

Shifty Muds
Land, Water and Life in a ‘Patchy Anthropocene’

8-10 June 2023, Bucharest, Romania

Convenors: Ștefan Dorondel, Adrian Deoancă and Stelu Șerban

Organizing institutions: Romanian Academy: ‘Francisc I. Rainer’ Institute of Anthropology; The Institute for Southeast European Studies; New Europe College Institute for Advanced Studies Bucharest

Venue: New Europe College Institute for Advanced Studies Bucharest, Strada Plantelor no. 21, Bucharest, 023971

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

Wednesday, 7 June

Arrival of participants

Thursday, 8 June

9:00 Opening address: Dr. Ștefan Dorondel (Romanian Academy)

9:15 – 10:15 Keynote lecture: Dr. Peter Coates (University of Bristol)
Disruptions in Wet Places: In-Placeness, Out-of-Placeness, Belonging and the Flourishing of Pesty Creatures

10:15 – 10:30 *Coffee break*

10:30 – 12:00 **Panel I. Muddy histories**

Moderator: Stelu Șerban

Constantin Ardeleanu (New Europe College)
Public health and hygiene in a marshland. Sulina in late nineteenth century

Michał Pospiszyl (Polish Academy of Sciences)
The Republic of Marshes: Eastern Europe and Fugitive Ecologies

Anna Varga (University of Pécs)
The memories of grazing by the shore and beaches of lake Balaton, Hungary

Manu Sobti (University of Queensland)
Riverine Narratives of Soviet Power along the Amu Darya – Transforming Notions of Space and Place

12:00 – 13:15 *Lunch break*

13:15 – 14:45 **Panel II. Shifty infrastructures**

Moderator: Adrian Deoancă

Ognjen Kojanić (University of Cologne)

From Alluvial Mud to Anthropogenic Sludge: Infrastructural Challenges in Pančevački Rit, Serbia

Suchimita Das (Ahmedabad University)

Moving Earth, Earthmovers and Perceptions of Environmental Vulnerability in the Indian Himalayas

Joana Sousa (University of Coimbra) & Raul Mendes Fernandez (Amilcar Cabral University)

Rice technology, artefacts and the making of the mud

Ștefan Dorondel (Romanian Academy), Cornelia Florea (Romanian Academy) and Gabriela Ioana-Toroimac (University of Bucharest)

Unruly Sediments and the Death of an Infrastructure

14:45 – 15:00 *Coffee break*

15:00 – 16:30 **Panel III. Unruly materials**

Moderator: Ștefan Dorondel

Bengi Çakmak (Üsküdar University)

Marine Mucilage as a Form of “Patchy Anthropocene”: The Troublesome Case of the Sea of Marmara

Adrian Deoancă (Romanian Academy), Stelu Șerban (Romanian Academy) and Marina Vîrghileanu (University of Bucharest)

Muddy Waters: ‘Dirty’ Landscapes and Muddled Institutions along the Lower Danube

Mareike Pampus (Martin Luther University, Halle)

Build On Sand: Artificial Lakes in Postmining Landscapes

Tarini Monga (Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology)

Sandy Contestations: (re)thinking coastal futures

16:30 – 17:00 *Break*

17:00 – 18:00 Keynote lecture: Dr. Eben Kirksey, University of Oxford

Inscrutable Futures: Visions of Eternal Life, Biotechnology, and Planetary Ecology in Late Industrial China

Friday, 9 June

9:15 – 10:15 Keynote lecture: Dr. Laurent Lespez, Université Paris-Est Créteil Val de Marne
Timescapes of European Rivers: The Intricate Ontology of Hybrids

10:15-10:30 *Coffee Break*

10:30 – 12:00 Panel IV. **More than human lives**

Moderator: Cornelia Florea

Astrid Schrader (University of Exeter)
Rhythms On the Beach: Microbial Mats Through Time

David Stradling (University of Cincinnati)
Dredging, Mudshell, and Oyster Reefs: Making the Future on the Texas Coast

Mészáros Csaba (Hungarian Academy of Sciences)
Mud, marshlands, and Sakhas in the permafrost landscape of Yakutia

12:00 – 13:15 *Lunch break*

13:15 – 14:45 **Panel V. Theorizing muddiness**

Moderator: Gabriela Ioana-Toroimac

David Eckersley (Nottingham Trent University)
In Media Mire: Peatlands and Elemental Mediation

Annelies Kuijpers (KU Leuven)
Sludge Matters! An inquiry into the composition of post-flood river sludge and its impact on socioecological life on riverbanks in Belgium and The Netherlands

Sara Rich (Coastal Carolina University)
Insurrections of the Swamp Things

15:30 Departure to Bulgaria

19:00 Arrival in Belene

20:00 Dinner

Saturday, June 10

11:00 – 14:00 **Walking trip to Belene Island**

Guest speaker: Dr. Liviu Giosan, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, US
Islands in the Stream: A Geoscience View on Human-Nature Interactions on Lower Danube Valley and Delta

14:00 – 16:00 Break

16:00 Departure to Romania

19:30 Arrival in Bucharest

Sunday, June 11

Departure of participants