

NICHE | Annual Lecture 2026

Thinking with Water in Horizontal Flows



Ca' Foscari
University
of Venice

Department of Asian
and North African Studies

NICHE

Centre for Environmental Humanities

OCEAN SPACE

A platform for Ocean Imagination and Ocean Action



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Director of Environmental Humanities
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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.

Welcome remarks and introduction

Francesca Tarocco
Director of NICHE

The event is part of the initiative organized by Ocean Space
"Nature Speaks. Listening for Rights of Nature in Venice and Europe".

**29
September
2026**
4:30 PM (CEST)

**Aula M. Baratto,
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More info

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