

Call for Applications

Occupy Climate Change! winter school 2022

21-22 January & 11-12 February 2022

Online



Organized by

Environmental Humanities Laboratory, KTH (Royal Institute of Technology), Sweden
in collaboration with

Istituto di Studi sul Mediterraneo (CNR-ISMED), Italy

*Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Wayne State
University, USA*

University of Cincinnati, USA

Instituto de História, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

*NTNU Environmental Humanities, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU),
Norway*

College of Staten Island, City University of New York, USA

Namibia University, Namibia

ARCò Architecture and cooperation, Italy

Department of Architecture, University "Federico II" Napoli, Italy

We live in an age of loss. Breaking off ice shelves, vanishing landscapes, destroyed cultural heritage, and abandoned homes due to social, cultural, economic, political, and ecological conflicts of all sorts. The problem with loss is its intricacy with emotions, feelings, and personal attachments. Rightly so, ecological economists have spoken of the incommensurability of values in their analysis of environmental conflicts, stressing the clash between different regimes of knowledge.

Thereby, it is not surprising that loss remains poorly theorized and even more scarcely addressed in contemporary climate politics, particularly when it comes to the local scale.

One way to move forward in tackling loss and damage is knowledge co-production and situated participatory research with communities most likely to experience loss. In fact, the focus on loss and damage unfolds the mainstream rhetoric on win-win strategies and moral efforts towards a superior common good; the reality of climate change is that of unequal distribution not only of harms but also of benefits.

As loss and damage issues remain understudied, so the consequences of climate change on the city also are neglected in the literature. Scholars have worked on the impacts of climate change in rural communities and on their strategies of adaptation, leaving unexplored the same problems in the urban environment.

OCC! project (Formas-funded) explores the grassroots social innovations in the urban environment and their relationships with municipal initiatives. Science fiction writer Ursula Le Guin argued that we live in a crisis of imagination; many have said that it is easier to imagine the end of the world than imagining another world. OCC! wishes to ignite an imaginative exploration into the future through a creative writing exercise, imagining how would the place where you live look like in year 2200?

In order to build capacity and provide spaces for mutual learning on these themes, KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory, in partnership with scholars from the Institute for Studies on the Mediterranean, Wayne State University, University of Cincinnati, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, ARCò Architecture and cooperation, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Namibia University, University "Federico II" Napoli, and the City University of New York are inviting early career researchers (master's students in their advanced thesis phase, Ph.D. students, and postdocs) for an interdisciplinary winter school which will include perspectives from the broadly defined fields of environmental justice, climate justice, environmental humanities, environmental history, media studies, political ecology, storytelling and cli-fi among others. The training school will include both lecture format and group-work sessions (a more detailed description of the school is below). The objectives of the course include; Acquiring knowledge on urban climate justice movements; being able to analyze how different social/ethnic groups are unequally affected by climate change, and reflecting on the role of mainstream/counter-hegemonic imaginaries for enhancing climate change policies.

A key aspect of the winter school is also to contribute to the online open-access database The Atlas of the Other Worlds which is part of the OCC! project. In this database three types of materials are gathered; entries on municipal/regional/local initiatives to tackle climate change; entries on grassroots initiatives to tackle climate change and short creative stories imagining a city/town 200 years from now. Each student is requested to contribute with at least one entry (ideally two) to the Atlas of the Other Worlds, as their final assignment. Before working on the final assignment, each student must discuss the selected entry with the coordinators of the school. The entries will be revised and if accepted published in The Atlas. To know more about the project, its Atlas, and the kind of entries we are looking for, contact armiero@kth.se.

Students admitted to the school will:

- ❖ receive a certificate signed by the coordinators of the school stating the amount of work done during the course (equivalent to 3.5 ECTS);
- ❖ publish their final assignments as part of the OCC! Atlas, pending approval by the coordinators of the school.

PLEASE NOTE that for this first edition of the school, we will not be able to provide official ECTS to the students. Each student will need to ask their university for a validation of the CFU, if needed.

Application

To apply for the winter school, please send the following by **1 December 2021** to armiero@kth.se:

1. Max. 2-page CV
2. Max. 1-page motivation letter
3. 250-word abstract on the final assignment. For the final assignment, you are supposed to write one or two entries for the OCC! Atlas. The entries can be:
 - ❖ **Entries on municipal/regional/local initiatives to tackle climate change** (for instance: the city of xxx promoting cycling as an alternative to private car mobility)
 - ❖ **Entries on a grassroots initiative to tackle climate change** (for instance: an urban gardening project in a working-class neighborhood in xxx)
 - ❖ **Short creative stories imagining a city/town in 200 years from now** (this is a creative writing exercise, imagine your city in the year 2200)

Please do not hesitate to contact us in case you wish more information about the kind of entries we wish to gather.

The selected participants will be notified by **15 December 2021**. For further information, please contact: armiero@kth.se

Confirmed Lecturers with respective fields of expertise

- Marco Armiero (KTH Environmental Humanities Lab, Sweden & Istituto di Studi sul Mediterraneo (CNR-ISMed), Italy) environmental humanities, and political ecology
- Alessio Battistella (ARCò - Architecture and cooperation, Italy) sustainable architecture, and community development
- Gilda Berruti, (Department of Architecture, University "Federico II" Napoli, Italy) urban studies and governance
- Ashley Dawson (College of Staten Island, City University of New York) urban studies, and resilient design
- Robert Gioielli (University of Cincinnati, USA) race and sustainability, environmental institutions, and urban environmental history
- Hanna Musiol (NTNU Environmental Humanities, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway) literary studies, transmedia storytelling, and human rights
- Maria Federica Palestino (Department of Architecture, University "Federico II" Napoli, Italy) urban studies and governance
- Elena Past (Department of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Wayne State University, USA) Italian cinema, and environmental media studies
- Lise Sedrez (Instituto de História, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) latin american history, history of disasters, and urban environmental history
- Bruno Venditto (Istituto di Studi sul Mediterraneo (CNR-ISMed) & Namibia University) migration, development, and economics

Description of the school

OCC! training school will include online lecture sessions, seminars, and laboratory activities.

	21 January 2022 Friday	22 January 2022 Saturday
Morning session	Lecture: Introduction to the project Lecturer: Marco Armiero	Lecture: Climate, Justice, Cinema and the City Lecturer: Elena Past and Alessio Battistella
Afternoon session	Lecture: What is Climate Justice / From environmental justice to climate justice Lecturer: Robert Gioelli	Lecture: Storytelling Climate Destabilization Lecturer: Hanna Musiol
Evening events	Movie screening of Mamma Roma	
	In between courses on your own	
Exercise part 1	To imagine the city as it may be in 2200, individuate the most vulnerable areas of your city and go visit them. Make photographs, videos, or sketches if you can and then observe them, modify them, and imagine how those places might look like in two centuries.	
Exercise part 2	Explore how the city you wish to write about was two hundred years ago. Consult old maps, pictures, paintings, written texts and try to recognize what has changed and why. You may implement a small oral history project, interviewing seniors in your community and asking them about the main transformations that occurred during their lifetime.	
	11 February 2022 Friday	12 February 2022 Saturday
Morning session	Lecture: Peripheral neighborhoods, Climate Change and Governance. Lecturer: Gilda Berruti & Maria Federica Palestino	Lecture: Climate change, migration, and urbanization Lecturer: Bruno Venditto
Afternoon session	Lecture: Lessons from the Urban Climate Insurgency Lecturer: Ashley Dawson	Lecture: History on the move: research, communities and urban environments in the 21st century Lecturer: Lise Sedrez
27th of February Send final assignment to two peers for peer-review feedback		
6th of March Send peer-reviewed feedback on assignment back to two peers		
13th of March Hand-in final assignment		

For more information about OCC; <https://occupyclimatechange.net/>

For more information about the KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory, please visit: <https://www.kth.se/en/abe/inst/philist/historia/ehl>

The OCC! winter school is organized in collaboration with



UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO DE JANEIRO

