Poetic Natures:
The Environment, Literature, and the Arts
January 8-9, 2008, Tel Aviv University

Tuesday, January 8th, 15:30 – 20:00
The Malka Brender Hall of Justice (“Kes Hamishpat”), Trubowicz Building (Faculty of Law)
15:30 Gathering and reception
16:00 Greetings
Milette Shamir, Head of Department of English and American Studies, Tel Aviv University
Dany Leviatan, Rector of Tel Aviv University
Yehuda Benayahu, Head of the Porter School of Environmental Studies, Tel Aviv University

16:20 – 17:30 Opening Lecture
Chair: Karen Alkalay-Gut, Department of English and American Studies, Tel Aviv University
Keynote Speaker: Robert Hass, United States Poet Laureate; English Department, University of California at Berkeley
Poetry Reading and Discussion

17:45 – 20:00 Environmental Poetry in Israel
Moderator: Li Shir, Department of English and American Studies, Tel Aviv University
Reading and discussion with poets
Robert Hass, Moshe Dor, Sabina Messeg, Naim Araidi, Shirley Kaufman, Ronny Sommek

Wednesday, January 9th, 10:00–20:00
Drachlis Hall 496, Gilman Building (Humanities), 4th floor
10:00 Greetings
Hana Wirth-Nesher, Department of English and American Studies, Tel Aviv University

10:10 – 11:00 Opening Lecture
Chair: Benjamin Arbel, Department of History, Tel Aviv University
Keynote speaker: Una Chaudhuri, Departments of English and Drama, and Environmental Studies Program, New York University
The Anthropological Machine in Overdrive: Zooësis and Extremity

11:15 - 12:00 The Environment in Jewish Writing
Chair: Shuli Barzilai, Department of English, Hebrew University
Avidov Lipsker, Department of the Literature of the Jewish People, Bar-Ilan University
The Discourse of Eco-literature v. the Discourse of the Literary Republic
Jeremy Benstein, Heschel Center for Environmental Learning and Leadership
Har, Sadeh, Bayit (Mountain, Field, House): Midrashic Reflections on Ethical and Aesthetic Paradigms in Environmentalism
Miriam Sivan, Department of English Literature and Language, Haifa University
The Enchanted Tree: Tales from the World of Cynthia Ozick’s Fiction

14:00 – 15:45 Eco-critical Readings of Gender and Colonization
Session co-sponsored by Women and Gender Studies Program
Chair: Tovi Fenster, Department of Geography and Human Environment, Tel Aviv University
Tovi Fenster, Department of Geography and Human Environment, and Women and Gender Studies Program, Tel Aviv University
Yael Ben-zvi, Department of Foreign Literatures and Linguistics, Ben-Gurion University
Up and Down with Mary Rowlandson: Rethinking Wilderness and Belonging
Haggai Rogani, Oranim College, Leo Baeck Educational Center in Haifa
An Eco-Feminist Reading of the Poetry that Accompanied the Zionist Enterprise
Edna Gorney, Multi-Disciplinary Studies Program, Haifa University, and Women Studies Program, Lesley University
The Full Emptiness in the Prose of Esther Raab

16:00 – 17:45 Local and Global Perspectives on Society and the Environment
Chair: Izchak Schnell, Department of Geography and Human Environment, Tel Aviv University
Tovi Fenster, Department of Geography and Human Environment, and Women and Gender Studies Program, Tel Aviv University
Everyday Life as Resistance in the Built Environment
Jenny Kien, Brain Sciences Program, Bar-Ilan University
Globalisation, Women’s Poverty and Ecological Degradation
Daniel Mishori, the Porter School of Environmental Studies, Tel Aviv University
Eco-criticism of Business Ethics

18:00 – 2000 The Environment and the Visual Arts
Chair: Nirit Yaari, Department of Theatre Arts, Tel Aviv University
Shuka Glotman, Department of Film and Television, Tel Aviv University
“Silence Lost” - Screening and Discussion of Video Art
Shai Ginott, Nature Photographer
“Touching The Light” – A Photographic Reading of Landscape and Poetry
Benni Efrat, Artist
“Primary Scent”

Thursday, January 10th, 10:00
Botanical Gardens, Tel Aviv University
Students and conference guests are invited to a multilingual poetry reading with guest poet Robert Hass – Theme of the reading: TREES

The organizers gratefully acknowledge the support of the following:
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The Porter School of Environmental Studies, Tel Aviv University
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Photo: Shai Ginott

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