

Edited by Damiano Benvegnù, Matteo Gilebbi

Italy and the Ecological Imagination

Ecocritical Theories and Practices

SERIES ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIETY

About the editors

Damiano Benvegnù, Ph.D., is a Senior Lecturer at Dartmouth College (USA), an Association Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics, and the Creative Writing and Art Editor for *Ecozon@: the European Journal of Literature, Culture and the Environment*. His first book, 'Animals and Animality in Primo Levi', was published in the Animal Ethics series by Palgrave Macmillan in 2018. As an environmental humanist, Dr. Benvegnù has published articles and essays ranging from critical animal studies and posthumanism to landscape theory, soundscape ecology, and ecocriticism. Currently an ACLS Fellow, Dr. Benvegnù's research lies at the intersection of digital and environmental humanities.

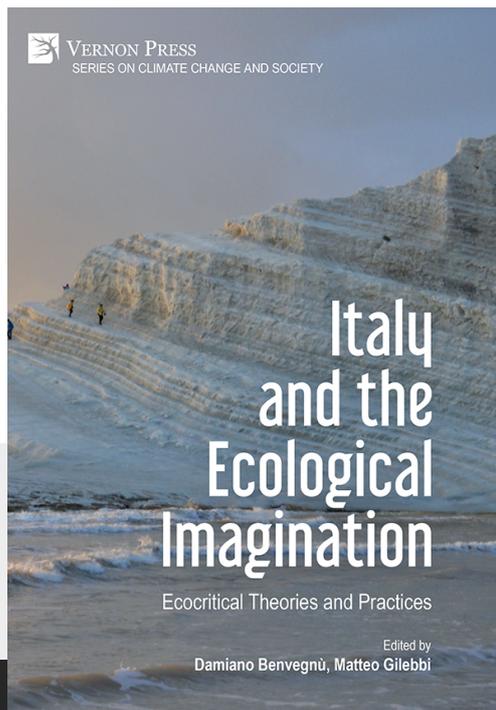
Matteo Gilebbi holds a Ph.D. in Italian from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is currently teaching courses in Italian language, literature, and culture at Dartmouth College. His research focuses on the connections between literature, cinema, and philosophy, using theories from ecocriticism, posthumanism, new-materialism, and animal studies. Dr. Gilebbi's most recent work has been published in the edited volumes 'Paolo Sorrentino's Cinema and Television' (Intellect, 2021), 'Towards the River's Mouth' (Lexington Books, 2018), 'Landscapes, Natures, Ecologies: Italy and the Environmental Humanities' (University of Virginia Press, 2018), 'The Carol J. Adams Reader: Writings and Conversations 1995-2015' (Bloomsbury, 2016), and 'Animals and the Posthuman in Italian Literature and Film' (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014). He is also the co-founder of the

"Anthropocene Group" at Dartmouth, whose mission is to provide a venue for faculty, graduate students, post-doctoral researchers, and undergraduates from the sciences, social sciences, and humanities to develop a cross-disciplinary understanding of the Anthropocene.

Summary

What can Italy teach us about our relationships with the nonhuman world in the current socio-environmental crisis? 'Italy and the Ecological Imagination: Ecocritical Theories and Practices' focuses on how Italian writers, activists, visual artists, and philosophers engage with real and fictional environments and how their engagements reflect, critique, and animate the approach that Italian culture has had toward the physical environment and its ecology since late antiquity. Through a comparative and interdisciplinary approach, the essays collected in this volume explore topics including climate change, environmental justice, animal ethics, and socio-environmental degradation to provide a cogent analysis of how Italian ecological narratives fit within the current transnational debate occurring in the Environmental Humanities.

The aim of 'Italy and the Ecological Imagination' is thus to explore non-anthropocentric modes of thinking and interacting with the nonhuman world. The goal is to provide accounts of how Italian historical records have potentially shaped our environmental imagination and how contemporary Italian authors are developing approaches beyond humanism in order to raise questions about the role of humans in a possible (or potentially) post-natural world. Ultimately, the volume will offer a critical map of Italian contributions to our contemporary investigation of the relationships between human and nonhuman habitats and communities.



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