

ASCA WORKSHOP 2025

RE-IMAGINING UNIVERSALITY IN THE PLURIVERSE

May 26–28, 2025

Abstracts + Bios:



University of Amsterdam
The Netherlands



MON MAY 26

PC Hoofthuis,
Spuistraat 134

8:30 - 9:00 (PCH 0.05)
REGISTRATION & COFFEE

9:00 - 9:15 (PC 1.04)
WELCOME: Esther Peeren
(University of Amsterdam)

OPENING: Laila Bouziane (University of Amsterdam), Serra Hughes (University of Amsterdam)

9:15 - 10:45 (PC 1.04)
KEYNOTE 1: Markus Messling
(Käte Hamburger Centre CURE/ Saarland University)
• Tragic Universalism: The Case of Champollion
Respondent: Esther Peeren
(University of Amsterdam)
Chair: Ben Moore (University of Amsterdam)

10:45 - 11:00
COFFEE BREAK

11:00 - 12:30 (PCH 1.04)

KEYNOTE 2: Ruth Clemens

(Leiden University)

• Being on the Same Frequency: Ways of Listening to the Impossible.

Respondent: Jeff Diamanti (University of Amsterdam)

Chair: Marc Farrant (University of Amsterdam)

12:30 - 13:45 (PCH 1.04)

LUNCH BREAK

13:45 - 15:15 (PCH 0.05)

PANEL 1: RETHINKING THE HUMAN:

UNIVERSAL DIFFERENCE AND

HUMAN/NON-HUMAN RELATIONALITY.

Chair: Alessandra Benedicty-Kokken (University of Amsterdam)

Buket Korkut-Raptis (Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University)

• Nomadic Humanism: Against Colonial and Decolonial Approaches

Yaeko Hori (Nagoya University of Commerce and Business)

• Re-envisioning hope for all: Human identity formation research in Japan through a critical phenomenological approach

Turkuaz Benlioglu (University of Amsterdam)

• Nature is man's inorganic body': the extra-human universality of the human species in Marx and Benjamin

Amira Fretz (Leiden University)

• The Corpse as Feminist Posthumanist Figuration: Theorising Beyond International (Human Rights)

Law's Claim to Universalism

MON MAY 26

**PC Hoofthuis,
Spuistraat 134**

13:45 - 15:15 (PCH 1.05)

**PANEL 2: TELLING MANY WORLDS:
NEGOTIATIONS/IMAGININGS OF
PLURALITY AND UNIVERSALITY**

Chair: Paulo Lemos Horta (New York University)

Hanna Zehschnetzer (University of Cologne)

- Becoming-worlds: Postmigrant Literature in the Pluriverse

Mariefi Sykallou (Utrecht University)

- Tracing the Bacchae – Re-Imagining Universality Through Irrational Resistances

**Martina Flores Mendeville
(University of Amsterdam)**

- Cannibalizing Prometheus: Plural Embodiments of Myth

15:15 - 15:30 (PCH 1.04)

COFFEE BREAK

15:30 - 17:00 (PCH 1.05)

**PANEL 3: PLURIVERSAL PRACTICES:
PORTALS NOT WINDOWS**

Chair: Ruth Clemens (Leiden University)

**Victoria Vargas-Downing & Yael López-Torres
(University of Leeds & University of York)**

- From Windows to Portals: Ventana Conference, a Proposal for Co-Creating a Pluriversal Space in Academia

Christa-Maria Lerm Hayes (University of Amsterdam)

- Consilience: A Unity of Knowledge and the Role of Artistic Researchers Within and Beyond Universities

Kaat Kenis (University of Antwerp)

- Design to Misfit: Exploring Pluriversal Thinking through a Critical Design Workshop

Lisa Ezrati (Independent Researcher)

- Decolonizing from the Margins: Virtual Museums in the Context of War

15:30 - 17:00 (PCH 0.05)

**PANEL 4: MEMORY, ARCHIVES, AND CULTURAL
RESISTANCE IN THE PLURIVERSE**

Chair: Stephen Turner (University of Amsterdam)

Vinicius Fonseca (University of Utrecht)

- The World is More Than Just Europe: Re-thinking the Iberian “Age of Discoveries” from 15th–17th Century Through 21st Century Contestation of Cultural Heritage by Antiracist and Decolonial movements

Abdulkerim Pusat (University of Amsterdam)

- Creative Institutionalism in the Kurdish Diaspora: Dynamics, Challenges, and Contributions

Kaiqi Zhu (University of Amsterdam)

Bridging 1909: The Authenticity and Ethics of the AI-Restored Archival- Footage from Albert Kahn’s *Les Archives de la Planète*

17:00 - 18:00 (PCH 1.05)

WORKSHOP 1: PELORIC FLOWER

**Jennifer Crouch (art-science practitioner
and researcher)**

- Re-Imagining Interspecies-Ecological Pluriversal Futures

Chair: Laila Bouziane (University of Amsterdam)

18:00 - 19:00 (De Leeuwenkuil)

INFORMAL DRINKS

TUE MAY 27

PC Hoofthuis,
Spuistraat 134

9:15 - 10:45 (PCH 1.04)

KEYNOTE 3: Barnita Bagchi (University of Amsterdam)

- "A place of truth, discomfort and safety. A home where words and story reside": Universality in Entangled Literary Worlds

Respondent: **Stefan Niklas (University of Amsterdam)**

Chair: **Sudeep Dasgupta (University of Amsterdam)**

10:45 - 11:00 (PCH 1.04)

COFFEE BREAK

11:00 - 12:30 (PCH 1.04)

PANEL 5: TROUBLING UNIVERSALISMS REVISITED

Chair: **Oscar Talbot (University of Amsterdam)**

Marc Farrant (University of Amsterdam)

- Universality from Then to Now: The Realignment of Anti-Normative Critique in a Pluriversal World

Monique Roelofs (University of Amsterdam)

- The Aesthetics of the Strange: Unruly Universals and Perplexing Particularities in the Pluriverse

Steyn Bergs (Utrecht University)

- Grounding the Grid: On Saba Innab's *Tread Lightly – Leave no Trace*

Ben Moore (University of Amsterdam)

- Universality and Incompleteness in *In the Light of What We Know*

11:00 - 12:30 (PCH 1.14)

PANEL 6: AFFECTIVE PLURALITIES: SHARED WORLDS OF LOSS, VULNERABILITY, AND ECOLOGICAL CARE

Chair: **Jennifer Crouch (Artist, researcher, author and art-science practitioner)**

Nick Psomas (University of Amsterdam)

- Towards a Dialectical Imaginary of the Planet: Speculating about Open Totality with Édouard Glissant

Manuel Rodeiro (Mississippi State University)

- Liberalism and the Pluriverse: Respecting Eco-Relational Pluralism

Suzanne Weijland (Radboud University)

- Mourning the Unknowable: Butler and Derrida on Witnessing Ecological Vulnerability

Jingyi Wan (University of Amsterdam)

- A World of Grief: Making Sense of Westernization in Li Yiyun's *Where Reasons End*

12:30 - 13:45 (PCH 1.04)

LUNCH BREAK

13:45 - 15:15 (PCH 0.05)

PANEL 7: ASSEMBLAGES OF THE PLANETARY: ECOLOGY, PLANETARY EPISTEMOLOGIES, DECOLONIAL PERSPECTIVES.

Chair: **Miloud Rahmoun (Ibn Zohr University)**

Shabnam Shirzadi (University of California)

- Unsettling the Archive: Spectral Memory and the Haunted Afterlife of Saartje Baartman.

Deniz Buga (Independent Artist)

- Performance Lecture: mediterraneans

Jan Babnik (IRRIS Institute)

- Mediating Climate Truths: Visual Evidence, Trust, and Public Deliberation

Brian Trinanda Kusuma Adi (University of Amsterdam)

- Toward Ethnomusicology 3.0: Applied Collaborative Ecomusicology in the Cosmological Musicking and the Mountain Cultural Festival

TUE MAY 27

**PC Hoofthuis,
Spuistraat 134**

13:45 - 15:15 (PCH 1.14)

**PANEL 8: PLURIVERSAL AESTHETICS:
EMBODIED KNOWLEDGE, ART PRACTICES
AND RELATIONAL IMAGINARIES**

**Chair: Monique Roelofs (University of
Amsterdam)**

Agnieszka Hudzik (Saarland University)

• Re-Imagining Shared Ground: *Halka/Haiti*
by Malinowska and C.T. Jasper

**Marieke Naomi van der Steen (University of
Amsterdam)**

• Third Space as Bodily Interaction

**Suzi Asa (University of British Columbia
Okanagan)**

• Sketching the Pluriverse: On Drawing, Deep
Listening, and the Ruptures of Fieldwork

Joseph Steele (Independent Researcher)

• Contact: Placedness, Knowing and Poiēsis in
Renée Green's Spatial Projects

15:15 - 15:30 (PCH 1.04)

COFFEE BREAK

15:30 - 16:30 (PCH 0.05)

SEMINAR DISCUSSION 1

Siobhan Wall-Suleyman (Artist, writer and curator)

• Universal Truths: The Politics of a Pedagogy of Care
and the Contemporary Relevance of the Universal
Declaration of Human Rights Within and Beyond
Higher Educational Institutions

Chair: Amira Fretz (Leiden University)

15:30 - 16:30 (PCH 1.14)

SEMINAR DISCUSSION 2

Jonas Elbousty (Yale University)

• Narrative Hegemony and the Arab-Muslim Other
in the U.S.: Toward a Pluriversal Discourse

Chair: Elliot C. Mason (Uppsala University)

16:45 - 18:00 (PCH 0.05)

WORKSHOP 2: MORE THAN ME

Siobhan Wall-Suleyman (Artist, writer and curator)

• Interactive artistic workshop on embodiment
and plurality

Chair: Serra Hughes (University of Amsterdam)

*Note: This workshop is open, accessible, and
participation is encouraged to all, regardless of
artistic, writing, or other skills.*

WED MAY 28

University
Library,
Singel 425

9:00 - 10:30 (Doelenzaal)

KEYNOTE 4: Paulo Lemos Horta
(New York University)

- Universal Literature in an Age of Nationalism
- Respondent: **Barnita Bagchi** (University of Amsterdam)

Chair: **Jaap Kooijman** (University of Amsterdam)

10:30 - 10:45 (Doelenzaal)

COFFEE BREAK

11:00 - 12:30 (Doelenzaal)

**PANEL 9: MOBILITY, POSTCOLONIALITY,
AND PLURAL NARRATIVES**

Chair: **Niall Martin** (University of Amsterdam)

Natalia Andrievskikh & Andrei Guriuanu (Cornell University)

- What Remains: Rethinking Universality through the Counter-Narratives of Waste

Sudeep Dasgupta (University of Amsterdam)

- Restaging the Universal, Upstaging the Particular and Morphologies of the Self

Elliot C. Mason (Independent Researcher)

- Judith Butler and Marxism: Pluriversal Abolitionisms

Manpreet Janeja (Allard Pierson Museum)

- Food, Eating and Feeding Contact Zones: Home-making 'in' the Pluriverse

12:30 - 13:45 (Doelenzaal)

COFFEE BREAK

13:45 - 15:15 (Doelenzaal)

**PANEL 10: REWRITING THE UNIVERSAL:
PLURIVERSAL PHILOSOPHIES AND
ONTOLOGICAL ENCOUNTERS**

Chair: **Markus Messling** (Saarland University)

Miloud Rahmoun (University Ibn Zohr)

- Rereading Abdelkébir Khatibi's *La Mémoire Tatouée* and *Amour Bilingue* Through the Lens of Double Critique: Negotiating Self, Space and Identity

Azyza Deiab (Saarland University)

- Debating Talmud and Psychoanalysis: Universality and (Non-)identity in the Thought of Gérard Haddad

Stephen Turner (University of Amsterdam)

- Neither One Nor Many: The End(s) of Being

15:15 - 15:30 (Doelenzaal)

COFFEE BREAK

15:30–16:30 (Doelenzaal)

FILM SCREENING

Aylin Kuryel (University of Amsterdam),
Deniz Buga (Artist), **Firat Yücel** (Artist)

- Dreams and Fragments: From Amsterdam to Palestine

Chair: **Abdulkerim Pusat** (University of Amsterdam)

16:30–17:00 (Doelenzaal)

CLOSING: Jaap Kooijman (ASCA Director,
University of Amsterdam)

17:00 - 19:00 (Doelenzaal)

BORREL & ASCA AWARDS

Drinks and snacks provided by ASCA
+ the announcement of 2025 awards

The ASCA Workshop 2025, Re-Imagining
Universality in the Pluriverse, is organized
by Laila Bouziane and Serra Hughes. Design
by Armando Troisi. Special Thanks to Eloe
Kingma, Jantine van Gogh, Jaap Kooijman,
and Esther Peeren for their support. Warm
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