



Call for Papers for a Symposium on

Eco-Reconciliation: Making Peace with Nature?

4-5 February 2027, the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen

Hybrid format: in person and online.

The Global Encounters Fellows of the College of Fellows, Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen, are inviting contributions from a broad range of disciplines and practices for a symposium on the theme of “Eco-Reconciliation: Making Peace with Nature?”. Described by UN General Secretary António Guterres, in his State of the Planet speech in 2020, as “the defining task of the 21st century”, this mission statement has informed UN agenda setting throughout this decade. Yet its underlying premises raise many thorny problems worth dwelling upon.

The contemporary global landscape is defined by overlapping ecological crises. Climate instability, catastrophic biodiversity loss, extractive economies, and widespread environmental degradation signal that humanity’s historical and exploitative relationship with the biosphere is fundamentally unsustainable. At the same time, the meaning of the phrase “making peace with nature” is far from self-evident. It raises difficult conceptual, political, historical, ethical and aesthetic questions. What does it mean to speak of peace in relation to nature? Who is included in the “we” called upon to make peace? How might the distinction between humans and nature itself need to be rethought? What constitutes an academic praxis that foregrounds ending opposition to an aggravated nature and avoids inadvertently putting us at odds with it?

This symposium takes “making peace with nature” as a provocation rather than a settled framework. In peace and conflict studies, war is usually understood as organised conflict among human actors capable of intention, response and strategic interaction. To extend the language of peace beyond relations among human actors therefore requires careful reflection. Is peace here a metaphor, an ethical orientation, a political project, a legal framework, a spiritual practice or a way of naming efforts to repair damaged relations of coexistence? What does this language allow us to see and what might it obscure?

We also need to acknowledge that there are multiple natures. In the Anthropocene, the natural world is structured according to geopolitical, economic, and species hierarchies. As ecofeminism and postcolonial studies have shown, “Nature” is often feminised, racialised, subhumanised, and above all homogenised. It is typically constructed as the passive Other of a civilising “Culture”. This establishes the rhetorical framework for a conquering of “virginal territories”, as well as for the perceived separation of human beings from the encircling biosphere, as we are encouraged to see ourselves as actors *upon* it instead of as immanent qualities emergent from *within* it. This anthropocentric worldview is used to justify the reordering of a pliant nature according to the designs of a select few, especially from the economic and geopolitical elites, as well as the reshaping of nature in the image of humankind – or at least a portion of humankind – alone.

Against such exploitation, recovering an understanding of the multiplicity of natures or what Donna Haraway has termed *naturecultures*, as well as crucially recuperating marginalised cosmologies and languages of nature, may help us both to complicate our view of what “Nature” is and to unpick the binary thinking that fuels and legitimises conflict in the first place. Cultivating ecological hope, we must therefore envisage multiple forms of making peace with nature, multiple



imaginaries of repair, diverse histories of the earth, new ways of blurring the nature/culture divide, and the joys of plural species world-makings.

In this context, we invite scholars from all disciplines, practitioners, activists, artists, and Indigenous knowledge-holders to submit proposals for individual or co-authored academic papers, thematic panels or creative works and performances, on the theme of “Eco-Reconciliation: Making Peace with Nature?”. Proposals may address (but are not limited to) the following related concepts:

Concepts, imaginaries, and narratives of eco-reconciliation

Including the plurality of natures; imaginaries of peace and conflict with nature; eco-criticism and zoopoetics; ecological hope; representing more-than-human perspectives in the arts; and the possibilities and limits of extending the language of peace beyond human relations.

More-than-human agency, relations, and justice

Including plant, animal, fungal, and mineral worlds; interspecies kinship, solidarity, resistance, and communication; symbiosis; vibrant matter; interspecies diplomacy; multispecies justice; and the rights of nature.

Knowledge systems, ethics, law, and spiritual traditions

Including Indigenous and ancestral knowledge systems; religious, cultural, and spiritual philosophies; environmental justice, law, ethics, and philosophy; links between linguistic and biodiversity conservation; and decolonial approaches to environmental governance.

Violence, trauma, security, and ecological crisis

Including slow violence; ecological trauma and repair; war, borders, military institutions, and extractive security practices; land, territory, resources, commons, and sacred ecologies; and questions of risk, resilience, survival, and ecological crisis.

Governance, diplomacy, expertise, and public authority

Including climate diplomacy; environmental governance; trust, mistrust, expertise, public authority, and ecological transformation; and the institutional conditions under which societies seek, resist, or fail to make peace with nature.

Practice, restoration, pedagogy, and everyday life

Including wildlife and environmental restoration projects; rewilding academia and pedagogy; interdisciplinary and experimental methods; everyday ethical practices such as veganism; conscientious objection to environmentally harmful technologies; and practices that cultivate ecological care, responsibility, and hope.

Submission of Abstracts:

We welcome submissions of **abstracts (250-500 words) in English**, with the possibility of multilingual exchange and collaboration at the symposium itself.

Academic papers and creative works should take the form of **20-minute presentations**.

Please send abstracts and any inquiries to: peace-with-nature@uni-tuebingen.de



Publication Opportunity:

Following our symposium, we will invite participants to produce full papers, which we will submit to a high-impact, interdisciplinary journal within environmental studies as a proposed special issue.

Statement on the Use of AI:

In the spirit of encouraging slow, careful, and responsible research, we ask contributors to reflect carefully on the use of generative AI. This is also in keeping with our theme, insofar as the symposium is concerned with the conditions under which knowledge is produced and the environmental impacts of technology under late capitalism. We therefore encourage contributors to draft abstracts, papers, and creative submissions in their own voice, and to avoid relying on generative AI as a substitute for scholarly or creative reflection.

At the same time, we recognise that some methodologies, artistic practices, and critical approaches may engage with AI directly, including as an object of analysis or critique, a research tool, or part of an experimental practice. Where AI is used in any capacity, whether for drafting, analysis, translation, image generation, coding, or creative work, contributors are asked to disclose this clearly and briefly in their submission.

Timeline:

Deadline for the submission of abstracts: 18th September 2026.

Notification of acceptance of abstracts: 9th October 2026.

Methodology workshop (optional): The Fellows are organising a Methodologies workshop related to the theme on 25th-26th November 2026 which all selected Symposium participants are warmly invited to attend and co-create.

Symposium: 4th-5th February 2027, the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen.

We look forward to receiving your abstracts.

With many thanks and kind regards,

Global Encounters Fellows, Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen

Dr Zakieh Azadani, Dr Wendy He, Dr Rachel Macreadie, Professor Amaya Querejazu, Dr Andrzej Stuart-Thompson



Bibliography

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