

NICHE | Annual Lecture 2026



Ca' Foscari
University
of Venice

Department of Asian
and North African Studies

NICHE
Centre for Environmental Humanities

Thinking with Water in Horizontal Flows



**Serpil
Oppermann**

Director of Environmental Humanities
Center, Cappadocia University

Welcome remarks
and introduction

Francesca Tarocco
Director of NICHE

This lecture proposes thinking with water as a horizontal ecological epistemology that reorients environmental thought away from the vertical imaginaries that have long structured ecological ethics. Taking Aldo Leopold's influential call to "think like a mountain" as its point of departure, it argues that while Leopold's land ethic transformed modern environmental consciousness, its reliance on elevation, overview, and stability cannot fully account for the fluid, relational, and precarious conditions of contemporary aquatic worlds. In response, the lecture turns to the conceptual interventions of the Blue Humanities to explore a relational mode of thought shaped by immersion, porosity, and interdependence. It focuses on how thinking with water transforms ecological perception.

**29 September
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4:30 PM (CEST)

**Aula M. Baratto,
Ca' Foscari
University of Venice**

Dorsoduro 3246
Venice



More info

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