

International FoRS Conference

“The Beginning and the End of All Natural Scenery”: Mountain Experience Before and After Ruskin

December 15-16, 2025, Ca' Foscari Spazi Espositivi

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15th

9.30
Registration

10:00
WELCOME ADDRESS
TIZIANA LIPPIELLO, Rector of Ca' Foscari University of Venice
ALESSIO COTUGNO, Vice-Rector for Communication and Research Knowledge Valorisation, Ca' Foscari University of Venice
FRANCESCA SANTULLI, Director of Department of Comparative Cultural Studies, Ca' Foscari University
GIOVANNI MARIA FARA, Director of Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage, Ca' Foscari

10.30-11.30 – *Chair: EMMA SDEGNO* (Ca' Foscari University of Venice, FoRS)
OPENING LECTURE
Inhabiting the Mountains: Ruskinian Readings in Alpine Craft and Domestic Culture
MARCUS WAITHE, Professor of Literature and the Applied Arts, Cambridge University UK, Chair of the Ruskin Society

Coffee break

11:45-12:45
From the Picturesque to the Gesamtkunstwerk: Ruskin's Mountainous Journey of Self-Discovery
HOWARD HULL, Director of Brantwood, Board of the Guild of Saint George, artist
“Car, pour moi, les montagnes sont le commencement et la fin du paysage”
PIERRE-HENRY FRANGNE, Professeur d'esthétique et philosophie de l'art, Université Rennes 2

Lunch break

14.30-16.00 – *Chair: LUCA CRESCENZI* (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)
“[...] es/ Lehren die Berge/ Heil'ge Gesetze dich”: Hölderlin und die Alpen
BETTINA FABER, Lecturer in German Literature, Ca' Foscari University

“wie heißt es, dein Land / hinterm Berg, hinterm Jahr?”: Paul Celans Herkunft und Schicksal
ELENA POLLEDRI, Professor of German and Austrian Literature, University of Udine

Discussion

16.30-17.30 – *Chair: EMANUELE MOREZZI* (Polytechnic University of Turin, FoRS)
Carrying off the Peaks: Ruskin's Daguerreotypes 40 years later
Presentation of the Exhibition with Ken and Jenny Jacobson, David Burton, and curators Martina Frank and Emma Sdegno

Private View

17.45-18.45 – *Chair: ESTER BRUNET* (Istituto Superiore di Scienze Religiose di Padova)
Sulla montagna nella Bibbia
LUIGINO BRUNI, Professor of Economics, LUMSA Rome, Biblical scholar

Refreshments

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16th

9.45-10.15
“Helpful Influence”: Clive Wilmer's Vision and Legacy
RACHEL DICKINSON, Master of the Guild of St George and Reader in English, Manchester Metropolitan University

10.15-11.15 – *Chair: SIMONE FRANCESCATO* (Ca' Foscari University of Venice, FoRS)
KEYNOTE LECTURE
***“Mountain Gloom, Mountain Glory”:
Ruskin and John Muir***
GABRIEL MEYER, Executive Director of the Ruskin Art Club of Los Angeles, poet, novelist and journalist

Coffee break

11:30-13:00 – *Chair: JULIEN ZANETTA* (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

The Gardened Mountain: Reginald Farrer's Fairy Geography
WILLIAM BAINBRIDGE, Senior Lecturer in History, University of Hertfordshire
Mountains in Terrence Malick's A Hidden Life (2019)

CHRISTIAN QUENDLER, Professor of American Studies, Leopold-Franzens University Innsbruck

Snow in Twentieth Century Literature: Approaching the Infinite
CLEMENTINA CHRISTINE LABÒ, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Lunch break

14:30-16:00 – *Chair: MYRIAM PILUTTI NAMER* (Ca' Foscari University of Venice, FoRS)

Shifting or receding lines? From John Ruskin's writings on the glaciers to contemporary experiences of the mountains

LAURENCE ROUSSILLON-CONSTANTY, Professor of British Literature and Aesthetics, Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour

Facing the Giants: a Journey through the Glaciers - the White Heart of our Planet
JACOPO GABRIELI, Glaciologist, Senior Lecturer, Institute of Polar Sciences, CNR

Q&A

18:00-19.00
Introduced by STEFANIA SBARRA (Ca' Foscari University of Venice, FoRS)
Film projection
WERNER HERZOG, ***Die große Ekstase des Bildschnitzers Steiner*** (*The Great Exstasy of the Woodcarver Steiner*) (1974; 45'; German, with Italian subtitles)
CASA DEL CINEMA

Organizer: **Emma Sdegno**

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