CUHRE

Call for Contributions

Elemental Re-Worlding: Second International Ecoliteracy Research Festival 2027



Under the title 'Elemental Re-Worlding', we invite you to contribute to the second International Ecoliteracy Research Festival (IERF). The festival takes place on August 17-20th 2027 (with a pre-festival on August 16th and post-festival on August 21st-22nd) at Himmelbjerggaarden near the city of Ry, Denmark. IERF explores new formats for bringing researchers together to create and exchange knowledge and embed humans with our more-than-human world. The aim is to foster generative research communities and relationships across the planet. All activities take place outdoors with enriched, collective, ecodemocratic, creative, and embodied forms of sharing.

Our aspiration for the festival

IERF gathers researchers and others who are engaged in creating and exchanging knowledge about how to renegotiate human relationships with planetary life and educate for life-friendly futures. We explore how research, education, artistic, and cultural activities can support a transition from today's culture, neglectful of life, towards a rediscovery of care, life-friendly

societies, and ways of being as earth dwellers together with the rest of the natural elements of Terra.

Through polyphonic dialogues and experiments in carefulness, imagination, and focused entanglement, we seek to form new paths for becoming an ecoliterate people, (re)integrated in balanced Earth systems purposefully entangled with human systems. What can we learn from each other across continents and disciplines by paying heed to forms of being-in-the-world and generative powers marginalised, traumatised, or sidestepped by modern colonial, patriarchal, militaristic, capitalistic, and technoscientific comportments?

Contribution formats

IERF seeks to create and exchange knowledge in novel ways. This means that the festival is held outdoors. Contributions can take the following formats:

1. **Panel** – three to seven contributers discuss a topic, involving participants
2. **Symposium** – a facilitated, yet informal, discussion about a topic involving participants
3. **Walk** – a facilitated, active session, moving through the landscape with the aim of exploring, discussing, co-creating, and/or reflecting
4. **Workshop** – a facilitated engagement exploring a topic with elements of co-design
5. **Experiment** – a facilitated exploration of a topic through embodied / exploratory activity
6. **Poster** – an outdoors, visual presentation of a topic

Themes and tracks

To decentre the regular prioritisation of only 'the human', each of the four days of the main festival has a theme which pivots around one of the fundamental elements of Terra. That is, earth, water, air, and fire. Each element can be understood in a myriad of ways and is used as a short-hand for various scientific or cosmological approaches to natural elements. Additionally, there will be four returning tracks each day of the main festival focusing on: 1) (re)futuring, 2) becoming with, 3) ethics and aesthetics of care, 4) places of learning.

We particularly encourage contributions that engage with ways of being, knowing, and reworlding that have been marginalised or suppressed by dominant regimes of power, knowledge, and extraction, as well as with how attending to such experiences may open pathways for thinking otherwise. We hope you'll take some time to examine how the themes and tracks resonate with you, and how 'thinking with' give new form to your practice/research.

Please find an overview below of how themes and tracks intersect throughout the festival, creating 60 slots for contributors. In addition to these slots, there will be special slots for poster presentations. Moreover, the program will contain special events and activities headed by keyconnectors (rather than keynotes).

Themes and tracks	*MON 16th Pre*	*TUE 17th Main*	*WED 18th Main*	*THU 19th Main*	*FRI 20th Main*	*SAT 21st Post*	*SUN 22nd Post*
Theme	Ground work	Fire literacies	Earth literacies	Water literacies	Air literacies	Digesting and winding down	Digesting and winding down
Track 1: (Re)futuring		3 slots of 60 min.	4 slots of 60 min.	4 slots of 60 min.	3 slots of 60 min.		
Track 2: Becoming with		3 slots of 60 min.	4 slots of 60 min.	4 slots of 60 min.	3 slots of 60 min.		
Track 3: Ethics and aesthetics of care		3 slots of 60 min.	4 slots of 60 min.	4 slots of 60 min.	3 slots of 60 min.		
Track 4: Places of learning		3 slots of 60 min.	4 slots of 60 min.	4 slots of 60 min.	3 slots of 60 min.		

The pre- and post-festival days will not have a predetermined program but instead comprise of activities co-created by the participants. These will focus on respectively: a) arriving and laying the ground, and b) connecting the strands, joint reflection, digesting, and getting ready for departure.






Submission guidelines

Contributors are invited to:

1: Indicate the preferred format of the activity: panel, symposium, walk, workshop, experiment, or poster. Importantly, be mindful that your contribution cannot rely on a PowerPoint presentation.

2: Indicate a first and second priority for both theme and track.

3: Specify whether the activity requires a single session of 60 minutes or a double session of 2 x 60 minutes (this does not apply for posters).

4: Submit an abstract of 350 words (maximum).

5: Submit a short bio (25 words) for each contributor.

Please note that we may ask submitters with very similar proposals to consider creating a joint submission to encourage collaboration and ensure a variety of activities in the available slots.

Submission link: https://event.sdu.dk/ecoliteracyresearchfestival2027-callforcontributions

Important dates

Submission deadline: December 16th 2026

Notification of acceptance: January 16th 2027

Registration opens with early bird rates: December 17th 2026

Program: May 2027

Pre-festival: August 16th 2027

Festival: August 17th – 20th 2027

Post-festival: August 21st – 22nd 2027

Who can submit a contribution

IERF is a research festival. We welcome contributions from across all continents and encourage diverse backgrounds, entanglements, and experiences. We invite researchers, scholars, and emerging scholars, including PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers, as well as educators, artists, and creative practitioners, regenerative community practitioners, change actors, independent researchers, and civil society actors. We especially welcome those working across and between boundaries, for example between research, art, education, and other practices.

The venue

Located in the heart of Denmark's Lake District, near the town of Ry, Himmelbjerggaarden is surrounded by rolling hills and dense forests. It sits close to Himmelbjerget (the sky mountain), a historic site where the Danish Constitution (Grundloven) was shaped through popular meetings in the 19th century. This legacy of democratic thought and community gathering continues to inspire the activities hosted at the venue, which boasts several unique facilities:

- Forest Garden: A cultivated area designed to mimic natural ecosystems, promoting biodiversity and sustainable food production.
- Bonfire Cabin: A cozy space for gatherings around a fire, ideal for storytelling, workshops, or communal meals.
- He(art) Forest: An artistic woodland area featuring installations and sculptures that blend art with nature, encouraging reflection and inspiration.
- Lounge Areas: Comfortable spaces for relaxation and informal meetings, providing guests with a place to unwind and connect.





Organisers

- Centre for Understanding Human Relationships with the Environment (CUHRE), part of the SDU Climate Cluster (SCC) at the University of Southern Denmark (SDU), Denmark
- Regenerating Futures Faculty Research Group at Deakin University, Australia

Contact

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us by email: ecoliteracyfestival@sdu.dk

We look forward to seeing you at IERF 2027

On behalf of CUHRE,
The organising committee