abstract Submission Deadline: **31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017**
- ✓ Notification of Acceptance/Rejection: **20<sup>th</sup> January, 2018**
- ✓ Final Paper Submission Deadline: **01<sup>st</sup> May, 2018** (included). (The paper must have a sound methodology reflecting the features of real scientific research. It must be 10 up to 14 pages of A4 format using Times New Romans size 14 in text and size 10 in the margins.
- ✓ **Abstracts and completed research papers should be sent to the following email: [ecologyandculture@gmail.com](mailto:ecologyandculture@gmail.com)**

### The New Scholars' Panel:

The symposium is also a home for graduate students and new scholars from different parts of the world. The establishment of an emerging Scholars' panel invites new voices to join the debate (provided that their contributions must be relevant to the theme of this year). Up to **five** participants will be selected for this panel, and each panelist will have **ten to fifteen** minutes to deliver her/his paper in a round table format. Who is eligible? Scholars who meet the definition of 'new scholars' are postgraduate students writing up their PhD dissertation or post-doctoral researchers whose PhDs have been completed less than three years.

### Conference Location:

**Mohamed 1st University (Oujda / Morocco)**

### Conference Committee of Honor

**Prof. Mohammed Benkaddour** (President of Mohammed I University, Oujda)

**Prof. Mohammed Bouabdellah** (Vice-President of Pedagogical Affairs, MIU, Oujda)

**Prof. Abdekhaleq Legssyer** (Co-operation Vice-President, MIU, Oujda)

**Prof. Noureddine Mouaden** (Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, MIU, Oujda)

**Prof. Aouatif Boursahal** (Director of the University Campus for Technologies and Expertise Transfer)

**Prof. Mehdi Kaddouri** (Doctoral Center Director, MIU, Oujda)

**Prof. Abdelkader Bezzazi** (Director of Language and Communication Center, MIU, Oujda)

#### Conference Scientific Committee:

**Prof. Said Mentak** (Convener, Mohammed I University, Oujda)

**Prof. Mohamed Dellal** (Co-convener, MIU, Oujda)

**Prof. Scott Slovic** (University of Idaho, Editor of ISLE Journal)

**Prof. Greg Garrard** (Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies, UBC Okanagan)

**Prof. Michael Asbill** (SUNY New Paltz / New York)

**Prof. Rabeh Aynaou** (Faculty of Law, Economic and Social Sciences, MIU, Oujda)

**Prof. Mohammed Sbaa** (Director of the Oriental Center for Water Sciences and Technologies, MIU, Oujda)

**Prof. Noureddine Kouddane** (Faculty of Sciences, MIU, Oujda)

**Prof. Mohamed El Kouche** (Faculty of Humanities, MIU, Oujda)

**Prof. Bouchra Belgaid** (Faculty of Humanities, MIU, Oujda)

**Prof. Jaouad Radouani** (Faculty of Humanities, MIU, Oujda)

#### Contact: (emails of people to be in touch with for FAQs)

**Prof. Said Mentak**

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#### Contact information:

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