

# Decentering the Anthropocene: Spanish Ecocritical Texts and the Non-Human

Panel Session Proposal  
Kentucky Foreign Language Conference  
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Co-organized by  
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## CALL FOR PAPERS

Ecocriticism examines literary and cultural representations of the natural environment and diverse life forms, often in the context of broader political, economic, and social issues and often with an ethical commitment to sustainability and environmental justice. In this context, ecocritical work may interrogate how texts treat anthropocentrism, or the centralization of humans' perspectives, needs, and experiences over those of other beings.

Ecocritical study began to develop in the United States in the 1960s and 1970s, and gained a more formal organization in 1990 with the establishment of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE). Several decades later, the founding of the research group GIECO (*Grupo de Investigación en Ecocrítica*) and the journal *Ecozon@ Revista europea de literatura, cultura y medioambiente* in 2010, at the Franklin Institute at the University of Alcalá de Henares, have been instrumental in supporting and fostering ecocritical studies in the humanities in Spain. This paper session seeks to augment contributions to Peninsular Spanish ecocritical studies.

Papers will examine peninsular Spanish texts that represent the non-human to bring into focus social, political, and ecological paradigms that jeopardize or support the wellbeing of different life forms. Ecocritical readings may consider interrelations between non-human and human forms in order to interrogate interactions with difference and their relation to polarization and conviviality. We encourage analyses that question hegemonic evaluations of environmental and social worth, whether via: ecofeminist perspectives that highlight the relationship between andro- and anthropocentrism (e.g. Greta Gaard, Mary Mellor, Vandana Shiva, Karen Warren); ethical lenses including those of *ecosophy* (e.g. Val Plumwood) and *anotherness* (e.g. Mikhail Bakhtin, Patrick Murphy) that dismantle presumptive dichotomies between human and non-human worlds; or considerations of ecocritical aesthetic experimentation (e.g. as identified by Richard Kerridge and Justyna Kostowska) that decenters human beings in order to explore alternative social, political, economic, and environmental models that promote equitable, just societies.

Papers in this session may approach the non-human through different genres: general fiction, crime fiction, sci-fi, vampire literature, graphic literature, nautical fiction, mystical literature, (cyber)poetry, theater, film, photography, etc. Possible types of alternate being evoked alongside the normative human are: animals, hybrid animal-humans,

plant life, ghosts, spectres, avatars, angels and apparitions, robots, cyborgs, androids, monsters, vampires, and others.

Paper sessions at the KFLC consist of five papers. Please submit us your abstract, with contact information and affiliation, by Nov. 5, 2018 to [maleone@assumption.edu](mailto:maleone@assumption.edu) and [slino@yorku.ca](mailto:slino@yorku.ca). We will confirm inclusion of your paper in the panel by Nov. 7, 2018, after which you also will have to submit your abstract to KFLC by the Nov. 12 deadline and indicate the pre-organized panel.

For more information about the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, go to <https://kflc.as.uky.edu/>.