



UNIVERSITÀ
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PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

25 SEPTEMBER, 2-4PM (GMT+2)

**PROFESSOR WALTER LEAL, OPENING LECTURE, AI IN
ACTION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

2 OCTOBER, 2-6PM (GMT+2)

**EVE TEAM, CLASS BUILDING: CREATING BONDS
BETWEEN PEOPLE AND NATURE**

9 OCTOBER, 2-6PM (GMT+2)

**DOCTOR DANFORD CHIBVONGODZE, ROOTED
TOGETHER: UBUNTU FOR NATURE**

16 OCTOBER, 2-4PM (GMT+2)

**PROFESSOR VERONICA FEDERICO AND PROFESSOR
MARIA STELLA ROGNONI, EVE'S WAY: OUR
METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH**

23 OCTOBER, 2-6 PM (GMT+2)

**PROFESSOR MELANIE MURCOTT, TRANSFORMATIVE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTITUTIONALISM**

30 OCTOBER, 2-6 PM (GMT+2)

**PROFESSOR KATE RIGBY, ENVIRONMENTAL
LITERARY STUDIES AND DECOLONIAL ECOPOETICS**

27 NOVEMBER, 2-6 PM (GMT+2)

STUDENTS' PAPERS PRESENTATIONS

THE SPEAKERS

WALTER LEAL IS A DISTINGUISHED "EURO-PROFESSOR", HOLDING PROFESSORIAL POSTS AT UNIVERSITIES IN GERMANY (CHAIR OF CLIMATE CHANGE MANAGEMENT AT THE HAMBURG UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES), UNITED KINGDOM (MANCHESTER MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY), SWEDEN (UNIVERSITY OF UPPSALA) AND POLAND (MERTO UNIVERSITY). HE HAS TWO MAIN RESEARCH INTERESTS. THE FIRST IS IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, WHERE HE HOLDS A WORLD RECORD OF PUBLICATIONS. THE SECOND IS CLIMATE CHANGE, TO WHICH HE HAS BEEN PROVIDING A KEY CONTRIBUTION TO THE LITERATURE, ALSO INCLUDING ASPECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH.



DANFORD CHIBVONGODZE IS A RESEARCH FELLOW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL'S CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA AND PART TIME LECTURER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG AND MANAGEMENT COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (MANCOSA). HE HAS OVER 10 YEARS OF COMBINED EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD OF RESEARCH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT, PUBLIC SERVICE, AND TEACHING AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL. HE COORDINATED AND MANAGED COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND CONDUCTED PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION, HEALTH PROMOTION, POVERTY MITIGATION IN RURAL SOUTH AFRICA. HE IS INVOLVED IN DIFFERENT RESEARCH FIELDS RANGING FROM ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT, WATER SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE, PUBLIC SECTOR INNOVATION AND HOUSING IN SOUTH AFRICA.

MELANIE MURCOTT IS AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT THE INSTITUTE OF MARINE AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN SINCE 2013. SHE OBTAINED HER LL.D. (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW) FROM NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY. BEFORE JOINING ACADEMIA IN 2011, MELANIE PRACTISED AS AN ATTORNEY, INCLUDING AT HOGAN LOVELLS (SOUTH AFRICA) WHERE SHE WAS A PARTNER. FROM 2012 TO 2013, MELANIE TAUGHT AND ENGAGED IN RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA. AMONG OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS, SHE AUTHORED THE BOOK "TRANSFORMATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTITUTIONALISM" (BRILL, 2022), A SIGNIFICANT MONOGRAPH WHICH DEVELOPS A NOVEL APPROACH TO THE ADJUDICATION OF DISPUTES CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, GIVEN THAT WE FACE A PLANETARY CRISIS WITH MYRIAD JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS.



KATE RIGBY (FELLOW OF THE AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF THE HUMANITIES) IS ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE, WHERE SHE LEADS A RESEARCH HUB FOR MULTIDISCIPLINARY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES IN THE HUMANITIES, AND VISITING SCHOLAR IN THE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES AT BATH SPA UNIVERSITY. HER RESEARCH LIES AT THE INTERSECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LITERARY, PHILOSOPHICAL, HISTORICAL AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES, WITH A SPECIALIST INTEREST IN EUROPEAN ROMANTICISM, ECOPOETICS, MULTISPECIES STUDIES, AND DISASTER STUDIES. HER BOOKS INCLUDE: TOPOGRAPHIES OF THE SACRED: THE POETICS OF PLACE IN EUROPEAN ROMANTICISM (2004), DANCING WITH DISASTER: ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORIES, NARRATIVES, AND ETHICS FOR PERILOUS TIMES (2016), RECLAIMING ROMANTICISM: TOWARDS AN ECOPOETICS OF DECOLONIZATION (2020) AND MEDITATIONS ON CREATION IN AN ERA OF EXTINCTION (2023).

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