



CALL FOR PANELS

“Paradise on Fire”

ASLE Thirteenth Biennial Conference June 26-30 2019 University of California Davis, USA

We are excited to announce that the ASLE Thirteenth Biennial Conference is to be held during June 26-30, 2019 at the University of California Davis, USA. And the **Call for Panels** has been released.

Being one of the sister concern of ASLE-USA, FSLE-India is seeking the scholar and academicians who want to be a part of such panel.

All panels are 90 minutes long and may take the form of a traditional paper session (4 presenters); a roundtable (up to 6 presenters making brief remarks that foster lively conversation); or a jam session (up to 8 participants in a nontraditional format of the organizer's choosing that includes significant audience participation). These panels may be of two types:

- A preformed panel that lists all participants and is ready for the conference program as it stands.
- A panel seeking participants, to be filled by its organizers through the conference call for papers released in October. We expect the majority of accepted panels to be of this kind.

Important:

- **FSLE-India will provide the Travel fellowship with Accommodation to those whose proposals will be selected.**
- One panel will be sponsored by FSLE-India.
- Individuals can approach with their own proposal to ASLE. However, there is No fellowship for that. Here is the link:
<https://www.asle.org/wp-content/uploads/ASLE-2019-Call-for-Sessions.pdf>
- Only the members of ASLE and its affiliate organizations will be eligible for this grant.

- The deadline to provide the names of the interested candidates is 15th of July with the proposal form.
- The deadline of sending the final proposal is September 01, 2018 to the USA thus it's mandatory to send the final proposal to FSLE on/before October 10, 2018.
- Please send your proposal to infosle@gmail.com
- The candidates can select any of the themes mentioned below for their proposal.

Conference Theme: Paradise on Fire

“If paradise now arises in hell, it's because in the suspension of the usual order and the failure of most systems, we are free to live and act another way.”

— Rebecca Solnit, *A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster*

The Biennial ASLE Conference will be held in Davis, California, in June 2019. Following a longstanding tradition, this conference gathers scholars and artists working in a diverse array of environmental humanities projects and offers a special focus on some themes that resonate well with the location of the meeting.

Paradise does not exist, and yet that never seems to stop people from finding it, or building it, or dreaming its contours – often to the detriment of humans and nonhumans on the wrong side of its walls. Margaret Atwood's *MaddAddam* trilogy imagines a walled city with a climate-controlled dome called Paradise where genetic engineers create new forms of life, a bubble breached by human violence and climate catastrophe. In the sixteenth century Garcí Rodríguez de Montalvo imagined a place called “California,” an island ruled by a dark skinned Amazonian queen with an Arabic name, Califia (*Las Sergas de Esplandián*). *California* was affixed to our maps by conquistadors, eager readers of Montalvo who believed the Earthly Paradise to be nearby. The price of its establishment was the genocide of the land's indigenous populations. The Greek word for Eden is “Paradise,” a walled garden that bars entrance to most. Yet as Octavia Butler's dystopian vision of California on fire has shown, walls seldom lead to lasting safety and cannot exclude a turbulent world for long (*The Parable of the Sower*). If as Rebecca Solnit contends,

“paradise arises in hell,” when democratic communities are built from the ground up during times of disaster that leave us “free to live and act another way,” what might life in catastrophic times entail for the environmental humanities? How should we write, teach, protest, live, and act during this era when “paradise” is on fire, figuratively and literally?

The Biennial ASLE Conference “Paradise on Fire” explores the connections among storytelling, real and imagined landscapes, future-making, activism, envired spaces, differential exclusions, long histories, and the disaster-prone terrains of the Anthropocene. Plenary addresses will be given by Ursula Heise, Cherríe Moraga, Melissa K. Nelson, and Nnedi Okorafor.

Topics may include but are certainly not limited to:

- Reckoning with “paradise” in the face of colonial histories, environmental injustice, and ecological catastrophe
- The intimacy of myth to possibility, alternative realities, and catastrophe
- The reduction of diversity after the arrival of settler colonialists, especially but not only in California
- Cross-cultural currents and global vectors, human and nonhuman
- The relation of imagination to discovery, settlement and transformation
- Extinction, ecological imperialism, monstrosity, megafauna, and scale
- Gender, race and ecology in dystopian times
- The proliferation of material and ideological walls around enclaves, states, and nations
- Attending better to the people, animals, plants, and natural forces that find themselves on the wrong side of the gate, forced into communities not of their choosing, or forced to migrate without safe destinations
- Radical welcome: creating more just, capacious, and humane modes of living together across species
- How the past matters to the imagination of a more capacious future
- Climate fiction (CliFi), climate fact, and the future of ecological science studies
- Archives of recovery and enclosure
- Afro-futurisms, Indigenous futurisms, Latinx futurisms, Asian futurisms, queer futurisms

- California and beyond: exceptionalism, secession, natural and unnatural disasters, green gentrification (the L.A. River), evacuation zones, Sanctuary Cities and States, gated communities, immigration and Dreamers, Trump's border wall, housing and being humane
- The Trans-Pacific: imaginaries, cultures, materialities, flows
- Fire as emblematic of the strange agencies and hybrid onto-epistemologies of the Anthropocene, and fire as emblematic of the passion, energy, and incendiary creativity of activism

Key information:

- **The process of the selection of the panel starts with sending the Nomination Form. With this form you need to attach your write up on any of the selected theme of the conference within 500 words.**
- **Only the selected candidates will be contacted and further the full proposal will be sought from the particular candidate to be submitted on/before October 10, 2018.**
- Proposals for panels must include the type (traditional papers, with or without a respondent; roundtable; jam session of any kind) and a 250 word abstract for the panel outlining topic, format, and participants' roles.
- Preformed panels must include a short synopsis of the role of each participant and a brief bio (two or three sentences).
- Multiple panel submissions are allowed, but keep in mind that only one paper submission is allowed per person, as participants can present only once during the conference. Pre/post conference workshop participation, organizing panels, and chairing a panel do not count as presenting. Panels may be co-proposed.
- To encourage institutional diversity and exchange, all panels must include participants from more than one institution and from more than one academic level/sector
- ASLE policy is currently to discourage virtual participation at our biennial conferences except in extraordinary circumstances or to accommodate disability.

