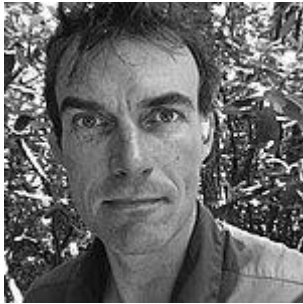


## **The Garden: Ecological Paradigms of Space, History, and Community**

8th Biennial Conference of the European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture and Environment (EASLCE)

### **Keynote Speakers**

#### **Robert S. Emmett**



**Robert S. Emmett** is Visiting Assistant Professor in the Roanoke College Environmental Studies program.

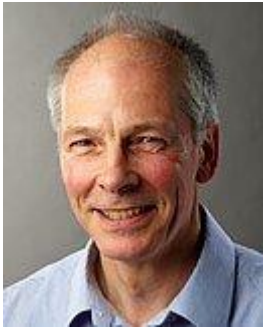
He is the author of *Cultivating Environmental Justice: A Literary History of US Garden Writing* (UMass Press, 2016) and with David E. Nye, *The Environmental Humanities: A Critical Introduction* (MIT Press, 2017). With Gregg Mitman and Marco Armiero, he edited the recent collection of critical reflections and works of art, *Future Remains: A Cabinet of Curiosities for the Anthropocene* (U of Chicago Press, 2018).

From 2013-2015 he served as Director of Academic Programs at the Rachel Carson Center in Munich, Germany.

#### **Abstract**

Enthusiasm for public food gardens exploded in the wake of the Financial Crisis of 2008-2009. Raising micro-greens and rows of beans in deindustrialized cities took central place in several overlapping discourses about urban greenspace, public health, and “food justice.” The community garden movement catalyzed existing gardening programs worldwide for charity and more radical aims. There was an insurgent edge to first Lady Michelle Obama’s creation of an organic vegetable garden on the White House South Lawn in March 2009. By 2016, that garden was quietly paid for by the Burpee seed company--a corporate gesture of charity for the under-funded National Parks Service responsible for the White House Grounds. Naomi Oreskes and Eric Conway have playfully called recent decades the beginning of the “Penumbral Period,” noting global trends of disengaging political economy from environmental crises. How do ironic garden cultivation narratives, such as *The Bucolic Plague* or *I.D.P. 2043* and others, illuminate the food-environment complex of the Penumbral Period?

## **Axel Goodbody**



**Axel Goodbody** is Emeritus Professor of German and European Culture at the University of Bath, and Visiting Research Fellow at Bath Spa University's Centre for Environmental Humanities.

His main fields of research are literary representations of nature and environment, and ecocritical theory. Current projects include editing (with Adeline Johns-Putra) *Cli-Fi: A Reader* (Peter Lang, forthcoming 2018) and (with Bradon Smith) *Stories of Energy: Narratives for the Anthropocene* (Resilience 6:1, October 2018), and co-authoring (with Greg Garrard, George Handley and Stephanie Posthumus) *Cultures of 'Denial': An Ecocritical Analysis of Climate Scepticism in the UK, Germany, the USA and France* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2019). He is Associate Editor of the journal *Ecozon@* and co-editor of the Brill/ Rodopi book series 'Nature, Culture and Literature'.

## **Catriona Sandilands**



<http://www.catesandilands.ca>

["I see my garden as a barometer of climate change"](#) from *The Guardian*