



THE POLITICAL
DIMENSION OF NATURE:
AN INTERCULTURAL CRITIQUE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
THE SOCIETY FOR
INTERCULTURAL PHILOSOPHY

4TH - 6TH JUNE 2021 - UNIVERSITY OF TÜBINGEN

Keynotes

Rita Segato | Philippe Descola | James Ogude |

Meera Baidur | Hiroshi Abe | Jason Wirth |

Seyyed Hossein Nasr | Angela Roothaan |

Michael Hampe | Dalia Nasser

The increasingly critical impact of climate change has placed human interaction with nature on the political agenda. This reflects the realization that humans are in the process of destroying their own livelihoods. While politics, however, is primarily concerned with stopping the destruction, in contemporary natural philosophy thought is being given to a fundamentally different way of dealing with nature. In addition, attention has recently been drawn, especially in the sociology of knowledge, to the profound shock that the current climate crisis means for human's self-understanding in modernity. Common to the various answers to the shaking of the human self-understanding is that they want to remeasure the relationship between humans and their environment, things, nature and technology. Such a remeasurement exceeds political action, since in the history of European-Western philosophy the sphere of the political has itself always been understood in distinction to nature.

The Aristotelian understanding of man as a *zoon politikon* is based on the fact that humans are able to give themselves their own laws and that the sphere of action of such autonomy is set off against the heteronomous determined nature. Even in 20th century, this figure can be found, for example, in the political philosophy of Hannah Arendt. The demand for a remeasurement of the relationship between man and nature is therefore not only a question of political action, but above all also a question of the political as distinct from the natural. Precisely for this reason, however, the attempt to ascribe an agency of its own to nature and things could fall short, since it merely enlarges the circle of those who participate in the sphere of political action. The question of the political and the natural goes deeper and affects the philosophical thinking in the European-Western tradition in its foundations.

This is where intercultural criticism must start and confront the current struggle for a renewal of the understanding of nature with the thinking of non-European cultures and epochs. In recent years, corresponding work has been done, above all, in confrontation with Buddhism and in the recognition of Latin American and African experiences. The conference would like to tie in with these works, but also to allow further experiences of nature from other cultural traditions to have their say. In addition, the importance of an intercultural experience of nature will be explored. If the relationship between human beings and nature presents itself differently in the various approaches, then it is more than just a matter of different conceptualizations of nature. Then human reality as a whole is affected and therefore the question of the relation of the different approaches to each other arises. The answer to this question directly concerns the political dimension of nature.

Important Information

- Due to the current pandemic situation, the conference will take place as an online event. Participation will be possible via **ZOOM**. Please register for free via info@ciis.unituebingen.de. You will receive the invitation link a few days prior to the conference. The link allows you to participate in the entire conference including the afternoon sections. Registered participants will have the opportunity to actively engage in the discussion of all lectures.

- It is also possible to just follow the lectures via **YouTube** livestream without registration. This will not allow you to engage in discussion, however! Please visit our channel at the time of the conference: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYbCRrdH7JsyeTU0h9VJKAQ>



- In case the current Covid-19 restrictions will change in the next weeks such that a Hybridevent is possible, we will inform you via our newsletter and on our website <https://www.int-gip.de>

Friday, 4 June 2021¹

Location: Alte Aula Moderation: Dorothee Kimmich (University of Tübingen)	
09:00	Welcome and Introduction to the Conference by Niels Weidtmann, President of GIP (University of Tübingen)
10:00	Short Break
10:10	James Ogude (University of Pretoria) <i>Ubuntu and the Principle of Co-Agency: Reflection on nature-human nexus in African ecology</i>
11:10	Short Break
11:20	Philippe Descola (Collège de France, Paris) <i>Cosmopolitics of the Earth</i>
12:20	Lunch Break

14:30	Section 1 Nature in non-Western Traditions mod. Elise Coquereau-Saouma (University of Vienna)	Section 2 Religions and Nature mod. Markus Wirtz (University of Cologne)
	Cédric Molino-Machetto (Université Toulouse Jean-Jaurès) <i>Ibn Khaldûn: politics and nature, a biological anthropology of power and violence</i>	Munjed M. Murad (Harvard Divinity School) <i>Developing/Discovering Theories for the Study of the Non-Human in Islam and Christianity</i>
15:20	Short Break	
15:25	Silvia Donzelli (Universities of Bielefeld and Hamburg) <i>African environmental ethics and politics</i>	Michael Reder (Hochschule für Philosophie München) <i>Für eine relationale und (inter-)kulturelle Politik der Natur. Über liberale Klimapolitik und ihre Begrenzungen aus interkultureller Perspektive</i>
	Short Break	
16:15	Hanna McGaughey (Universität Trier) <i>A (Modern) Reflection of (Japanese) Nature</i>	Fernando Wirtz (Universität Tübingen) <i>Myth and Nature in Miki Kioyshi and Kōsaka Masaaki</i>
	Short Break	
17:05	General Discussion	General Discussion
17:30	Coffee Break	

Location: Alte Aula Moderation: Niels Weidtmann (University of Tübingen)	
18:00	Rita Segato (University of Brasilia): <i>tba</i>
19:00	End of Day 1

¹ The indicated times of the program below refer to Central European Time.

Saturday, 5 June 2021

Location: Alte Aula Moderation: Rolf Elberfeld (University of Hildesheim)	
09:00	Meera Baidur (Manipal University Jaipur) <i>Nature as matter of beings and the politics of matter in Indian traditions and thought</i>
10:00	Short Break
10:10	Hiroshi Abe (University of Kyoto) <i>Der Mensch als politisches Wesen auf Basis von Natur?</i>
11:10	Short Break
11:20	Angela Roothaan (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) <i>Where Politics and Philosophy Intersect – Deconstructive, Postcolonial, Indigenous Approaches to Nature</i>
12:20	Lunch Break

14:30	Section 3 Politics of Nature mod. Eveline Cioflec (University of Tübingen)	Section 4 Decolonial Approaches to Nature mod. Abbed Kanoor (University of Tübingen)
14:35	Ana Vieyra (Emory University) <i>Valuing nature without naturalizing value</i>	Zaida Olvera (AU of Mexico State / NAU of Mexico) <i>A Philosophical Approach to the Concept of the Nature Reserve: The Problem of Spatial Exclusion</i>
15:20	Short Break	
15:25	Juan Ignacio Chávez (Pontifical Catholic University of Peru) <i>National Futures: Science, literature, and cartography in Argentina and Peru</i>	Massimiliano Lacertosa (University of Warwick) <i>The perspective of the myriad things (wanwu 萬物) in the Zhuangzi 莊子 and the possibility of a non-anthropocentric vision of nature</i>
16:10	Short Break	
16:15	Alexander Stingl (IAS Warwick) Gilles Lhuillier (ENS Rennes) <i>Discussing Rights of Nature, Human Rights, and Earth Transnational Law on the example of Blue Economy legal cases</i>	Pius Mosima (University of Bamenda) <i>African 'consensus democracy' and nature: an intercultural approach to the politics of conservation</i>
17:00	Short Break	
17:05	General Discussion	General Discussion
17:30	Coffee Break	

Location: Alte Aula Moderation: Niels Weidtmann (University of Tübingen)	
18:00	Seyyed Hossein Nasr (George Washington University) <i>The Significance of Nature in Human Life – Spiritually, Intellectually and Socio-Politically</i>
20:00	Meeting of GIP Members

Sunday, 6 June 2021

Location: Alte Aula Moderation: Georg Stenger (University of Vienna)	
10:00	Dalia Nasser (University of Sydney) <i>Alexander von Humboldt – The Aesthetic Foundations of Ecology, and Why That Matters Today</i>
11:00	Short Break
11:10	Michael Hampe (ETH Zürich), Dr. Olivier Del Fabbro (ETH Zürich) <i>State of Nature - War against Nature: From Hobbes to Latour</i>
12:10	Lunch Break

14:30	Section 5 Alternative Approaches to Nature mod. Anke Graness (University of Hildesheim)	Section 6 Phenomenology of Nature mod. Hora Zabarjadi-Sar (University of Tübingen)
14:35	Louise Müller (Leiden University) <i>Sophie Olúwolé's classical Yoruba philosophy and its significance for a new critical feminist non-binary philosophy of nature</i>	Irene Breuer (Bergische Universität Wuppertal) <i>Natürliche und kulturell/politische Lebenswelten in Widerstreit: Die Exilerfahrung aus der Sicht des uruguayischen Schriftstellers Mario Benedetti</i>
15:20	Short Break	
15:25	Matthias Kramm (Wageningen University) <i>Nature in Māori philosophy – the case of the Whanganui River</i>	Claus Dierksmeier (University of Tübingen) <i>Animals as Persons? On K.C.F. Krause's Phenomenology of Nature</i>
16:10	Short Break	
16:15	Patricia D. Reyes (University of Twente) <i>The post-anthropocentric social and its contracts: Indigenous Place-thought meets digitally mediated climate activism</i>	Mikhail Belousov (Russian Presidential Academy for National Economy and Public Administration) <i>Husserl vs Galileo: the naturalism critique overturned</i>
17:00	Short Break	
17:05	General Discussion	General Discussion
17:30	Coffee Break	

Location: Alte Aula Moderation: Niels Weidtmann (University of Tübingen)	
18:00	Jason Wirth (Seattle University) <i>Nishitani Keiji and Ecological Economy</i>
19:00	Closing Remarks by Niels Weidtmann