

MAY 19TH AND 20TH, 2022



URBAN NARRATIVES ABOUT NATURE:

**TOXIC NIGHTMARES, GREEN UTOPIAS,
AND DREAMS OF CONTROL**

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

Santa Mònica / La Rambla 7, 08002 Barcelona (Spain)

Coordinated by Carlos Tabernero

Institut d'Història de la Ciència (IHC) – Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Projecte: PID2019-106208GB-I00 / Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación

Urban narratives about nature. Contemporary construction of natural history knowledge (Spain and Great Britain, 1950-1980)



With the collaboration of

Plataforma Vértices / Social Film Festival & Science Museum London

VERT/CES

**Social
Film
Festival**

**SCIENCE
MUSEUM
GROUP**

More than half of the Earth population lives nowadays in cities. Finding ways to cope with the challenge of urban growth has become of the utmost importance in an age in which human activity is severely altering the Earth system. As living conditions worldwide suffer from a steady increase in environmental issues, historical inquiry provides useful reflections about vital concerns and thus new perspectives on the present.

This workshop aims at generating and debating specific knowledge concerning processes of construction and management of natural history and environmental narratives. Understanding that the city and the countryside can only be understood through one another and from a global perspective, it will focus on urban-based production and circulation of such narratives, primarily in Spain and Great Britain between the 1950s and the 1980s, where we will look at the role of actors, spaces, discourses, and practices involved in the construction of ways in which nature is represented according to strategically situated interests and criteria.

Talks will mainly deal with media, broadly understood, including television and film, the press (general and academic), literature, comics, museums, festivals, and summer nature camps. We thus will explore, in a context of rise of the natural sciences as a noteworthy field of socio-political negotiation worldwide, and with natural history television swiftly becoming a leading source of both information and entertainment at the time, the development, acceptance, resistance and re-signification of symbolic and material resources constituting views of nature and the environment in academic, policy-making and activist circles, and always considering the power relations involved between urban and rural contexts.

THURSDAY, MAY 19TH

10:30 OPENING

11:00 – 11:15 WELCOMING REMARKS

AGUSTÍ NIETO

Director, Institut d'Història de la Ciència, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

CARLOS TABERNERO

Institut d'Història de la Ciència, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.
PID2019-106208GB-I00

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SESSION 1: ACADEMIA AND ACTIVISM

 [FOR ONLINE ATTENDANCE](#)

11:15 – 12:00 **Wasting the city, saving the city, taking the city. Or why the Wastocene is not about waste**

MARCO ARMIERO

Environmental Humanities Laboratory, Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden

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12:00 – 12:30 **BREAK**

12:30 – 13:00 **Battle of sciences, battle of scientists around evolution in 1970s Spain: paleontology (paleontologists) vs biology (biologists)**

CARLOS ACOSTA

Institut d'Història de la Ciència, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

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13:00 – 13:30 **Ecology in Transition: Fernando González Bernáldez, Scientific Modernization and Environmental Advocacy in Late Francoist Spain**

SANTOS CASADO DE OTAOLA

Departamento de Ecología, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid

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13:30 – 14:00 **DISCUSSION**

THURSDAY, MAY 19TH

SESSION 2: KNOWLEDGE AND ENTERTAINMENT

 [FOR ONLINE ATTENDANCE](#)

16:00 – 16:45 **Wild at heart. Zoological gardens and the urban space**

OLIVER HOCHADEL

Institució Milà i Fontanals, CSIC, Barcelona

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16:45 – 17:15 **BREAK**

17:15 – 17:45 **The TV and Film Unit at the London Zoo: creating adequate opportunity for observing patterns for amateur and professional zoologists alike**

JEAN-BAPTISTE GOUYON

Department of Science & Technology Studies, University College London, UK

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17:45 – 18:15 **Teaching and tinkering with personal computers and telematics in Catalan rural schools and summer camps (Spain, 1980s-1990s)**

IGNASI MEDÀ

Institut d'Història de la Ciència, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

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18:15 – 18:45 **DISCUSSION**

FRIDAY, MAY 20TH

10:30: OPENING

11:00 – 11:15 **WELCOMING REMARKS**

CARLOS TABERNERO

Institut d'Història de la Ciència, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.
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SESSION 3: LITERATURE AND FILM

 [FOR ONLINE ATTENDANCE](#)

11:15 – 12:00 **From El Modena to Terminator: imagining green utopian places before and after nature**

LISA GARFORTH

School of Geography, Politics and Sociology, Newcastle University, UK

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12:00 – 12:30 BREAK

12:30 – 13:00 **The Crafting of Hunting Literature in Francoist Spain: Miguel Delibes and the ACTEON Hunting Club**

CARLOS GÁMEZ

Departament d'Educació Lingüística i Literària, i Didàctica de les Ciències Experimentals i de la Matemàtica, Universitat de Barcelona

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13:00 – 13:30 The representation of nature in Spanish cinematography between the 1950s and 1980s

MARTA PIÑOL

Facultat de Geografia i Història, Universitat de Barcelona

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13:30 – 14:00 **DISCUSSION**

FRIDAY, MAY 20TH

SESSION 4: NATURAL HISTORY TELEVISION

 [FOR ONLINE ATTENDANCE](#)

16:00 – 16:45 **The Animals' Broadcasting House: non-human intimacies in the age of mass media**

MAX LONG

Faculty of History, University of Cambridge, UK

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16:45 – 17:15 BREAK

17:15 – 17:45 **Jacob Bronowski: History, Script and Performance**

TIM BOON

Science Museum, London, UK

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17:45 – 18:15 **Narratives about nature in Franco's 'organic democracy'**

CARLOS TABERNERO

Institut d'Història de la Ciència, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

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18:15 – 18:45 **DISCUSSION**