

CultureNature Literacy

Title:

Shaping the Future in the Anthropocene

Thursday, **October 17, 2024**, Faculty of Education and Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor,
Koroška 160, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia



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PROGRAM

8:30–8:55 Registration and morning coffee

8:55–9:00 **Welcome speech:**

Prof. Dr. Milena Ivanuš Grmek, Dean of the Faculty of Education, University of Maribor

Prof. Dr. Darko Friš, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor

9:00–9:30 Lecture 1: **Prof. Dr. Carmen Sippl**, University College of Teacher Education Lower Austria, CNL Scientific Lead

CultureNature Literacy

Teachers need positive visions of the future, not catastrophic scenarios. Environmental and climate issues are often discussed in terms of disasters, from species extinction to floods, glacial melting, viral pandemics and forest fires. In contrast, the concept of CultureNature Literacy (CNL) emphasizes cultural sustainability and offers a more positive perspective for the future. The CNL Erasmus+ project identifies core competencies for shaping the future in the Anthropocene and provides practical examples for the classroom.

Carmen Sippl, HS-Prof. Mag. Dr. UNESCO Chair in Learning and Teaching Futures Literacy, University Professor for Cultural Semiotics and Multilingualism and Head of Centre Futures Literacy at the University College of Teacher Education Lower Austria; lecturer at the Faculty of Philological and Cultural Studies at the University of Vienna. Focal points in teaching and research: Anthropocene & literature, cultural ecology & literature didactics, inter-/transculturality, academic writing.



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9:30–10:15 Lecture 2: **Michael Adler**, *tippingpoints - Agency for Sustainable Communication*, Bonn/Berlin, Germany

Climate protection is human protection - Why the Climate Crisis Requires a Different Discourse.

The debate on the climate crisis is often dominated by negative stories, with words like 'ban', 'failure' and 'loss of prosperity'. My mission, however, is to tell a different story - that of a desirable future. This future includes agriculture in harmony with nature and biodiversity, cities designed for people, and local energy production from natural resources. It is a story of cooperation, balance and a better life for all. We should focus on solutions, not problems.

Michael Adler is a German journalist and communications expert. He has a Master's degree in political science, history and macroeconomics and has worked as a political journalist for half of his professional life. Since 2012 he has been running his own communications agency, *tippingpoints*. He develops large-scale campaigns for the German federal ministries, campaigns for change in cities and communities, as well as facilitates stakeholder processes in administrations and companies to increase their sustainability. In 2022, he published the book *Climate protection is human protection - Why the Climate Crisis Requires a Different Discourse*.



10:15–10:45 Lecture 3: **Dr. Davorin Tome**, National Institute of Biology, Slovenia

Are We Alone in Universe?

When we think about this question, we often overlook the fact that we are surrounded by an incredible variety of species on Earth alone, which we now call biodiversity. Changes in biodiversity are a natural biological process, but those caused by humans are problematic. Our influence is causing species on our planet to die out thousands of times faster than they would without our intervention. The speaker emphasises that humans often see themselves as the most successful species on the planet, able to adapt to all changes. However, it is important to question whether this perception is correct.

Dr. Davorin Tome is a biologist and researcher at the National Institute of Biology in Slovenia. He is also a writer, author of several manuals and textbooks, an excellent photographer and was a professor for many years. His research focuses on ecosystems.



10:45–11:15 ***Coffee break***

11:15–12:00 Lecture 4: **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aleš Maver**, University of Maribor, Slovenia

How Unique is the Anthropocen?

The lecture is divided into two parts. The first part deals with the question of whether the Anthropocene is a continuation of the intense human impact on nature that began with the Neolithic revolution, or whether it was only made possible by the end of the Neolithic paradigm in many parts of the world. The answer to this question has implications for the content of the second part of the lecture. In the second case, the usefulness of historical examples for addressing future challenges is limited. However, I am convinced that historical parallels can be found in some highly urbanized societies with a considerable level of prosperity.

Dr. Aleš Maver is an associate professor of mediaeval history at the Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor. His research interests include the history and historiography of late antiquity, the history of early Christianity, the Slovenian church and cultural history as well as the history of Eastern Europe. He is also interested in politics and elections, and enjoys to interpret them from a broader historical perspective.



12:00–12:45 Lecture 5: **Dr. Peter Kozmus**, Apimondia, Slovenian Beekeepers' Association, IGCAT

Why and How to Adapt Beekeeping Practices to Climate Change?

Climate change has a significant impact on the life and development of bees. Intense weather events are reducing grazing opportunities, and the flowering dynamics of honey plants are changing. These new conditions have a significant impact on the economics of beekeeping, especially for larger beekeepers who are faced with the dilemma of whether to continue beekeeping. This article explains how beekeepers are adapting to the changing situation and where their biggest challenges lie.

Dr. Peter Kozmus is a renowned bee expert who enjoys a high reputation at home and especially abroad. He is Vice President of the Apimondia International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations and Chairman of the Beekeeping Council at the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Food. He is the technical director of the Carpenter Bee Breeding Programme at the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association. He is responsible for World Bee Day (May 20). Every year, he promotes this day to various target groups.



12:45–13:45 **Lunch**

13:45–15:15 Workshop 1 (in English): **Meta Pivec**, Pivola Botanical Garden, University of Maribor
Plant Journeys and Impacts on Culture

The workshop explores the interconnection of plants, people and culture by looking at the historical, social and environmental dimensions of plant journeys and their impact on human society. The workshop will take place on the natural island of the Drava river, Maribor Island, which is now protected as a natural monument.

Meta Pivec, Specialist Adviser at the Pivola Botanical Garden of University of Maribor, is the author of articles on ornamental, new and unusual plants and is fascinated by the versatility of plants. She is engaged in promotional activities, organises educational events, guides school and tourist groups and is a mentor to students.



Online workshop 2 (in English): **Dr. Vesna Klokočovnik**, University of Maribor, Slovenia

Simple Behavioural Experiments Can Contribute to a Positive Attitude Towards Living Beings and Nature.

Observation is a method of experimental work. It is also a method that allows us to change existing views about animals and the living world. Participants will be introduced to simple behavioral experiments that they can incorporate into their animal-related learning sessions without harming or hurting the animals, and that they can easily return to the wild upon completion. They will be conducted with animals that we have different attitudes towards. We will explain how and why they are done and how they contribute to a positive attitude and empathy towards animals and an understanding of their needs in the Anthropocene.

Dr. Vesna Klokočovnik is an assistant professor of zoology at Department of Biology at Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Maribor. Her research work focuses on animal behavior, particularly the predatory behavior of sit-and-wait predators and the interactions between predator and prey.



15:15–15:45 **Coffee break**

15:45–16:15 Lecture 6: **Prof. Dr. Berbeli Wanning**, University of Siegen, Germany
Environmental Empathy - How CNL Empowers Emotional Energy

While CNL reveals the cognitive understanding of interrelationship between nature, culture and the human, it is also empowering emotion and empathy by the means of literature. Narrating nature gives another introspection than analyzing it - but both sides are needed for transformative education. The talk points out ways of using literature as a "tool" to achieve these demanding goals.

Prof. Dr. Berbeli Wanning is a Professor of German Literature and Didactics at the University of Siegen, Germany. Her research interests are ecocriticism as well as ESD and CNL teaching methods.



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16:15–17.00 Lecture 7: **Linguists from the ZELEN.KOM - Communicating the Climate Crisis project**,
Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor

Telling the Climate Crisis Through Stories

How can climate change be tackled in schools? Although it is often a complex, interdisciplinary topic, students hear a lot about the climate crisis in the media, but at home they may hear that there is no climate crisis at all. The research field of climate crisis communication offers answers to this question. Researchers in this field are looking for simple solutions to talk to different target groups about the climate crisis. We want to reach them and be understood. One way to do this is through the stories we tell.

ZELEN.KOM (2022-2025) is a project of the Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor. It brings together researchers from eleven fields to communicate the climate crisis in a way that is suitable for businesses, unprofitable organisations and students. They believe that only such an integrated approach to the climate crisis can lead to the mobilisation of these target groups.



ZELEN.KOM

17:00–17:15 **Discussion and award of certificates**

Note: The lectures will be conducted in English or German. Please refer to the workshop description section for information on the language used in the workshops.

The CultureNature Literacy project provides teachers, principals, educators and researchers in teacher education and training with teaching/learning materials that promote cultural sustainability. The CNL concept aims to define Anthropocene literacy, which enables to face the uncertainties of climate change in the “human age” in a fact-based and solution-oriented way. STEM knowledge is innovatively combined with cultural education and its creative potential. For more information about the project please visit: <https://cnl.ph-noe.ac.at>



The "Shaping the Future in the Anthropocene" training will be carried out in the framework of the Erasmus+ project CultureNature Literacy (CNL) – Curricular key competences for shaping Europe's future in the Anthropocene (Project Nr. 2022-1-AT01-KA220-HED-000085025)

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Project partners:



This is a green event. For reasons of sustainability, all materials will be made available online. Please bring your own writing utensils. The venue is accessible by public transportation. For details on navigating Maribor using the bus system, please visit <https://vozniredi.marprom.si/en-US>.

The venue is accessible for wheelchair users. Do you need help to participate in our event? We will be happy to contact you in advance! Please indicate your contact requests in the registration form.

Please note that photos and videos may be taken during the event for documentation and publication in print and online media. By participating, you agree to the recording of such material.