



Call for papers - ICA Preconference

Other than Human World: emerging vegetal communication in the public space

ICA divisions: Environmental Communication Division and French Research Group Communication, Environment, Sciences, Society and French Society of Information and Communication Sciences (SFSIC)

Deadline for Extended Abstracts: January 31, 2022, 23:59 GMT

OFF-SITE | Aix-Marseille Université
Aix-en-Provence Campus
(Faculté des Arts, Lettres, Langues et Sciences Humaines, le Cube),
29 Av. Robert Schuman,
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Conference date : May 25 -9:30 - 17:00 – 2022
May 26 : 9h-12h -2022

Call for paper

Other than Human World: emerging vegetal communication in the public space

Call for papers / contributions:

500 words in regard to the selected workshop.

At the interface between the natural environment and human communication, the understanding and the interest of non-human worlds are emerging more and more strongly in the public space. Connected to the notions of biodiversity and ecosystem, and fully inscribed in the vision of a "one-ness" of the natural world, the emergence of the living as a whole seeps into the public arenas, in a non-linear and sometimes non-visible way. Some emblematic struggles, some symbols crystallize the media attention. Polar bears, orangutans, bees, tigers have benefited from public sympathy, set up as banners for the struggle of NGOs against much larger phenomena, those of climate change, loss of biodiversity or deforestation. The public agenda and attention focus on species, either threatened with extinction or threatening (because they are invasive, for example) before moving on to other media emergencies. Research in environmental communication has thus been able to highlight our approach and our imaginary of the Wild (Busmek, 1997 2005, 2007 ; Collins & Kephart, 2007, Hardy and Short, 1997 ; Horn, 2007, Paystrup, 1993, Schwarze, 2001 ; Wilson, 2007, Borusé, 2000), our relationship to nature and biodiversity (Denton 2001, Hall, 1992, Eilers 1995, Cooper 1993), our perception of other "voices" (Coppola, 2001, Freeman, 2008, Sanchez, 1993, Meisner, 1995, 1997, 2005, Davis 1997)

These non-human "voices" are thus the object of fragmented and isolated attentions, or even absent from mediation devices because they are "invisible" to us (Wandersee, Schussler 2001; Morizot, Zhong Mengual 2018; Morizot 2020; Batke, Dallimore, Bostock, 2020). Nonetheless, this cognitive and comprehensive emergence is increasing and becoming normalized via a parallel legislative struggle led by animal abuse associations.

Another form of life is emerging because of this evolution in our consideration of the living world and in particular the animal world. Less visible, less mediatic, sometimes more intimate too, the vegetal world is also reconsidered, in multiple dimensions, between instrumentalization and contemplation, by arousing a large palette of meaning constructions. If media coverage is more discreet, it is no less present (Cholet, Catellani & Pascual Espuny, 2020, Halford, 2013 Fournier, Moula 2018). Our relationship with plants, algae, mosses, mushrooms, trees, flowers, and forests opens up multiple fields of study: beyond our relationship with the green, emblematic nature, it is also our relationship with light, food, fertilization, shade, and colors that we observe. From the garden to the mythological forests, from our vegetable gardens to our plate, from the jungle to our urban plane trees, from our parks to our wild moors, our relationship to time is changing, adapting to the rhythm of the seasons and to non-human growth times. Our relationship to space is also evolving from the microscopic sequencing of the pharmacopoeia to the macro-economic management of large agricultural and forest areas. Understanding plants is another way of looking at our relationship with the world.

Research in biology and ecology, but also in philosophy, invites us to perceive plants in a new light, notably as sensitive beings, but also intelligent, even conscious (Calvo, Keijzer, 2009; Gagliano, 2012; Mancuso, 2013; Trewavas, 2016; Tassin, 2016; Chamovitz, 2017; Calvo, Gagliano, 2020; Parise, 2020). Best-selling books (Wohlleben 2015, 2019, 2021) and several documentaries and media coverage, in the field of popularization, show the presence of a cultural movement that seems to be changing the foundations of our view of human-animal-plant relationships.

To consider our communication on the plant world thus leads us to reflect and analyze our relationship with living beings that are essential to ecosystems, and that have crucial symbolic, environmental, societal, economic, and cultural importance. Through the study of communication, different axes seem to emerge, which we suggest as a non-exhaustive list for communication proposals:

- The evolution of the representations, discourses, and narratives on plants in education, media and digital social media.
- The enrollment of plants in different types of organizations and their public relation strategies: political (territories and territorial administrations), associative (NGO's strategic communication) and commercial issues (strategies of the practices known as "green").
- The question of artistic contributions and/or the question of the relationship to the body and to emotions (movies, artworks, songs, paintings).
- Mutations in the relationship to the norm and self-regulation in the relationship to the living: naturalist vision, anthropocene and anthropization issues.

Au-delà du monde des humains : communication végétale émergente dans l'espace public

Appel à contributions

500 mots

L'émergence du vivant dans son entier capillarise, de proche en proche, les arènes publiques, de manière non linéaire et parfois non visible. Certaines luttes emblématiques, certains symboles cristallisent l'attention médiatique. Les ours polaires, les orangs-outans, les abeilles, les grands tigres ont bénéficié d'une sympathie publique, érigés en étendards de lutte des ONG contre des phénomènes beaucoup plus vastes, ceux du changement climatique ou de la déforestation. L'agenda et l'attention publique nous polarisent sur des espèces, soit menacées d'extinction, soit menaçantes (car invasives par exemple) avant de passer à d'autres urgences médiatiques. Ces « voix » non humaines font ainsi l'objet d'attentions parcellaires et isolées, voire elles sont absentes des dispositifs de médiation parce qu'elles nous sont « invisibles » (Wandersee, Schussler 2001 ; Morizot, Zhong Mengual 2018 ; Morizot 2020 ; Batke, Dallimore, Bostock, 2020). Il n'empêche que cette émergence cognitive et compréhensive croît et se normalise via un combat parallèle législatif mené par des associations de lutte contre la maltraitance animale.

Une autre forme de vie pointe à la faveur de cette évolution de notre considération du vivant et en particulier du monde animal. Moins visible, moins médiatique, parfois plus intime aussi, le monde végétal est également reconsidéré, dans de multiples dimensions, entre instrumentalisation et contemplation, en suscitant une palette large de constructions de sens. Si la médiatisation est plus discrète, elle n'en est pas moins présente (Cholet, Catellani & Pascual Espuny, 2020). Notre rapport aux plantes, aux algues, aux mousses, aux champignons, aux arbres, aux fleurs, aux forêts ouvre de multiples champs d'étude : au-delà de notre rapport à une nature verte, emblématique, c'est également notre rapport à la lumière, à la nourriture, à la fertilisation, à l'ombre, aux couleurs que nous observons. Du jardin aux forêts mythologiques, de nos potagers à notre assiette, de la jungle à nos platanes urbains, de nos parcs à nos landes sauvages, notre rapport au temps change, s'adaptant au rythme des saisons et à des temps de croissances non humains. Notre rapport à l'espace évolue également : du séquençage microscopique de la pharmacopée à la gestion macro-économique des grands espaces agricoles et forestiers. Appréhender le végétal est une autre entrée réflexive pour envisager notre rapport au monde.

Des recherches en biologie et en écologie, mais aussi en philosophie, invitent à les percevoir sous un nouveau jour, notamment comme des êtres sensibles, mais aussi intelligents, voire conscients (Calvo, Keijzer, 2009 ; Gagliano, 2012 ; Mancuso, 2013 ; Trewavas, 2016 ; Tassin, 2016 ; Chamovitz, 2017 ; Calvo, Gagliano, 2020 ; Parise, 2020). Des livres à succès (Wohlleben 2015, 2019, 2021) et un certain nombre de documentaires et de couverture médiatique, dans le domaine de la vulgarisation notamment, montrent la présence d'un mouvement culturel qui semble modifier les fondations de notre vision des relations entre humain, animal et végétal.

Envisager notre communication sur le monde végétal nous conduit donc à réfléchir et analyser notre rapport à un vivant primordial des écosystèmes, et qui revêt une importance symbolique, environnementale, sociétale, économique, culturelle. Par l'étude de la communication, ce sont différents axes qui nous paraissent émerger, que nous suggérons comme liste non exhaustive pour les propositions de communication :

- L'évolution de la vision naturaliste (telle que théorisée par Philippe Descola)
- La question des récits du rapport au vivant

- La question des territoires et leurs stratégies de valorisation et de promotion des pratiques dites vertes
- La question des apports artistiques, dont nombre sont actuellement portés par des territoires et/ou la question du rapport au corps et aux émotions
- La remédiation de la culture par la nature
- Les questions de normalisation et d'institutionnalisation de notre rapport au vivant incluant les différents acteurs, tels que les Parcs Nationaux ou régionaux ou les ensembles transfrontaliers
- Les mutations du rapport à la norme et d'autorégulation dans le rapport au vivant
- Les questions d'édu-communication
- Les questions d'anthropisation
- Les questions politiques, associatives mais aussi marchandes.

Keynote speakers will be announced on our website : <https://vegetals.sciencesconf.org>

SUBMISSION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Authors should submit an extended abstract of 500 words (not including references, figures, and tables) to: <https://vegetals.sciencesconf.org> by January 31, 2022.

The extended abstracts should include the main idea/argument, research questions, a short literature review and/or theoretical perspectives, information on methodology and empirical findings (if applicable). We welcome different approaches, including discussions of literature, concepts and theories, historical perspectives, and empirical analyses. All submitted abstracts must include name, affiliation and contact details. Decisions on acceptance of the extended abstracts will be made by February 28, 2022. Authors of accepted abstracts are expected to attend the preconference and present in person.

Registration Fee :

50 USD / for registered participants, speakers and attendees.

Fee includes : participation in the conference, buffets (finger food) and coffee. The preconference is open to both ICA and non-ICA members.

Sponsorship / Division/Interest Group Affiliation

This preconference has received endorsements from the ICA Environmental Communication divisions, as well as the French Society of Information and Communication Sciences (SFSIC)

Organizers :

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The Scientific Comity is in the process of being set up

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