

Fluid Urban Imaginaries – Water as a Cultural Resource

The open online-panel engages with refreshing and highly transdisciplinary projects on the topic of water in urban spaces as a multilayered cultural resource. Experts from different fields will present their work. The presentations will be followed by a panel discussion.

Program

14-16:30 pm

presentations and panel discussion

Moderation: Flurina Gradin

Jean Daniel Blanc «Into the Wild? The River Sihl and its Landscape Through Time»

Riikka Tauriainen «Ecotone Encounters»

Ludwig Berger «Acoustique Aquatique – Sounding Zurich's Bodies of Water»

Emma-Louise Lavigne: L'Appel du Rhône – Building a Social, Transnational and Radical Organisation of the Watershed

Jean Daniel Blanc

Jean-Daniel Blanc studied history in Zurich and graduated in 1993 with a dissertation on traffic and urban development in Zurich in the post-war period. After working in various positions at the Federal Railways (SBB), he moved 2002 to Zurich Water Supply as Head of Human Resources. In the following years he published books on the history of water supply and water bodies in Zurich. Since 2019 he has been working as a freelance historian and author. In 2021 he published the book „Die wilde und die zahme Sihl“.

Riikka Tauriainen

Riikka Tauriainen is a visual artist and lecturer engaging in ecology, postcolonial theories and gender issues through installations, videos and performances. She navigates on the boundaries between art and science, between fact and fiction. Since 2018, she has been working on the series of works Hydrocommons which operates in a posthumanist world of ideas. It explores to what extent our kinship with other bodies can be understood as a deeply materialistic relationality. Riikka Tauriainen grew up in Finland and lives in Zurich. She studied in Tallinn, Essen, and Berlin and graduated with a Master in Fine Arts from the Zurich University of the Arts. Her work has been exhibited internationally.

Ludwig Berger

Ludwig Berger is a sound artist and composer based in Zurich. In his installations and performances, he engages playfully in more-than-human worlds such as beehives, glaciers, water infrastructures and trees. In his musical work, he produces intimate sonic eco-fictions through digital synthesis. He has released various albums of field recordings, improvisations and electroacoustic music and composes for film, theatre and radio. He is the curator of the tape label Vertical Music, and taught field recording at the Institute for Landscape Architecture at ETH Zurich from 2015-2022, where he studied the sonic dimension of Japanese gardens, alpine glaciers and urban landscapes.

Emmalouise Lavigne

Emma-Louise Lavigne is a former intern and now a collaborator of the organization id-eau based in Lausanne. She is living in France and has graduated from AgroParisTech with a background in environmental sciences and environmental policies. With id-eau, she works on the organization's two main projects : L'Appel du Rhône and l'Assemblée populaire du Rhône. In her most recent work and research with id-eau, she focused on the notion of involvement within the Rhône watershed.

Flurina Gradin

Flurina Gradin is a designer and ecologist and works as a researcher and lecturer in design theory and ecology at the Zurich University of the Arts and at the University of St. Gallen. With her company Wild Spots, Flurina is committed to engage for resilient ecosystems and the promotion of biodiversity in urban areas. Fields of activity include educational, consulting and publication formats, as well as applied research projects that reflect and discourse the historical, cultural and epistemological dimensions of biodiversity at the intersection of the design of everyday culture and practice-oriented implementations.