

Editorial *Ecozon@ Issue 8.1*

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Welcome to Issue 8:1 of *Ecozon@*, whose Themed Section is dedicated to ‘South Atlantic Ecocriticism’. While contributing to the journal’s general aim to address national, transnational and intercultural dimensions of ecocriticism in and beyond Europe, this number also extends the range of regional focuses of earlier numbers (4.2 ‘Mediterranean Ecocriticism’, and 5.2 ‘Northern Nature’). Like these, it asks what environmental issues, positions and communicative and aesthetic strategies distinguish individuals and cultures in the region.

As the editors of the Section, Luis Prádanos and Mark Anderson point out, Transatlantic Ecocriticism has already gained recognition as a body of scholarship engaging with movements, theories and cultural production from countries around the Atlantic Basin, to study “the ways in which environments and cultures are affected and transformed by the multidirectional circulation of animal and plant species, capital, commodities, development and land management practices, forms of activism and resistance, and people.” However, it has hitherto been largely limited to the North Atlantic. They are thus breaking new ground with their substantial introduction and collection of seven essays on Iberian, Latin American and African Lusophone historiography, prose writing, poetry, art and film.

Given the historical relations between the ‘mother’ countries, Spain and Portugal, and their former colonies, social and political issues naturally play an important role here: ‘subaltern environmentalism’ is a principal focus of South Atlantic Ecocriticism, which stands at the interface of Postcolonial and Ecocritical studies. The writers and artists whose work is examined here by Rebecca Jarman, John Trevathan, Maryanne Leone, Victoria Saramago, Anne-Laure Bonvalot, Carlos Fonseca and Palmar Álvarez-Blanco stem from Angola, Brazil, Cuba, Haiti, Mozambique, Spain and Venezuela. (The Creative Writing and Art Section of the Issue features related work by artists and writers from Chile, Colombia, Guatemala and Peru.) Social justice, social movements, critiques of an economic system that exploits the environment and marginalised peoples alike, the Anthropocene, disaster narratives, epidemics, depictions of landslides, islands and archipelagos, ‘backlands’, the colonialization of knowledge and video activism are among the many themes addressed in these essays.

The General Section of this issue consists of two articles (written in Italian and French, respectively): Miriam Aloisio’s “Impegno Ecologico: Malerba e Calvino a confront” and Nicolas Picard’s “Les biographies animales: histoires naturelles, histoires personnelles.” The first compares works by Italo Calvino and Luigi Malerba, illustrating their textual and ideological “ecocentric” dialogue about the

environment and society. Both Malerba and Calvino bring to the fore the urgency to unmask dominant ideologies and to boycott perceived binary oppositions of nature versus culture. The latter essay consists of a zoopoetic exploration of non-fiction and fictional animal biographies in French-language literature, examining the writing of Maurice Maeterlinck, Jacques Delamain, Louis Pergaud and Maurice Genevoix, and asking to what extent animal life is individualized and personalized, and to what ends.

In the Creative Writing and Art Section, we are delighted to present a series of striking images (including that on the cover of the issue) and a poem by Regina José Galindo, whose work has gained her prestigious international awards. Further art work by Rember Yahuarcani López is described by Serenella Iovino in her informative introduction as drawing on the cosmology of the artist's native community in the Peruvian Amazon. The short prose piece by Juan Carlos Galeano is similarly based on oral narratives from Colombia. Poems by Lilianet Brintrup Hertling and Mark Anderson round off the Section.

The Issue closes with the usual reviews of recent publications: Ian Morris's study of energy regimes and their shaping of political structures and political values, *Foragers, Farmers, and Fossil Fuels*; *Sense of Place: Transatlantic Perspectives*, a collection of essays in English and Spanish with a bilingual introduction which draws attention to the historically and culturally shaped connotations of place and sense of place; Hubert Zapf's extended theoretical exposition and case studies illustrating his unique contribution to ecocritical theory and practice, *Literature as Cultural Ecology*; a collection of essays on *Ecocriticism in Taiwan* which offers fascinating insights into the island's colonial history, its experience of rapid post-war industrialisation and environmental destruction, and its vibrant eco-literary, cinematic and artistic culture; and finally Sybille Machat's study of the narrative structure of post-apocalyptic novels, *In the Ruins of Civilization*.