

# Nature's Past: Historical Perspectives on a Contested Concept

University College London  
6th June 2017

## Programme

9:30-10:00 Registration (Room 103, UCL Institute of the Americas, 51 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PN)

10:00-10:05 Welcome and introductory words: Natalia Gándara (UCL)

10:05-10:50 First Keynote: Nature and Magic in the Late Middle Ages, Dr. Sophie Page (UCL)

10:50-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:45 Panel: Nature in Religion and Philosophy, Chair: Andrew Short (UCL)

- 'Unnatural sinners': Sodomy in Transcultural Perspective, c. 1150-1700 (Nailya Shamgunova, Cambridge)
- The Wilderness Revisited: 'Heathenism' in the Protestant Atlantic World (Patrick McGhee, Cambridge)
- A Brief Comparative Study of the Relation Between Nature and the Supernatural in Kant's Philosophy of Nature and F.W.J. Schelling's *Naturphilosophie* (Barbara Nuñez de Caceres, UCL)
- Næfre ge wilde to wuda fleogan: Beekeepers, Bees and Blessings in Early Germanic Europe (Karel Fraaije, UCL)

12:45-13:45 Lunch

13:45-15:30 Panel: Engaging with Nature in the Contemporary World, Chair: Johannes Hartmann (UCL)

- Representations of Nature: A Romanticized View of the Land During the Great Depression (Xueyan (Juno) Sun, UCL)
- Capital and Commodification: Carpenters, Urban Development and Bent Furniture in Eastern Hungary, 1900-1945 (Róbert Balogh, Hungarian Academy of Sciences)
- '...and thus we share much suffering along with the environment' Katarismo and the Politics of Nature (Olivia Arigho-Stiles, UCL)
- Uniformity, Catastrophe and the Anthropocene (Andrew Hopkins, UCL)

15:30-15:45 Coffee Break

15:45-17:00 Panel: Uses and Representations of Landscapes, Chair: Anastazja Grudnicka (UCL)

- Nature, knowledge and the Geographical Imagination of the Chilean Sea, from mid-18th century to mid-19th century (Natalia Gándara, UCL)
- 'Making Bombay Island': Land Reclamation and Geographical Conceptions of Bombay, 1661-1728 (Timothy Riding, QMUL)
- Harmonious Creation: Nature's Music and the Conversion of the British Landscape (Nick Mayhew-Smith, Roehampton)

17:00-17:15 Coffee Break

17:15-18:00 Second Keynote: From the Andes to the Outback: Acclimatising Alpacas in the British Empire, Dr. Helen Cowie (York)

18:00-18:15 Final Remarks: Thomas Rath (UCL)

Registration is **essential**. Please register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/natures-past-historical-perspective-on-a-contested-concept-tickets-33283372463>

More information: [uclhistorypgconference.wordpress.com](http://uclhistorypgconference.wordpress.com)