

**INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE**

Laboratoire CECILLE - ULR 4074
cecille.univ-lille.fr

'WITHOUT WATER WE ARE NOTHING'

**Poetics and Politics of Water
in Anglophone Postcolonial
Literatures (20th-21st
centuries)**

JUNE 13-14, 2024

UNIVERSITÉ DE LILLE

Maison de la recherche
Campus Pont-de-Bois
Villeneuve d'Ascq, France

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, JUNE 13TH

8:30 | **Welcome.**

9:00 | **Opening by Fiona MCCANN** (Head of the CECILLE research unit, Université de Lille) & **Cédric COURTOIS** (Université de Lille).

9:15 | SINGLE PANEL - PANEL 1:

Hydropolitics and Eco-Activism

Chair: **Eli JELLY-SCHAPIRO**

Aminat Emma BADMUS – University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy.

“The Oil Must Flow at Any Cost: Catastrophic Aquatic Contamination and Literary Eco-Activism in Imbolo Mbue’s *How Beautiful We Were* and Chinelo Okparanta’s Short Story ‘America’”

Maëlle JEANNIARD DU DOT – Université Rennes 2 / Université Grenoble-Alpes, France.

“[A]n unseen network suddenly made physical’: embedded hydropolitics in Daniyal Mueenuddin’s ‘Nawabdin Electrician’ (2009) and Mohsin Hamid’s *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia* (2013)”

Mazuba KAPAMBWE-MIZZI – Lusaka, Zambia.

“Politics, Profit and Poison: The Politics of Water in Imbolo Mbue’s *How Beautiful We Were*”

10:30 | Coffee break

11:00 | SINGLE PANEL - PANEL 2

The Performance of Water

Chair: **Asma MANSOUR**

Alexandra POULAIN – Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, France

“Learning to listen: Empatheatre’s *Lalela uLwandle* and the quest for ‘cognitive justice’”

Sirui ZHU – University of Leeds, UK.

“Haunted Lives and the River’s Language: Merleau Ponty’s Philosophy and Arundhati Roy’s *The God of Small Things*”

Akanji Olufemi OLALEYE – Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro, Nigeria.

“Waterbration in Felabration’: Poetics and Politics of Water in Postcolonial Nigeria” (on line)

12:15 | Lunch break

14:00 | PARALLEL PANELS

PANEL 3:

The Ambivalence of Water

Chair: **Alexandra POULAIN**

Athira MOHAN – Stuttgart, Germany

“Take me to the Water: Water as Home and the Remote in *Salt Houses*”

Yesmina KHEDHIR – University of Debrecen, Hungary. On line

“‘Only the Water knows all, but the Water does not speak’: Waterscapes in Jesmyn Ward’s *Let Us Descend*”

Manon BOUKHROUFA-TRIAUD – Sorbonne Université, Paris, France.

“Looking into a Well: The Poetics and Politics of Water in Gieve Patel’s Poetry and Painting”

PANEL 4:

Water Connectivity/Relationality

Chair: **Kerry-Jane WALLART**

Anjali PRABHU – University of California, Los Angeles, U.S.A.

“Water, and Narrating the Global Climate Crisis: Amitav Ghosh’s *Gun Island*”

Ambika M S – Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani, India.

“Races Apart, Blended by Water: Postcolonial Modalities in Abraham Verghese’s *The Covenant of Water*”

Paul GIFFARD-FORET – Monash University, Australia.

“Songlines of Fright, Flight, and Fight: Aboriginal Stories of Water in the Seven Sisters”

Jaine CHEMMACHERY – Sorbonne Université, Paris, France.

“Water as Relational Matter in Edwige Danticat’s *Krik! Krak!* (1996) and *The Farming of Bones* (1998)”

15:30 | Coffee break

16:00 | PARALLEL PANELS

PANEL 5:

En-Gendering Water

Chair: **Sandrine SOUKAÏ**

Elsa LORPHELIN – Lycée Militaire de St Cyr l'École, France

“Of Whales and Women. The Ocean as Ecofeminist space in Witi Ihimaera’s *The Whale Rider* (1987) and Linda Hogan’s *People of the Whale* (2008)”

Stéphane DELICHÈRE – Engineer in Hydraulics.

“When Safia Meets Koleka: Intersectional Empowerment through the Language of Water”

Amany ABDELRAZEK-ALSIEFY – Humboldt University, Germany.

“Reclaiming African Beauty in Leila Aboulela’s *River Spirit*”

Faeze REZAI – University of Turku, Finland.

“The Gendered Conception of Water in Greg Egan’s ‘Oceanic’”

PANEL 6:

Water, Fluidity, and the Crossing/ Blurring of Borders

Chair: **Pauline AMY DE LA BRETEQUE**

Valentine PORCILE – Nantes University, France.

“Fluidity, Hybridity, and More-than-Human Ways of Knowing Water in Nnedi Okorafor’s *Lagoon* (2014) and Rivers Solomon’s *The Deep* (2019)”

Roxana SICOE-TIREA BAUDUIN – University Paris 12, France.

“All water is connected’: Decolonial Struggles in *Freshwater Territories*”

May HSUEH – Institute of Applied English at National Taiwan Ocean University, Taiwan.

“Thirst for Fresh Water: Navigating *Life of Pi* with Foucault’s Heterotopias”

20:00 | Conference dinner

FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH

9:15 | PARALLEL PANELS

PANEL 7:

Water, History and Memory

Chair: **Elsa LORPHELIN**

Asmaa MANSOUR – American University in Dubai.

“Water as a Metaphor for Sudanese Decolonial History in Leila Aboulela’s *River Spirit*”

Pauline AMY DE LA BRETEQUE – Université Paris Est Créteil, France.

“Bodies of Water as Keepers of Transnational Colonial and Ecological Memories in Michelle Cliff’s *Free Enterprise* (1993)”

Eli JELLY-SCHAPIRO – University of South Carolina, U.S.A.

“Water, Extraction, Memory, and Resistance in Michael Ondaatje’s *In the Skin of a Lion*”

Kalpana BORA – Cotton University, India.

“Brahmaputra tales: The River and its Ecosphere in Select Fiction from Assam” (on line)

PANEL 8:

Politics and Poetics of Drought and Flooding

Chair: **André DODEMAN**

Abioseh Michael PORTER – Drexel University, U.S.A.

“When all the water has gone, only the largest stones will remain on the riverbed’: Drought as Metaphor and Reality in African Fiction”

Sheila COLLINGWOOD-WHITTICK – Université Grenoble-Alpes, France.

“The Impact of ‘Wet Country People’ on an Arid Continent. What Post-Contact History Explains and Contemporary Fiction Reveals about Australia’s Catastrophic Water Problem”

Christine LORRE – Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, France.

“Poetry and Art from Oceania in Times of Climate Crisis and Rising Oceans”

10:30 | Coffee break

11:00 | SINGLE PANEL - PANEL 9:

Water (In)Justice

Chair: **Jaine CHEMMACHERY**

Fabrice LE CORGUILLÉ – Université de Bretagne Occidentale, Brest, France.

“Kill the water to kill Indians: the issue of water property in the American colonial context in D’Arcy McNickle’s novel *Wind From an Enemy Sky* (1978)”

Siobhán BROWNLIE – Le Mans Université, France.

“A River’s Personhood: Airini Beautrais’ *Allusions*”

Chak-kwan NG – Hong Kong Metropolitan University, Hong Kong.

“The Tragedy of Terrestrial Desire and the Paradox of Oceanic Otherness in Zakes Mda’s *The Whale Caller*”

Asmita SAHA – Illinois State University, USA.

“Echoing Grief: Dissonant Embodiment of Water Narratives in the National Imagination”

12:30 | Lunch break

14:00 | SINGLE PANEL - PANEL 10:

Water-Centrism and Agency

Chair: **Christine LORRE**

Anisha GAMBLIN – University of Leeds, UK.

“A Vanishing Species’: Near-Extinction Rhetorics, Narrativising the Nonhuman and Cultivating Creaturely Love in Witi Ihimaera’s *The Whale Rider* (1987)”

André DODEMAN – University of Grenoble-Alpes, France.

“Solid Waters and Fluid Lands: Lisa Moore’s *February* (2009)”

Sabine LAURET-TAFT – Université de Bourgogne Franche Comté, France.

“Nothing escapes the maws of the tides’: A Poetics of Death by Water in Amitav Ghosh’s *The Hungry Tide* and *Gun Island*”

15:30 | KEYNOTE LECTURE:

Drowned out: Climate/Water (In) Justice in a Megacity

Farhana SULTANA - Syracuse University

16:30 | **Closing words**

‘WITHOUT WATER, WE ARE NOTHING’: Poetics and Politics of Water in Anglophone Postcolonial Literatures (20th-21st centuries)

organized by **Cédric Courtois** and **Fiona McCann**.

cedric.courtois@univ-lille.fr

fiona.mccann@univ-lille.fr

Campus Pont-de-Bois

Maison de la recherche, Université de Lille, France