



ART, SCIENCE, AND THE THIRSTY WORLD
NOVEMBER 7-8 2014, CORNELL UNIVERSITY
(Barnes Hall and B20 Lincoln)

What and where is the art and environmental science nexus and how is it relevant? In what way can we leverage these diverse ways of knowing and engaging to cooperatively address the water crisis?

Twelve students at Oxford and Cornell Universities in faculties of the arts, environmental sciences, and engineering were placed in teams to work on creative collaborative projects over the course of several months. The teams presented their work-in-progress at a conference on the 30th of June in Oxford and their final projects will be presented on the 7th and 8th of November at this conference at Cornell University. Practitioners and researchers in the fine arts, poetry, photography, music composition and performance have collaborated with environmental science and engineering colleagues to explore and present their work on key areas of water scarcity in sectors such as agricultural food production, industry or local management and use.

Technological solutions to the global water-crisis tend to outpace the mechanisms for change in the political and cultural spheres; interdisciplinary work can achieve culturally sensitive solutions. The **Oxford Water Network**, and the **Mediterranean Initiative of the Cornell Institute for European Studies**, have fostered interdisciplinary approaches to water scarcity concerns. But arts practitioners and researchers seldom engage in direct dialogue with environmental and social scientists. Holistic approaches to water-scarcity issues that synthesize cultural and scientific understandings are essential if solutions are to be sustainable. The organizers of the project believe that the humanities, by drawing attention to the cultural voices of specific areas affected by water scarcity, can make a significant contribution to these solutions.

Art, Science and the Thirsty World is sponsored by The Brettschneider Fund (through CIES), the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, and TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities) and the Music Department.

Conference Program

Friday, November 7

WORKSHOP: *Bringing it to the Public Sphere: Where do we go from here?*

5.00 - Location 153 Uris Hall

Barbara Mink, former producer and artistic director of *Light in Winter*, Ithaca's unique festival fusing the sciences and the arts, meets with participants to provide feedback and guidance on future directions for their artistic-scientific collaborations.

PERFORMANCE: *Music for a Thirsty World*

8.00 pm – Barnes Hall, reception to follow

This concert will feature watery favorites by Liszt and Ravel with premieres of new works which have been generated through the conference collaborations by emerging British composers Toby Young and Solfa Carlile. Performers include pianist Andrew Zhou and singer Dawn Pierce with accompanist Graeme

Bailey. The program will include a piece by Taylan Cihan, electroacoustic composer, whose passing represents a loss not only to the Cornell community, but to the wider world of contemporary music.

Saturday, November 8

9.00-5.15 – B20 Lincoln Hall

CONFERENCE (order of presentations subject to change)

9.00 Registration and coffee

9.15 Welcome

9.30 SESSION I

- ❖ *Bombs to Blooms: and Exploded Retelling of the Slow (and Fast) Death that Grew Out of the Utopian Promise of Post-War Fertilizer Production*

Elizabeth Carter (CU), Toby Young (OX) and Charles Ogilvie (OX)

- ❖ *A Living Entity: London's Water Network*

Samantha Fernando (OX) and Sara Davis (CU)

11.00 Coffee break

11.30 SESSION II

- ❖ *Water's Future Age: Collective Transitions of Farms, Fuel, and Livelihood*

Avery Slater (CU), Jessica Thorn (OX)

- ❖ *Leakage: Fruits of a Collaboration*

Shriman Sai Raman (OX).

1.00 Lunch

2.00 SESSION III

- ❖ *A confluence of Concepts: Melding Scientific and Artistic Perspectives on Hydrology of Natural and Engineered Systems*

Cedric Mason (CU), Janet Banfield (OX)

- ❖ *The Enemy Within: Deactivating Helminth Eggs in the Crusade for Clean Water*

Benedict Morrison (OX) and Victoria Ferris (OX) (*Virtual presence*)

3.15 Coffee Break

3.45 Panel Roundtable

- ❖ To include Roald Hoffmann, Jonathan Culler, Gail Holst-Warhaft, Barbara Mink, Tammo Steenhuis, Ben Altman, Christine Destrempe, & Joni Doherty.

5.00 **Closing Remarks:** Roald Hoffmann

5.15 Post-conference reception in foyer B20 Lincoln Hall.