



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

*Deep Ecology and Rights of Nature Campus – II Edition*

**“Echoing More-Than-Human Voices”**

**26–30 January 2026**

Monastery of San Nicolò, Venice Lido

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### Overview

THE NEW INSTITUTE Center for Environmental Humanities (NICHE) – Ca' Foscari University of Venice, the Unione Buddhista Italiana (UBI) – Ecologia, the Global Campus of Human Rights, and IDRA – Iniziativa per i Diritti delle Reti d'Acqua are pleased to announce the open call for participation in the second edition of the *Deep Ecology and Rights of Nature Campus* – “Echoing More-Than-Human Voices.”

Participants connected to the **rivers and waters of northern and northeastern Italy** will join an intensive program exploring how philosophy, law, the arts, and communication can support the promotion of the Rights of Nature within local contexts.

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### Concept

Following the first edition of the *Deep Ecology and Rights of Nature Campus* – “Mountains Flow” (2024) – the second edition, “Echoing More-Than-Human Voices,” seeks to advance a transdisciplinary inquiry into ecological thought and praxis. The Campus integrates perspectives from philosophy, law, the social and natural sciences, and the figurative and musical arts to foster a comprehensive understanding of the contemporary ecological crisis.

Drawing inspiration from Arne Næss’s concept of *Deep Ecology*, this initiative promotes an ecocentric worldview that acknowledges the intrinsic value and interdependence of all forms of life. It calls for a paradigm shift in the human–nature relationship – beginning with dominant economic and cultural models – toward ecological balance, sustainability, and a renewed ethical awareness of biodiversity.

Organized by the Italian Buddhist Union (UBI) - Ecologia in collaboration with Ca' Foscari University of Venice (THE NEW INSTITUTE CENTER for Environmental Humanities - NICHE) and the Global Campus of Human Rights, the Campus offers a critical framework for examining the ecological, social, and political implications of anthropocentric worldviews. Particular attention will be devoted to case studies involving the riverine and lagoon ecosystems of northeastern Italy – from the Dolomites to the Venetian Lagoon – as sites of conflict, crisis, and transformation.

The program combines theoretical reflection with experiential and contemplative methodologies, encouraging participants to engage in interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral co-learning. Through seminars, workshops, and roundtables with scholars, artists, legal experts, and activists, participants will explore strategies for promoting the **Rights of Nature** and amplifying *more-than-human* voices within **frameworks of ecological justice**.

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## Organization and Methodology

The Campus will be hosted at the headquarters of the Global Campus of Human Rights, **Monastery of San Nicolò, Venice Lido**, and coordinated by experts from UBI–Ecologia and NICHE.

UBI–Ecologia actively promotes global deep ecology perspectives and eco-centric approaches to environmental justice, while NICHE, a leading center in the field of Environmental Humanities, hosts the UNESCO Chair on “Water Heritage and Sustainable Development” and focuses on interdisciplinarity, water-related issues, and the interplay between ecology and the arts.

In line with its situated nature, the Campus adopts a pedagogical methodology in close dialogue with the geographies that host it – from the Dolomites to the Lagoon – following the river basins of the Tagliamento, Piave, Adige, and Brenta, and extending to other fragile water ecosystems across Veneto, Lombardy, Trentino-Alto Adige, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, and Emilia-Romagna.

This new edition will also benefit from the valuable collaboration of the Global Campus of Human Rights (GCHR), which will generously host the four-day training session at its historic and evocative venue, the Monastery of San Nicolò. The GCHR will further contribute to project coordination and post-production phases, strengthening the initiative’s interdisciplinary and international dimension.

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## Campus Agenda

**Dates:** 26-30 January 2026

**Location:** Venice Lido, Italy.

**Target:** 20 postgraduate students/activists, professionals of any gender, age and nationality (preferably based in VENETO, LOMBARDY, TRENTINO ALTO-ADIGE, FRIULI- VENEZIA GIULIA, EMILIA-ROMAGNA) with proficiency in Italian and English language (SEE THE BELOW SECTION: REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION)

## Structure:

4-day immersive program with lectures, workshops and performance sessions, both indoors and (weather permitting) outdoors. Provisional timeline:

Day 1 – **Global deep ecologies, biodiversity & the environmental humanities**

Day 2 – **Legal perspectives on the rights of nature**

Day 3 – **Artistic explorations and soundscapes of nature**

Day 4 – **Mapping global rights and contemplative studies in deep ecology**

## Disciplinary Areas

- **AREA 1 - Philosophy**

KEYWORDS AND KEY CONCEPTS:

Deep ecology, Anthropology of landscape, Political ecology, Socio/ethno-linguistics, Buddhist Studies & contemplative studies

- **AREA 2 - Law**

KEYWORDS AND KEY CONCEPTS:

Evolution of environmental law: from anthropocentrism to ecocentrism, Rights of Nature in the light of Indigenous Rights, Ecocide, Rights of Nature in Italy: the Chart of the Rights of the Venice Lagoon

- **AREA 3 - Arts (music, poetry, visual arts, performing arts)**

KEYWORDS AND KEY CONCEPTS:

Composition and rhythm in and of nature; Filming the Rights of Nature; Poetry for and about non-human sentient beings; Performance and rituals for the Rights of Nature

- **AREA 4 - Activism**

KEYWORDS AND KEY CONCEPTS:

Environmental journalism and media campaigning; Engaged science and scientists; Debate methods and outreach strategies in public spheres (Examples: Recognition of Rights; Regenerative Agriculture; Water; Food; Animals)

**Faculty:** mentors and trainers of the campus are experts, practitioners, academics, artists from NICHE, UBI, DSAAM, and other prominent regional and international universities, research centers and non-governmental agencies worldwide.



## Requirements for Participation

Candidates ought to be **students, artists, activists** and/or **practitioners** preferably based in and around the **Lagoon of Venice; the Brenta, Adige, Piave and Tagliamento and Dolomitic river basins; the Po Delta**, and more widely, the river basins and lake areas in northeastern Italy.

Furthermore:

- Proficiency in English and Italian (strictly mandatory).
- A deep interest in **topics of ecology**.
- **Previous studies or experience** in one or more of the fields of Environmental Humanities, Philosophy, Anthropology, Figurative and Musical Arts, Buddhist Studies, Environmental Law and Political Science, Communication Sciences, Ecology and Natural Sciences.
- **Post-graduate students** from Masters' level and above are welcome to apply, or practitioners and activists at a similar level of experience (3 or more years).
- **Previous involvement** in projects related to the rights of nature, indigenous rights / knowledge, ecological conservation, Buddhist practice or ecologist activism is a plus.

## Application Process

The campus doesn't require an enrolment fee and is free. A **certificate of participation** will be issued after the course upon the formal request from interested trainees. Students from Venice will have to provide for their own accommodation and travel, while lunches for all the trainees will be provided by the organizing entities.

**Grants:** upon formal request (see application form) and on the base of meritorious skills, hotel accommodation will be granted to up to 5 participants based outside the province of Venice, while other 5 grants for ferryboat transportation will be granted to up to 3 other participants based outside Venice municipality.

> To apply, please **fill in the following form**. - [LINK](#)

## Required attachments

- Motivation letter (max 500 words)
- CV
- Portfolio OR at least a relevant short piece of writing (essay, article, thesis chapter or similar) OR track record of previous activist projects.



## Registration and other information

Requests for participation can be submitted at the following Google Form link:

<https://forms.gle/6JGfcrXXgDks3kVv5>

Request for information must be sent at the following address: [idra.acqua@gmail.com](mailto:idra.acqua@gmail.com)

## Deadline for candidacies:

**Sunday 30th November 2025, h. 23:59**

*Selection outcomes will be published with the first two weeks of December 2025*

## Related links:

### NICHE

<https://unive.it/pag/44234/>

### UBI - Ecologia

<https://gategate.it/ecologia/>

### GCHR Global Campus of Human Rights

<https://www.gchumanrights.org/>

## IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Unfortunately, the San Nicolò monastery, an ancient medieval building, at the moment cannot welcome students with relevant deambulatory disabilities due to the presence of barriers inherent to buildings architectures. We apologize in advance for not being able to overcome this issue before the realization of the campus.