

Call for applications to a Researcher Training Course (RTC) on

Advancing Theory and Method in the Environmental Humanities

14-20 October 2011

The Sigtuna Foundation

Sigtuna, Sweden

Course aims and content

The RTC is being organized by The Nordic Network for Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies (NIES), Division of History of Science and Technology, KTH, in partnership with the Sigtuna Foundation, Cemus, SALT and the Faculty of Humanities, Uppsala University. It is made possible through contributions from these partners and a grant from NordForsk.

This intensive course aims to engage a plurality of perspectives from across the humanities, with input from the social sciences and hard sciences, in order to help expand the research horizons of younger researchers in the humanities. To this end the course seeks to foreground a range of theoretical questions and methodological approaches that help to frame and thereby define the research domain of the environmental humanities, particularly as it is developing in the Nordic countries. Because this RTC is a pioneering event in the quest to build a functional community of environmental humanities researchers in the Nordic countries, the contrastive and inter/multidisciplinary dimensions of the RTC cannot be underscored enough. The course aims to enhance participants' knowledge and understanding of developments in the wider field of the environmental humanities by showcasing ideas, approaches and/or theoretical frames they may not otherwise encounter in their home departments.

A number of leading senior scholars from Scandinavia and around the world will be lecturing in the course. The following researchers have confirmed their interest in contributing a lecture, leading a workshop and/or participating as a panelist in the course:

- Þorvarður Árnason (University of Iceland), Interdisciplinary Environmental Studies & Landscape Studies
- Sigurd Bergmann (Norwegian University of Science & Technology), Religion and Environment
- Hannes Bergthaller (National Chung-Hsing University, Taiwan), Literature and the Environment / Ecocriticism
- Fredrik Chr. Brøgger, University of Tromsø, Nature Writing and Ecocriticism
- Carole Crumley (Stockholm Resilience Centre), Anthropology
- Jonas Ebbesson (Stockholm University), Environmental Law / Transdisciplinary Environmental Studies
- Eva Friman (Cemus, Uppsala University & SLU), Development Studies and Globalization Studies
- Greg Garrard (Bath-Spa University), Literature and the Environment / Ecocriticism
- Heather Goodall (University of Technology, Sydney), Environmental History
- Axel Goodbody (University of Bath), Green Literature, Discourse and Cultural Studies
- Steven Hartman (Uppsala University & KTH), Literature and the Environment / Ecocriticism
- Kirsten Hastrup (University of Copenhagen), Anthropology
- Maunu Häyrynen (University of Turku), Art History and Landscape Studies
- Dolly Jørgensen (Umeå University), Environmental History
- Finn Arne Jørgensen (Umeå University), Environmental History
- Mark Luccarelli (University of Oslo), American Studies and Intellectual History
- Peter Mortensen (Aarhus University), Literature and the Environment / Ecocriticism
- Richard Norgaard (University of California, Berkeley), Ecological Economics
- David Nye (University of Southern Denmark), History of Technology
- Christopher Oscarson (Brigham Young University), Scandinavian Studies, Swedish Film and Literature
- Kenneth Olwig (SLU Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences), Geography
- Libby Robin (KTH Royal Institute of Technology), Environmental History
- Per Sandin (SLU Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences), Environmental Ethics
- Paul Sinclair (Uppsala University), Archeology

- Kate Soper (London Metropolitan University), Philosophy
- Karin Syse (University of Oslo), Cultural History
- Sverker Sörlin (KTH Royal Institute of Technology), Environmental History

The majority of those researchers listed above are expected to lead a workshop and/or lecture during the course, and a few others not in the list may take part. The organizers of the RTC are working actively to recruit well qualified researchers to lecture in the course who may have one or more of the following areas of expertise: environmental policy, media studies, animal studies and/or interdisciplinary research relating to GMOs.

Composition and requirements

The RTC is being organized together with the symposium “Environmental Humanities: Cultural perspectives on nature and the environment”, which will take place 14-16 October, also at the Sigtuna Foundation. The symposium’s plenary lectures will serve as lectures in the RTC as well. Therefore the course officially begins at the start of the symposium. After the symposium concludes on Sunday 16 October, the RTC will continue for three to four more days and largely comprise a series of workshops scheduled for approximately two hours each led by different senior researchers. Workshops are likely to run in parallel, in seminar-sized groups of up to 15 participating younger researchers, plus a small number of auditing senior researchers. Typically there will be three workshop sessions per day, plus one lecture or panel discussion during the last few days of the course (17-20 October) following the symposium.

The course content (both lectures and workshops, as well as panel discussions) will aim to be interactive and inclusionary of a wide range of disciplinary and theoretical perspectives. The organizers will furnish the course participants with a list of recommended readings prepared in consultation with the individual course lecturers in September, well in advance of the RTC.

The course can be taken for credit, though any such credit must be awarded by the research students’ respective home departments. Research students should reach an agreement with their supervisors concerning the exact number of credits to be awarded. Certificates will be provided by the organizers to those participants who complete the course successfully. In light of the intensive nature and requirements of the course, the total workload is estimated in the range of 3-5 weeks of ordinary full-time study.

Approximately 25 PhD students and early-career postdocs will be admitted to the course. Those accepted will have their food and accommodation covered for the length of the event. Participating research students from the Nordic countries (with the exception of the greater Stockholm-Uppsala region) are eligible for a subsidy to help cover the cost of travel to the RTC in Sigtuna in the event that their home departments cannot subsidize this cost. **Participating research students from outside the Nordic countries are not eligible for a travel subsidy**, but will still have their lodging and food covered during the RTC.

How to apply for the course

To apply for the course, please submit the following documents:

- a short statement (no more than one page) motivating your wish to attend the course, including a brief description of your research area and current research project
- a brief CV (no more than one page)

These documents should be attached to an email titled “RTC application [+ your name]” and sent to Susanna Lidström [suslid[at]kth.se] no later than **31 August 2011**. Notifications on possible selection to the course will be made by mid-September. Nordic PhD students and early-career postdocs will be given priority in the admissions process, though a limited number of applicants from outside the Nordic region may be admitted to the course.

Additional information concerning the RTC and the Environmental Humanities symposium will be made available and updated regularly on the following website: <http://www.kth.se/abe/nies> .