

DRAFT
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Rewritten Water Myths in Times of Global Warming

Symposium
11– 12 June 2026
Lund University

Organizers

Barbara Barrow, Monika Class, and Jorunn Joiner



IN COLLABORATION WITH
ELISABETH RAUSINGS MINNESFOND
CRAAFORDSKA STIFTELSEN

Thursday 11 June

08:30–09:00 **REGISTRATION** // LUX Foyer

09:00–09:30 **CONFERENCE OPENING** // LUX C121

09:30–10:30 **KEYNOTE 1: Medea on the Edge: Contemporary Prose Narratives and Cultural Appropriations of the Ocean's Granddaughter**

Dr Julia Boll, Professor for English Literature and Cultural Studies (Paris-Lodron University of Salzburg) // LUX C121

10:40–12:20 **PANEL 1: The living and the non-living in aquatic entanglements**
// LUX C121

Mythical Waterscapes in Daisy Johnson's *Everything Under* and Graham Swift's *Waterland*

Ursula Kluwick (University of Bremen)

Entangled Forms of Blue Storytelling in Nnedi Okarafor's *Death of the Author*

Kimberly Woodward (University of Konstanz)

"With my aqueous eye, I spy": Myths of Woods and Water in Zoe Gilbert's *Mischief Acts* (2022)

Julia Wiedemann (Catholic University Eichstätt–Ingolstadt)

10:40–12:20 **PANEL 2: Fishy women and aquatic critters**
// LUX C126

Aquatic-rural cosmologies and the more-than-fish in lake Vänern

Wibke Straube (Karlstad University) and **Caroline Elgh** (Linköping University)

"Part of that World": Queering the Mermaid from Andersen to Disney

Mette Hildeman Sjölin (Halmstad University)

Wind Spells: Mermaids in East Asian 'Girls Love' Media

Joseph Crawford (University of Exeter)

12:20–13:30 **LUNCH** // LUX Foyer

13:30–15:00 **PANEL 3: Sunken cities: living underwater**
// LUX C121

Flooded Worlds: Myth, History, and Future in Ben Smith's *Doggerland*

Alice Sundman (Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society)

Return to the Lost City: Finding a More-than-Human Home in the Post-Flood in
Kirsty Logan's *The Gracekeepers*

Jacqueline Koshorst (University of Kassel)

Underwater Utopia: Retelling the Myth of Atlantis in Ryan Coogler's *Wakanda
Forever*

Karolina Majcherek (AGH University of Science and Technology)

13:30–15:00 **PANEL 4: Between islands and shoals**
// LUX C126

"It must still be there where I left it, rising and sinking with the waves that break and
foam upon its rugged coastline:" Myths, Migration, Identity and Belonging in Eastern
Mediterranean Diaspora Narratives

Iris Gioti (University of Exeter)

"When he left the beach the sea was still going on": Maritime mythology in Derek
Wakott's *Omeros*

Kai Merten (University of Erfurt)

Body of Water

Martin Cathcart Frödén (Malmö University)

15:00–15:25 **FIKA** // LUX Foyer

15:30–17:00 **PANEL 5: Telling stories about water**
// LUX C121

Becoming Oceans, Following Traces: Water as Companion and Conduit in *Thunder
Song* (2024)

Juie Gune (Shiv Nadar University)

Aquatic Female Heroism and Normativity: Reading Yemayá Across Texts and Visual
Media

Johanna Ohlsson (Lund University)

"If we were to draw a flood": reconnecting through grief and celebration

Kate Adams (University of Salford)

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15:30–17:00 **PANEL 6: Aquatic horror and the weird**
// LUX C126

Toward a Blue Gothic: Rewriting Maritime Myth in Robert Eggers's *The Lighthouse*
Kevin Christopher Wolf (University of Bremen)

“We live on a placid island of ignorance in the midst of black seas of infinity [...]”
— Monstrous Marine Mythology in Lovecraftian Fiction
Leonie-Kathrin Broich (Heinrich Heine University)

Swimming Lessons // [reading from creative work]
Natalie Dederichs (University of Cologne)

18:30– **CONFERENCE DINNER**

Friday 12 June

09:30–11:00 **PANEL 7: Aquatic animals and climate symbolism**
// LUX C121

The Man, the Dolphin, and the River: Reading the boto myth in Elizabeth Bishop's 'The Riverman'

Elena de Wachter (Lund University)

Climate Crisis, Time, Identity, and Their Connections

Derya Alim (West University of Timișoara)

KLEE-UW! KLEE-UW! Pipsa Lonka stages ecological crisis where the Sea encounters the Land

Sofia Ahlberg and **Suzanne Ericson** (Uppsala University)

09:30–10:30 **PANEL 8: Shapeshifters and water spirits**
// LUX C126

Time to Cultivate Your Inner Seal: Eric Linklater's "Sealskin Trousers" as Posthumanist Guide to Mutability

Karin M. Danielsson (Mälardalen University)

Tales from a Naiad // [reading from creative work]

Ella R. Self (University of Sheffield)

09:30–11:00 **PANEL 9: Aquatic political thought [digital panel]**
// stream in LUX A127

Connecting Patriarchy and Capitalism through Hindu River Mythologies

Aditi Basu (Independent researcher)

Recalling the Gayana Myth in the Age of Anthropocene: The Poetics and Politics of Orijit Sen's *River of Stories*

Sudipta Pal (The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad)

Carl Schmitt's Leviathan: From the Depths of the Ocean to the Spaces of Politics

Orazio Maria Gnerre (Institute for the History of the Italian Risorgimento)

- 11:10–12:50 **KEYNOTE 2: Eating at the Sea: Storying Exposure with Oceanic Posthumanities**
Dr Cecilia Åsberg, Professor and Chair of Gender, Nature, Culture (Linköping University) // LUX C121
- 12:50–14:00 **LUNCH** // LUX Foyer
- 14:00–15:30 **PANEL 10: Cosmology, the cosmos, and water myths [digital panel]**
// stream in LUX C121
- Dolphins...In Space! An Inverted Odyssey in David Brin's *Uplift* Series
Meghan Kuckelman (Meio Univeristy)
- Reimagining the Matsya Narrative through *The Hungry Tide* and *Beasts of the Southern Wild*
Shantanu Siuli (Akal University)
- Summoning the storm clouds: Rewriting Anglo-Celtic water myths within contemporary Australian fiction
Jess Woods (Griffith University)
- 14:00–15:30 **PANEL 11: Living with and through water**
// LUX C126
- Cosmic Churnings and Oceanic Ecology: Reimagining Samudra Manthan in the Anthropocene
Tanushree Ghosh (University of Copenhagen)
- Mermaid Becomings: Travelling Water-women in Debra Dank's *We Come with this Place*
Louise Mullavey (Linköping University)
- Narratives of Swimming the English Channel: Porous Bodies and Troubled Water
Ellen Turner (Lund University)
- 16:00–16:30 **FIKA AND CONCLUDING REMARKS** // LUX Foyer and LUX C121