



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 REMARKS** **LUX C121**
- 09:30–10:35 **KEYNOTE 1: Medea on the Edge: Contemporary Prose Narratives and Cultural Appropriations of the Ocean's Granddaughter** **LUX C121**
- Chair: Monika Class*
- Dr Julia Boll, Professor for English Literature and Cultural Studies
(Paris-Lodron University of Salzburg)
- 10:40–12:20 **PANEL 1: The living and the non-living in aquatic entanglements** **LUX C121**
- Chair: Cian Duffy*
- 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 Okorafor'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**
- Chair: Jacqueline Koshorst*
- 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**

Chair: Julia Wiedemann

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**

Chair: Ursula Kluwick

"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 // [reading from creative work]

Martin Cathcart Frödén (Malmö University)

15:00–15:25 **FIKA** **LUX Foyer**

15:30–16:30 **PANEL 5: Telling stories about water** **LUX C121**

Chair: Sofia Ahlberg

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

Kate Adams (University of Salford)

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

Ella R. Self (University of Sheffield)

15:30–17:15 **PANEL 6: Aquatic horror and the weird**

LUX C126

Chair: Sara Dahlberg

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 Düsseldorf)

Finding Your Inner Seal: Myth, Mutability and Madness in Eric Linklater's "Sealskin Trousers"
Karin M. Danielsson (Mälardalen University)

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

18:30– **CONFERENCE DINNER**

Lundabryggeriets ölkällare

Friday 12 June

10:00–11:30 **PANEL 7: Aquatic animals and climate symbolism** **LUX C121**

Chair: Kate Adams

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

Elena de Wachter (Lund University)

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

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

10:00–11:45 **PANEL 8: Aquatic political thought [digital panel]** **Stream in LUX A127**

Chair: Monika Class

Connecting Patriarchy and Capitalism through Hindu River Mythologies

Aditi Basu (Independent researcher)

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

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

Climate Crisis, Time, Identity, and Their Connections

Derya Alim (West University of Timișoara)

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)

Link to panel:

<https://lu-se.zoom.us/j/67751637262?pwd=yPA3bUgoDf5LDIy4xcsPjuBtwaj3o6.1>

Meeting ID: 677 5163 7262 || Password: **302341**

11:45–12:50 **KEYNOTE 2: Eating at the Sea: Storying Exposure with Oceanic Posthumanities** **LUX C121**

Chair: Barbara Barrow

Dr Cecilia Åsberg, Professor and Chair of Gender, Nature, Culture (Linköping University)

Link:

<https://lu-se.zoom.us/j/63936341795?pwd=BgS9uJU5Ey8WModhNPntOCK3MjIwDo.1>

Meeting ID: 639 3634 1795 || Password: **651934**

12:50–14:00	LUNCH	LUX Foyer
14:00–15:45	<p>PANEL 9: Cosmology, the cosmos, and water myths [digital panel]</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Barbara Barrow</i></p> <p>Dolphins...In Space! An Inverted Odyssey in David Brin's <i>Uplift</i> Series Meghan Kuckelman (Meio University)</p> <p>Reimagining the Matsya Narrative through <i>The Hungry Tide</i> and <i>Beasts of the Southern Wild</i> Shantanu Siuli (Akal University)</p> <p>Summoning the storm clouds: Rewriting Anglo-Celtic water myths within contemporary Australian fiction Jess Woods (Griffith University)</p> <p>Becoming Oceans, Following Traces: Water as Companion and Conduit in <i>Thunder Song</i> (2024) Juie Gune (Shiv Nadar University)</p> <p>Link to panel: https://lu-se.zoom.us/j/64090156240?pwd=uXxuN15UMQKuzG451nB5JHdcKbxl0x.1</p> <p>Meeting ID: 640 9015 6240 Password: 951143</p>	Stream in LUX C121
14:00–15:30	<p>PANEL 10: Living with and through water</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Alice Sundman</i></p> <p>Cosmic Churnings and Oceanic Ecology: Reimagining Samudra Manthan in the Anthropocene Tanushree Ghosh (University of Copenhagen)</p> <p>Mermaid Becomings: Travelling Water-women in Debra Dank's <i>We Come with this Place</i> Louise Mullavey (Linköping University)</p> <p>Narratives of Swimming the English Channel: Porous Bodies and Troubled Water Ellen Turner (Lund University)</p>	LUX C126
15:45–16:00	FIKA	LUX Foyer
16:00–16:30	CONCLUDING REMARKS	LUX C121