

Interdisciplinary Symposium

BALTIC WATERSCAPES

Entanglements in Natureculture

13 – 14 October 2025

University of Gdańsk

As one of the youngest and most shallow seas on the planet — linked to the Atlantic Ocean only by a narrow strait — the Baltic Sea is a uniquely brackish body of water, low in salt and oxygen, bordered by rich landscapes and distinctive ecosystems. Framed by Gdańsk and the broader Pomeranian region, where land and sea, rivers and lakes continuously converge, this symposium invites participants to engage with the more-than-human dimensions of life that matter to our brackish, swampy environment.

With particular focus on contemporary ecological challenges and a strong commitment to advancing cultural theory — from Hydrofeminism and the Blue Humanities to More-than-Human theory — we seek to examine how water shapes, disrupts, and sustains lifeforms, narratives, and social structures in a time of ecological precarity, geopolitical tension, and cultural transformation.

This symposium offers a space for interdisciplinary dialogue across the humanities and social sciences, bringing together philosophers, sociologists, geologists, scholars of literature and culture, philologists, curators, artists, and representatives from cultural institutions and NGOs. Situating ourselves at the Baltic coast, we aim to reflect on entanglements of nature and culture at large — what Donna Haraway calls *natureculture* — with particular emphasis on the symbolic, material, and political significance of water today.

We encourage contributions that address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- Waterscapes in language, literature, art, and cultural memory (Polish, Slavic, Baltic, Nordic, etc.)
- The Blue Humanities and the philosophy of water
- Water as a (more-than-human) site of conflict, cooperation, and resistance
- Climate change, hydropolitics, and environmental justice
- Water and the Anthropocene: local responses to global crises
- Nonhuman agency and the ethics of more-than-human entanglements
- Hydrofeminism and post-critical theories of water
- Cultural and artistic practices engaging with the ecological crises

We welcome proposals in a range of formats, such as traditional academic papers, artistic interventions, performative lectures, and roundtable discussions. The primary language of the symposium is English; however, presentations in Polish may also be considered — please contact the organisers in advance to discuss language arrangements. Selected contributions from the symposium will be considered for publication in a peer-reviewed volume with V&A Publishers, an imprint of Brill Publishers.

Submission Guidelines:

Please submit a 300-word abstract and a short bio (max. 150 words) to irena.chawriska@ug.edu.pl or R.Dolphijn@uu.nl by 30.06.2025. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by 15.07.2025. For more information, please contact dr Irena Chawriska (irena.chawriska@ug.edu.pl) or dr Rick Dolphijn (R.Dolphijn@uu.nl).

Join us in exploring the fluid entanglements of contemporary waterscapes — where the cultural and ecological merge, and where new understandings of human and more-than-human futures emerge.

ORGANIZERS

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