

Rights of Nature Conference **24 January, The Space. 9.30am – 6pm**

09.30 Coffee and Registration

Reading of the 2014 IPCC (Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change) Synthesis Report Summary for Policymakers as read by environmentalists working on climate change and sustainability across Nottinghamshire. An intervention devised by artist Amy Balkin

10:00 Welcome by Alex Farquharson and Introduction by TJ Demos

10:30 – 11:20 TALKS: Wild Law

How is the legal discourse of Wild Law changing our relation to the world around us? What is Earth Jurisprudence, and how does it relate to the history of environmental law, eco-activism, indigenous rights, and green capitalism? As of 2008, rights of nature have been recognized in Ecuador's constitution, and adopted in Bolivia's legal system, but critics have been quick to identify problems and inconsistencies—especially with President Rafael Correa's opening up the Yasuni park to oil drilling; and President Evo Morales' courting of transnational fossil-fuel corporations in Bolivia. Detractors have also pointed to the difficulties of implementing rights of nature within systems confronting poverty, "underdevelopment," and institutional corruption (especially in the judiciary). How can the doctrine of natural rights overcome its legal utopianism, ideal in principle, impracticable in reality? What are the current challenges faced by The Global Alliance for Rights of Nature and Global Exchange after it hosted the "Rights of Nature as the Foundation for Sustainability" conference at the Rio+20 Earth Summit in 2012? Lastly, how does Wild Law represent a biocentric legal revolution that holds the promise of helping us escape the threat of catastrophic climate change?

Cormac Cullinan, author of Wild Law (Via Skype), Tom Brennan (Wild Law UK) Carine Nadal (The Gaia Foundation)

11:20-11:40 Q&A

11:40-12:25 PANEL: Nature of Rights: Earth Law, Forensics, Geo-Symptoms

How does rights-of-nature discourse relate to specific artistic practices? How do rights—in particular those of Earth Law—emerge within visual explorations, discursive formulations, and political activities? If nature is accorded legal subjectivity, then how does it testify or provide witness, within what forum of presentation (or *forensis*, the multisensory platform of truth deliberation, according to Decolonizing Architecture's recent investigations into forensics), and how does the planet's geology exhibit symptoms that can be translated into aesthetico-legal contexts, whether that means the experimental legality of aesthetics, or the aesthetics of actual emerging Earth jurisprudence?

Chair: TJ Demos

Subhankar Banerjee (Artist), Ursula Biemann (Artist) & The Otolith Group (Artists)

12:25-1 Discussion

1-2 LUNCH

Reading of the 2014 IPCC (Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change) Synthesis Report Summary

2 – 2:20 TALK: Eriel Tchekwie Deranger, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation

2:20 - 2:40 Q&A

2:40 – 3:25 PANEL: Decolonising Indigenous Epistemologies

Recent decades have seen the emergence of movements amongst indigenous scholars to decolonize their knowledge systems. To what extent has environmental activism acknowledged this scholarship? Do Eurocentric concerns draw on this knowledge whilst continuing to marginalise indigenous realities? Decolonizing indigenous epistemologies may include raiding institutional archives to reclaim their patrimony, but it also asks: What strategies are available for deconstructing the state's institutionalised narratives of indigenous identities and knowledge? Where oral transmission is the indigenous form of archival knowledge, what legitimacy is given the witness testimony? And, most importantly, when indigenous research methodologies are consistent with indigenous worldviews and designed to benefit peoples' lives, do 'rights of nature' discourses help or hinder this aim?

Chair: Jean Fisher

Mabe Bethônico (Artist), Eduardo Abaroa (Artist), Fernando Palma Rodríguez (Artist, Calpulli Tecalco)

3:25 – 4 Discussion

4- 4:15 Break

Reading of the 2014 IPCC (Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change) Synthesis Report Summary

4.15-5:15 Beyond Neoliberal Developmentalism

What alternatives exist to the paradigm of Western development discourse, focused on endless growth, the exploitation of "natural resources," and possessive individualism? How do we rewrite "sustainable development" as "ecological sustainability," based on egalitarian, post-anthropocentric, and limits-to-growth principles? How can we turn, 'the passions and aspirations of grass roots movements into levers that can move the larger society?'

Chair: Janna Graham and Alex Farquharson

Elizabeth Peredo Beltran (Solon Foundation), Minerva Cuevas (Artist) & Brian Holmes (Critic)

5:15 – 6 Final Discussion

Event Live stream <http://www.nottinghamcontemporary.org/event/rights-nature-conference>. Join the conversation on Twitter using [#RightsofNature](https://twitter.com/RightsofNature)