

# Dark Green Religion in Europe: History and Impacts, Dangers and Prospects

Conference from 25 – 27 April, 2024



**Conference at the IEG Mainz, April 25-27, 2024**

**Dark Green Religion in Europe: History and Impacts, Dangers and Prospects**

**Conveners:**

**Bernhard Gissibl, Leibniz-Institute of European History, Mainz**

**Kate Rigby, MESH University of Cologne**

**Bron Taylor, University of Florida**

**Conference Programme**  
**(all times CET)**

**Thursday, April 25**

From 1230                      Arrival and small Lunch at the IEG

1330 – 1350                      **Welcome and Introduction**  
Bernhard Gissibl, Kate Rigby, Bron Taylor

1350 – 1400                      Small Break

1400 – 1545                      **Panel I: Situating Dark Green Religion in Europe: Conceptual Perspectives**  
Chair: Henning Jürgens (IEG Mainz)  
**Kocku von Stuckrad (University of Groningen):** *Dark Green Sciences: Planetary Knowledge and Institutional Change*  
**Michael York (Bath Spa University):** *The Development of Earth Spirituality in Europe*  
**Yael Dansac (Université Libre de Bruxelles):** *What makes it sacred? Sacralization as Ritual and Relationality*

1545 – 1615                      Coffee Break

1615 – 1800                      **Panel 2: Situating Dark Green Religion in Europe II: Historical Perspectives**  
Chair: Nicole Reinhardt (IEG Mainz)  
**Ran Segev (Universität Hamburg):** *Eco-spirituality in the Age of Enlightenment: Revising John Oswald's Cry of Nature (1791)*  
**Joana van de Löcht (Universität Freiburg)/Niels Penke (Universität Siegen):** *Between Pantheistic Perception of Nature and the emergence of Ghost stories – On (Super)Natural Entities in German Low Mountains*  
**Whitney Bauman (Florida University Miami):** *The Promises and Perils of Scientific Romanticisms*

1800 – 1830                      Break

1830 – 2000 **Siv Ellen Kraft (Arctic University of Norway):** *Dark Green Religion – afterlife modes: Examples from Sàpmi*

2000 – Tables reserved at the Weinstube Roter Kopf, Rotekopfgasse 4,  
<https://www.rotkopf.de/>)

**Friday, April 26**

0830 – 1015 **Panel 3: The Greening of Religions in Germany**

Chair: Claartje Ille (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz)

**Maria Schubert (Ruhr-Universität Bochum):** *Dark Green Catholicism and the Environmental Movement in West Germany 1970s-1980s*

**Simon Wiesgickl (Universität Erlangen):** *The Ecumenical Process for Peace, Justice, and Integrity of Creation (1983) and the greening of Protestant religion in Germany*

**Carrie B. Dohe (MESH Universität zu Köln):** *Dark Green Religion or Humanizing Nature? An Exploration of the Significance of Values Expression in the Religions for Biological Diversity Project in Germany.*

1015 – 1045 **Coffee Break**

1045 – 1215 **Panel 4: Spiritualizing Movements**

Chair: Andreas Jünger (IEG Mainz/Rachel Carson Center München)

**Maria Nita (The Open University Milton Keynes):** *Extinction Rebellion in Britain: The Christian roots of a new green spiritual awakening*

**Noémie Moutel (Université de Angers):** *From Françoise d'Eaubonne to the Soulèvements de la Terre: an ecofeminist perspective on the influence of dark green religion on French contemporary environmental movements*

1215 – 1315



Lunch at the IEG (sponsored by the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture (ISSRNC) and the Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture (JSRNC))



1315 – 1500

**Panel 5: Nature Spiritualities in Popular Culture**

Chair: Carrie B. Dohe (MESH Universität zu Köln)

**Devin Zuber (Graduate Theological Union Berkeley):** *Dark Green Abstractions: Painting Nature Spirituality in Hilma af Klint's Art*

**Jane Skjoldli (Western Norway University of Applied Sciences Bergen):** *Geomythic borealism in popular culture*

**Helene Heuser (Universität Gießen):** *Zoom in zoom out – ecospirituality in the European mainstream of popular music*

1500 – 1530

Coffee Break

1530 – 1700

**Panel 6 (Virtual): Transatlantic Perspectives**

Chair: Bron Taylor (University of Florida, Gainesville)

**Çağdaş Dedeoğlu (Yorkville University):** *Beyond Dichotomies: Understanding Proenvironmental Behaviour in Turkey*

**Giovanna Parmigiani (University of Harvard):** *“Dark Green Conspirituality?” Conspiracism and Dark Green Religion in Southern Italy*

1700 – 1730

Break

1730 – 1930

**Conference Dinner** (Zum grünen Kakadu, Gutenbergplatz 7, <https://www.zumgruenenkakadu-mainz.de/>)

2000 – 2130

**Bron Taylor (University of Florida, Gainesville):** *Dark Green Museums? How curators fuse art, science, and nature spirituality in the cause of conservation* (Naturhistorisches Museum Mainz, Reichklarastr. 1, Mainz)

**Saturday, April 27**

0830 – 1015

**Panel 7: Sacralizing Spaces**

Chair: Kate Rigby (MESH Universität zu Köln)

**Jon Mathieu (Universität Luzern):** *How sacred are the Alps?*

**Adrian J. Howkins (University of Bristol):** *Beautiful (Sacred) and Relatively Wild: Religious Influences on the Origins of British National Parks*

**Jacob Wiebel (University of Durham):** *Desacralising African spaces through wildlife conservation: from European “dark green religion” to secularised protected areas in the global south*

1015 – 1045

Coffee Break

1045 – 1230

**Panel 8: Whither Dark Green Religion? Problems and Potentials**

Chair: Bernhard Gissibl (IEG Mainz)

**Julia Itel (Université de Fribourg):** *Ecotherapies in Francophone Europe*

**Nathaniel J. Barron (University of Birmingham):** *European Eco-fascism as "Dark Green Thinking": Dangers and Affordances*

**Timothy Stacey (University of Utrecht):** *Going Public with Dark Green Religion: Overcoming the liberal split*

1230 – 1330

Small Lunch at the IEG

1330 – 1415

**Final Discussion**