



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK

ECO-HUMANITIES RESEARCH GROUP

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES AND EVENTS SPRING- SUMMER 2025



Organised with the support of the UCC Environmental Research Institute and the Future Humanities Institute



UCCFUTURES
Future Humanities

Securing **Our Future** Through
Research Excellence



ECO-HUMANITIES RESEARCH GROUP PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES 2024-25

These lectures and events are open to all, and you are warmly invited to attend.

Our lectures this semester are a mixture of in-person events and online lectures– please check the details below.

For further details about the lectures and events listed below, including abstracts, speaker biographical information and Eventbrite registration links for online/hybrid lectures, please see pages 3-6 below.

Wednesday 19th March 2025: 12.00-4.00pm (GMT) (in person event)

Venue: Aula Maxima, University College Cork main campus

Interdisciplinary Workshop: The Stories We Need: Storytelling Approaches to Climate Communication

Thursday 8th May 2025: 4.00-5.15pm (IST – Irish Standard Time/DST/BST): Online lecture

Gert Hofmann (University College Cork)

Prophaneti theos. Hölderlin's trans-cognitive poetic of nature.

Thursday 5th June 2025: 4.00-5.15pm (IST – Irish Standard Time/DST/BST): Online lecture

Rosa Rogers (University College Cork)

Storytelling and Co-Design Approaches to Climate Communication

Wednesday 19th March 2025: 12.00-4.00pm (in person event)

**Interdisciplinary Workshop: The Stories We Need
Storytelling approaches to climate communication**

Venue: Aula Maxima, University College Cork main campus

Please register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1270648336379?aff=oddtcreator>

Please join our interdisciplinary workshop exploring **storytelling approaches to climate communication**: SDG 13 Climate Action.

This event is organised as a collaboration between the UCC Radical Humanities Laboratory, the Centre for Artistic Research Practice and the Eco-Humanities Research Group.

We will hear from Ambassador David Donoghue, former PR of Ireland to the UN in New York and co-facilitator of the intergovernmental negotiations on the 2030 Agenda, as well as Dr John Barimo, manager of SDSN Ireland at UCC. We'll also have interactive presentations from experts in climate communication: Dr Alexandra Covaci (VR Specialist, UKC), members of UCC's Met Éireann TRANSLATE team, Dr Páraic Ryan & Dr Paul Holloway, Lecturer in Creative Writing, Dr Rosa Rogers and Lecturer in Literature and the Environment, Dr Sarah Bezan.

You will have the opportunity to experience immersive climate narratives, VR & visual art, and create your own storylines. We'll collaborate on co-design approaches to climate communication and consider how innovative storytelling methodologies can be useful for academics across UCC disciplines. Our emphasis is on establishing new & interdisciplinary research networks. So do come along!

Thursday 8th May 2025: 4.00-5.15pm (IST – Irish Standard Time/DST/BST)
Online Lecture

Gert Hofmann (University College Cork)

Prophaneti theos. Hölderlin's trans-cognitive poetic of nature.

The event will be online (via Zoom). Please register through Eventbrite to receive the Zoom meeting link.

To attend online, register here: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/eco-humanities-online-public-lecture-thursday-8-may-2025-dr-gert-hofmann-tickets-1014619342767?aff=oddtcreator>

In the context of his reflections on aesthetic theory around 1800 Hölderlin suggests that humanity despite all their art and cognitive endeavour need to respect the “spirit of nature”, “for as much as they have accomplished, [they] cannot create living beings.” For Hölderlin life is the primordial matter of nature and human existence. The human intellect can embark on life’s trajectory, benefit of it as the driving force of all organic metamorphoses and transformative powers of nature, but it cannot appropriate life for its own self-centred purposes.

Hölderlin’s reflections on the relationship between *nature* and *art* unfold as the core structure in his critique of the contemporary philosophical discourse – known as the discourse of German enlightenment and idealism –, namely of Schiller’s theory of artistic “play”. Hölderlin builds most radically on Immanuel Kant’s transcendental *Critique of Reason*, which divides the world into two ontological spheres: that of *being*, or nature, and that of *volition*, or morality and human practice and art. An ontological abyss gapes, according to Kant, between the world of human practice and art, and the world of natural being. It was the philosophical ambition of idealist thought to bridge that Kantian abyss between nature and human autonomy. Hölderlin, however, aimed at establishing a *third* intellectual force supplementary to both. It was meant to attribute new significance to the *aesthetic*, thus trying to establish a third domain of ontological truth, one that would enable human awareness of *life*, supplementing the two Kantian domains of *being* and *praxis*, and reconciling humanity with nature in a new approach of poetic awareness.

In our presentation we will trace poetic perceptions of nature in Hölderlin’s unfolding discourse on aesthetic theory. They defy the categorical submission of natural life under human intellectual potencies as it prevails in contemporary discourses of Kant’s enlightenment and Schiller’s idealism.

Gert Hofmann teaches German Literature in UCC’s German Department. He previously held faculty positions as Assistant and Full Professor at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies Seoul and Leibniz University Hanover. He was invited as a guest scholar to the University of Pennsylvania, University of Washington, and Université de Montréal. His research focus is on (eco)critical theory and the border areas of literature and philosophy. He just completed his third monograph entitled *Poetik des Leibes (Poetics of the Body)*.

**Thursday 5th June 2025: 4.00-5.15pm (IST – Irish Standard Time/DST/BST):
Online lecture**

Rosa Rogers (University College Cork)

Storytelling and Co-Design Approaches to Climate Communication

The event will be online (via Zoom). Please register through Eventbrite to receive the Zoom meeting link.

To attend online, register here: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/eco-humanities-online-public-lecture-thursday-5-june-2025-dr-rosa-rogers-tickets-1317394605729?aff=oddtcreator>

Drawing on insights from a recent interdisciplinary workshop I ran in collaboration with Dr Sarah Bezan and funded by the Future Humanities Research Institute, this work-in-progress talk will discuss how storytelling and narrative 'transportation' can help us effectively communicate our need for climate action in a way that feels present, immediate and personal. Stemming from Audre Lorde's philosophy of language in her essay, *poetry is not a luxury*, I will discuss the value of creative writing in helping us put 'a name to the nameless' when facing complex climate issues, thus giving space for thought, and in turn, action.

The talk will explore one of the major challenges in climate communication: overcoming the sense that climate change feels psychologically distant. Scientific reports and expository messaging often fail to engage audiences on a deeper level. Storytelling, however, can make the invisible visible, immersing people in narratives that foster empathy and a sense of urgency. By showing rather than telling, stories help us process complex information in ways that resonate emotionally and intellectually.

Finally, I will discuss the value of co-design—bringing together diverse perspectives to facilitate interdisciplinary knowledge exchange. I will share the outcomes of this approach from our climate storytelling workshop, and the value of epideictical or speech and art-driven methodologies to encourage new ways of thinking and communicating about climate action. Rather than focusing solely on solutions, we'll consider how the act of storytelling itself can spark dialogue, deepen understanding, and ultimately drive change.

Dr Rosa Rogers (she/her) is an Anglo-Irish writer and interdisciplinary artist, originally from Yorkshire. She holds a PhD in The Contemporary Novel for her forthcoming debut, *Composition*, which explores the coming-of-age tale of a working-class daughter of the Irish diaspora. Her writing has been published widely, including *Flash Fiction North*, *A Personal Anthology*, *The Menteur*, and *The Mersey Review*, and her multimedia projects have been exhibited at The Photographers' Gallery (London), Reid Hall (Paris), and as part of The Bookshop Podcast's Creative Series (Ojai, California). She is the founder of *Poetry Etc*, *Tales of a Town* and former Co-Director of Vortex Gallery, where she has spent nearly a decade advocating in community settings for increased access to arts and literary education. She is currently working on multimedia storytelling and climate change communication as part of Met Éireann's TRANSLATE funded project. She lectures in Creative Writing at University College Cork.