

**MESEA**

**The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies:  
Europe and the Americas**

**14<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference**

**“Cultural Environments:  
Spheres, Ethnicity, Corporeality”**

**Ionian University,  
Department of Environment,  
Zakynthos Island Campus,  
Greece**

**June 11–13, 2026**



## **MESEA – The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas**

was founded in 1998 in response to the challenge of ethnic studies in a time of increasing globalization to provide an international forum for interdisciplinary discussion on multiethnic studies. The Society promotes the study of the ethnic cultures of Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas in their circumatlantic relations from a transdisciplinary literary, historical and cultural studies perspective. The society acts as a forum for cooperation between universities, political institutions, and ethnic communities and supports the scholarly and cultural exchange among them in order to further intercultural understanding. MESEA currently has ca. 200 members from 30 countries.

MESEA holds its biennial conference in the spring, an event that brings together hundreds of international scholars to discuss issues related to these concerns. Conference topics have included: the place of ethnic communities in democratic societies, comparative perspectives on ethnic studies, ethnic lifewritings and histories, questions of migration, sites of ethnicity, and media. These meetings have been held in Heidelberg, Germany (1998); Orleans, France (2000); Padua, Italy (2002); Thessaloniki, Greece (2004); Pamplona, Spain (2006); Leiden, Netherlands (2008); Pécs, Hungary (2010); Barcelona, Spain (2012); Saarbrücken, Germany (2014); Warsaw, Poland (2016); Graz, Austria (2018); Pyla, Larnaca, Cyprus (2022); and Joensuu, Finland (2024). The meeting is now held at the Ionian University, Department of Environment in Zakynthos, Greece.

The Association also promotes lively publishing activities. Apart from its journal, *Atlantic Studies/Global Currents*, and the official volume of essays that develop from the conferences, other volumes have been published based on MESEA activities or specific panel sessions at the biennial meetings.

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Dorothea Fischer-Hornung (2004-2012)

Yiorgos Kalogeras (2012-2022)

# MESEA 2026 Conference Schedule

Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Pre-conference Meeting of MESEA Officers

Thursday, June 11, 2026

09:00 – 18:00	Registration/Information Desk (Main Entrance Area)
09:15 – 10:45	Parallel Panel Sessions 1
10:45 – 11:30	Coffee
11:30 – 13:00	Parallel Panel Sessions 2
13:00 – 13:45	Opening Ceremony Room: Lecture Hall
	Words of Welcome, MESEA Book Launches Jopi Nyman, President of MESEA
	Aikaterini Kabassi, Ionian University
	Announcement of the 2026 Young Scholars Excellence Award Monika Mueller, Vice-President of MESEA
13:45 – 16:00	Lunch Break (in Zante Town area)
16:00 – 17:30	Parallel Panel Sessions 3
17:30 – 18:00	Coffee
18:00 – 19:30	Parallel Panel Sessions 4
19:30 – 20:45	Keynote Lecture by Juan Ignacio Oliva (Universidad de La Laguna, Tenerife, Canaries, Spain)
	<b>Title:</b> Border Membranes: An Ecomaterialist Approach to Crossing-Corporeality
	Room: Lecture Hall
	Chair: Silvia Schultermandl (Münster University, Germany)
21:30 –	Conference Reception at <u>Base San Marco Resto Bar</u> (Historic City of Zakynthos)

## Friday, June 12, 2026

09:00 – 16:00	Registration/Information Desk
09:15 – 10:45	Parallel Panel Sessions 5
10:45 – 11:00	Coffee
11:00 – 12:15	<i>Atlantic Studies Lecture</i> by Alexandra Ganser (University of Vienna, Austria) <b>Title:</b> The Astropelago: Navigating North American Imaginaries of Outer Space  Room: Lecture Hall  Chair: Dorothea Fischer-Hornung, <i>Atlantic Studies</i>
12:15 – 13:45	MESEA Membership Meeting (Lecture Hall)
13:45 – 16:00	Lunch Break (in Zante Town area)
16:00 – 18:00	Parallel Panel Sessions 6
18:00 – 18:45	Coffee Early Career Researchers! Meet the MESEAns (Library): Come and Meet the Board
18:45 – 20:45	Parallel Panel Sessions 7
21:30 –	Optional Conference Dinner ( <u>Restaurant Alektor</u> )

## Saturday, June 13, 2026

09:00 – 12:00	Registration/Information Desk
09:15 – 11:15	Parallel Panel Sessions 8
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee
11:45 – 13:45	Parallel Panel Sessions 9
13:45 – 17:00	Lunch Break (in Zante Town area)  Evening Sessions (Readings and the Keynote Address) will be held at <u>the Municipal Theatre of Zakynthos</u> in Zakynthos (Zante) Town area.
17:00 – 19:00	Poetry Reading and Dramatic Presentation: Carlos Morton & Tino Villanueva <b>Chair &amp; Moderator:</b> Francisco A. Lomelí (University of California, Santa Barbara, USA) <b>Actors:</b> Maiza Hixson, Grzegorz Welizarowicz and Mayra Gomez-Labrada
19:00 – 19:30	Break

19:30 – 20:45

Keynote Lecture by Christos Karydis (Ionian University, Greece)

**Title:** Preserving Culture in a Time of Environmental Crisis: The Role of Preventive Conservation

Chair: Jopi Nyman (University of Eastern Finland, Finland)

20:45 – 21:00

Closing Words

# Information on Keynotes

## Keynote Lectures

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Opening Keynote by Juan Ignacio Oliva, Universidad de La Laguna, Tenerife, Canaries, Spain

**Title:** Border Membranes: An Ecomaterialist Approach to Crossing-Corporeality

**Abstract:**

The study of Borders has undergone a major paradigm shift in recent years, framed within the perception of a new Era, with many possible names: from the Anthropocene at the beginning of the millennium (Crutzen) or the Wasteocene (Armiero) to the more recent Chthulucene (Haraway) and Symbiocene (Albrecht). Ecological New Materialism contributes a new theoretical-critical framework based on the existence of a liquid (post)modernity that affects all social and institutional spheres. Literary and cultural Ecotones are situated within this context, analyzing the different tensions existing between dividing lines from the polysemous perspective of Biology. Essentially, they can be defined as ‘zones of tension between two habitats’ with different, sometimes radically opposing, characteristics, where significant kinetic activity, mutations, and a critical space of great vitality are generated. Ecotones thus serve as multidisciplinary and hybrid spaces of intersection, where pollinating creativity thrives between classes, races, genders, animal and plant species, biota and abiota, and in relation to the territory (*loci loquentes* and *loci agentes*). In this lecture, the various possibilities this theory offers will be scrutinized from a material perspective and in connection with new concepts of entanglements between bodies: ‘porous viscosity’ (Tuana), ‘transcorporeality’ (Alaimo), and ‘textural membranes’ as surfaces that act sympoietically or symbiotically between humans and more-than-humans, language and matter, or texts and worlds. Finally, for this analysis, contemporary poems by authors who live in cross-border areas between countries and systems in collision—be they economic, political, or natural—will be used, such as Norma E. Cantú in Texas-Tamaulipas (North America) or Birendra Chattopadhyai in Bengala-Bangla Desh (Southeast Asia), among other showcases.

**Juan Ignacio Oliva** is full professor of Anglophone Postcolonial Literatures (with an interest in Ecocriticism) at U. La Laguna, Tenerife, Canaries, Spain. He studies humans and their environment in ecopoetry, and the interactive observation of landscape and the relationship of sensitive selves with an agent and eloquent nature. In addition to several co-edited monographs in journals such as *ExCentric Narratives* (3), or *RCEI* (64 / 77 / 81 / 82 / 83), he has edited *The Painful Chrysalis. Essays on Contemporary Cultural and Literary Identity* (Peter Lang, 2011), *Realidad y simbología de la montaña [Reality and Symbolology of the Mountain]* (UAH, 2012) and co-edited *Revolving Around India(s): Alternative Images, Emerging Perspectives* (CSP, 2019). He is editor-in-chief of *Revista Canaria de Estudios Ingleses* (2014-), and head of the Universidad de La Laguna Centre for Canadian Studies (1997-). Currently, he holds the position of president of the Spanish James Joyce Association (2019-), and vice president of SAAS (Spanish Association for American Studies, 2023-). He was also president of the European Association for the Study of Literature, Culture and the Environment (EASLCE, in the period 2014-2016) and of the Spanish Association for Interdisciplinary India Studies (AEEII, 2014-2019). He is a member of the research groups GIECO-Franklin-UAH (Ecocriticism) and Ratnakara-UdL (Indian Ocean Literatures).

Friday, June 12, 2026

*Atlantic Studies Lecture* by **Alexandra Ganser**, University of Vienna, Austria

**Title:** The Astropelago: Navigating North American Imaginaries of Outer Space

**Abstract:**

“The Moon belongs to everyone / Best things in life they’re free / Stars belong to everyone / They cling there for you and for me,” Sam Cooke crooned in 1964, echoing both the romantic tradition of stargazing and the idea of the sky and its celestial bodies as a commons beyond economic structures of ownership and profit. While the decades of the first Space Age epitomized a mostly symbolic appropriation of outer space in the Cold War context, today’s “Second Space Age” is quite literally changing the materialities of the cosmos and its international laws. My lecture starts by drawing out the similarities (and a few differences) between conceptualizing the world oceans during the first era of globalization in early modernity and outer space today, critiquing technocratic and utilitarian conceptions of both the world oceans and what seems to be imagined not as a “final,” but rather as an infinite frontier from a globally circulating US-American perspective. In the second part of my talk, I will discuss a number of counter-imaginaries to the dominant discourse of frontierism by turning to Afrofuturist examples as well as to Indigenous voices that question settler colonial conceptualizations of an astropelago – a sea of stars – and present critical correctives to hegemonic outer space narratives. From Gil Scott-Heron’s “Whitey on the Moon” (1970) and “Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project” (2024) to Indigenous astronomy and star stories, these perspectives parallel ethnically different oceanic epistemologies such as Paul Gilroy’s 1993 concept of the Black Atlantic. Alongside these voices and with critics like Gayatri Spivak and Bruno Latour, I will argue for a new logic of planetarity that is both *down to earth* and *up in the air*.

**Alexandra Ganser** holds the chair in North American Studies (literatures and cultures) at the University of Vienna, Austria, where she also headed the interdisciplinary research platform and PhD program “Mobile Cultures and Societies: Interdisciplinary Studies on Transnational Formations” (2015-2024). She co-directs the Centre for Canadian Studies (ZKS) and is co-editor of the book series “Maritime Literature and Culture” with Meg Samuelson and Charne Lavery (Palgrave Macmillan). A Fulbright alumna and board member as well as former Daniel Christoph Ebeling fellow at the American Antiquarian Society, her research interests currently focus on American astroculture and on oceanic refugee mobilities in North American literatures. Her book publications include the monographs *Crisis and Legitimacy in Atlantic American Narratives of Piracy, 1678–1865* (2020) and *Roads of Her Own: Gendered Space and Mobility in American Women’s Road Narratives, 1970–2000* (2009) as well as a number of edited volumes and special issues, among them *Mobile Kulturen und Gesellschaften / Mobile Cultures and Societies*, ed. with Annegret Pelz (2020); *Pirates, Drifters, Fugitives: Figures of Mobility in American Culture and Beyond*, ed. with Katharina Gerund and Heike Paul (2012), as well as a forthcoming special issue of *Amerikastudien / American Studies* on American astroculture (co-edited with Jens Temmen).

**Saturday, June 13, 2026**

**Keynote Lecture by Christos Karydis**, Ionian University, Greece

**Title:** Preserving Culture in a Time of Environmental Crisis: The Role of Preventive Conservation

**Abstract:**

The accelerating environmental crisis—manifested through climate change, extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, and human-induced degradation—poses unprecedented threats to cultural heritage worldwide. Among the most vulnerable are sacred natural and monastic landscapes UNESCO monuments, such as the Holy Mountain of Athos, Mount of Sinai, the monastery of St. John on Patmos, etc. where cultural, spiritual and ecological values are deeply intertwined. This presentation examines the role of preventive conservation as a strategic framework for safeguarding such sites in an era of environmental uncertainty. Preventive conservation moves beyond interventive conservation by emphasizing risk assessment, environmental monitoring, sustainable site management, disaster planning and community engagement. In the context of remote monastic enclaves and pilgrimage landscapes, it also requires integrating traditional knowledge, spiritual stewardship practices and contemporary scientific methods. Through selected case studies, this presentation explores how preventive conservation can mitigate climate-related risks—including wildfires, floods, corrosion, bio-deterioration, unstable environmental parameters i.e temperatures and humidity, indoor and outdoor pollution, etc. while preserving the intangible heritage, living traditions and ecological balance that define these sacred places. By positioning preventive conservation as a ‘central idea’ and both as technical and ethical responsibility, the presentation argues for a holistic, interdisciplinary approach that bridges heritage science, environmental policy, theology and local governance. Ultimately, safeguarding UNESCO monuments such as Athos, Sinai and Patmos is not only a matter of protecting architectural fabric, but of sustaining cultural identity, spiritual continuity and collective memory in a time of global environmental transformation.

**Christos Karydis** is the Head of the Department of Environment at the Ionian University; Founder and Director of the MSc “Preservation & Management of Cultural Heritage” at the Ionian University; Director of the ‘PreServe’ Lab; and Director of the School of Iconography “Fotis Kontoglou.” He is also teaching several postgraduate courses mainly at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and at the University of the Aegean. He is the academic responsible and co-author for four (4) e-learning programs at the University of Athens. He has been working in Churches and monasteries at Mount Athos, Jerusalem, Constantinople, Colombia, Belgium, Eritrea, Ghana, Malaysia, Spain, Iraq, UK and Greece since 2002. He is an external adviser in monasteries at Mount Athos and head conservator of the textile collection of the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate in Istanbul. Prof. Karydis’s area of expertise is preventive conservation of organic materials. Additionally, he has published four (4) monographs and more than 100 papers in scientific journals, international and national conferences. He is the author of the first book on preventive conservation of textiles written in Greek (2006) and he is the co-editor and author of the *Science in Preventive Conservation: Preservation & Management of Collections* (2013). He is also the editor and author of the catalogue *The Late Antiquity Textile Collection of the Holy Basilic, Patriarch and Stavropegic Monastery of St. John the Theologian in Patmos: Documentation, Scientific Analysis and Preservation* (2025). He has established and organized more than four (4) full conservation labs in Greece, Istanbul, Jerusalem and Mount Athos.

# Detailed Program

## Thursday, June 11, 2026

09:00 – 18.00                      Registration/Information Desk  
09:15 – 10:45                      Parallel Panel Sessions 1

### **Panel 1.1**

**Title:** Zones of Uneven Freedom: Black Voices, Screens, and Geographies

**Organizer/Chair:** Kamil Chrzczonowicz (University of Warsaw, Poland)

**Respondent:** Dorottya Mózes

**Room:** Lecture Hall

#### **Presenters:**

Kamil Chrzczonowicz (University of Warsaw, Poland), James Baldwin's Televised Debates and the Performance of Black Thought

Dorottya Mózes (University of Debrecen, Hungary), Traveling Otherwise: Caryl Phillips as the Black Diasporic Flâneur in *The Atlantic Sound*

Raphaël Lambert (Kansai University in Osaka, Japan), From Douglass to Du Bois: The Early Negro as a Repository of Freedom and Democracy

### **Panel 1.2**

**Title:** Crossings, (Sub)Text, Performance

**Chair:** Elena Errico (University of Trieste – IUSLIT, Italy)

**Room:** D4

#### **Presenters:**

Elena Errico (University of Trieste – IUSLIT, Italy), Translating *The Savior* (Morton, 1992)

Sophia Emmanouilidou (Ionian University, Greece), Crafting Cultural Environments: Materiality and the Greek Diasporic Imagination

Ludmila Martanovschi (Ovidius University of Constanta, Romania), Performing Ecogrief and Ecojustice in Chantal Bilodeau's *No More Harveys*

### **Panel 1.3**

**Title:** Bridging Anthropocentric and Ecocentric Perspectives through an Aesthetics of Reciprocity

**Organizer/Chair:** Sheetal Majithia (The Juilliard School, USA)

**Room:** D6

#### **Presenters:**

Sheetal Majithia (The Juilliard School, USA), Riverine and Entomological Webs from Ithaca to Ayemenem in the work of Arundhati Roy

Dale Hudson (NYU Abu Dhabi), Decoding Cultural Extractions within Financial Speculation: Liu Chuang's Three-Channel Video Installation on Nomadic Mining for Cryptocurrency in Relation to Multiethnic Communities on the Southeast Asian Massif

Anna Szücs (Independent Scholar), More-Than-Human Silences: Multispecies Erasure and Chamorro Language Loss in Craig Santos Perez's *from unincorporated territory*

#### **Panel 1.4**

**Title:** Travel, Reimagining(s) of the Mythic and the Real

**Chair:** Elina Siltanen (University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu)

**Room:** D7

**Presenters:**

Müge Gedik & Enver A. Akova (Stanford University, USA), Mapping the Blue Voyages: Blue Humanities Approaches to the Eastern Aegean Coast

Elina Siltanen (University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu), “Earth is ruined, though I deny this to my children”: Care and Narratives of Mobility in Craig Santos Perez’s *Habitat Threshold*

Eleni Tasioula (Independent Scholar), Ecological and Mythic Reimaginings in Derek Walcott’s *Omeros*

10:45 – 11:30

Coffee

11:30 – 13:00

Parallel Panel Sessions 2

#### **Panel 2.1**

**Title:** Environment(s), History, Media

**Chair:** László Munteán (Radboud University in Nijmegen, the Netherlands),

**Room:** D7

**Presenters:**

Grigorios Iliopoulos (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece), Re-Purposing, Malleable Culture, and Space in William Gibson’s *Virtual Light*

László Munteán (Radboud University in Nijmegen, The Netherlands), Navigating New Wrecks of the Titanic

Maria Agriou (Ionian University, Greece), Between the Material and the Immaterial: The Role of Preservation and Restoration of Culture in Shaping Cultural Identity across Varied Spatial Contexts

#### **Panel 2.2**

**Title:** Ethnicity, Identity, Space

**Chair:** Fred L. Gardaphé (Queens College/CUNY, USA & the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Italy)

**Room:** Lecture Hall

**Presenters:**

Fred L. Gardaphé (Queens College/CUNY, USA & the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Italy), Indigenuity in Italian American Writers

Cecilia Gall (ELTE University, Budapest, Hungary), “A Handful of Earth from Home”: An Analysis of the Memories of Homeland and Diasporic Identities in Selected Australian Migrants’ Short Stories

Richard Hardack (Independent Scholar-Southwest Research Institute), Zones of Difference: Race and the Cultural Geography of the Environment in the US

#### **Panel 2.3**

**Title:** Non-Human Agency, (Inter)Species, (Trans)Bodies

**Chair:** Lowry Martin (University of Texas at El Paso, USA)

**Room:** D6

**Presenters**

Daniel M. Valella (University of Michigan, USA), Invasive Alien Species: Ozeki’s “Kudzu” and Anzaldúa’s “Buchones de Agua”  
 Lowry Martin (University of Texas at El Paso, USA), Exploiting Until Exhaustion: Extractive Economies and Queer Futurity in *The Mysterious Gaze of the Flamingo*  
 Patrycja Kurjatto-Renard (Université du Littoral Côte d’Opale, France) Mermaids, Sentient Roads, Enlightened Bats, Starfish and Stone Eaters Unite: Seeking Ecological Justice in *Lagoon*, *The Broken Earth Trilogy* and *The Tiger Flu*

**Panel 2.4**

**Title:** Mobility, Spaces, Crossings

**Chair:** Jellisa Ricketts (York University, Canada)

**Room:** D4

**Presenters**

Jellisa Ricketts (York University, Canada), Black And Free: Diasporic Memory, Culture and Storytelling in Trinidad Carnival

Georgia Ntola (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece), Aquatic Crossings: Neo-Victorian Seascapes of Feminist Solidarity in Kate Grenville’s *Sarah Thornbill* and Park Chan wook’s *The Handmaiden*

Priyanka Muhury (University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu), Mapping Affective Borderscapes in Jhumpa Lahiri’s *The Namesake*

13:00-13:45

Opening Ceremony  
 Room: Lecture Hall

Words of Welcome, MESEA Book Launches  
 Jopi Nyman, President of MESEA

Aikaterini Kabassi, Ionian University

Announcement of the 2026 Young Scholars Excellence Award  
 Monika Mueller, Vice-President of MESEA

13:45 – 16:00

Lunch Break (in Zante Town area)

16:00 – 17:30

Parallel Panel Sessions 3

**Panel 3.1**

**Title:** What Is Being Spent: Gender, Extractivism and Care

**Organizer/Chair:** Tereza Jiroutova Kynclova (Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic)

**Respondent:** Michael Fuchs (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

**Room:** D7

**Presenters:**

Tereza Jiroutova Kynclova (Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic), Cutting the Roots of/and Flow: Conflicted Masculinities and Extractivism in Paolo Bacigalupi’s “The Tamarisk Hunter”

Michael Fuchs (University of Innsbruck, Austria), Extracting the Feminine: Colonial Geology and Patriarchal Possession in Silvia Moreno-Garcia’s *Mexican Gothic*

Ivy Helman (Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic), An Ecofeminist Analysis of Nature and Environmental Care in Star Trek’s Discovery

### **Panel 3.2**

**Title:** Spaces, Cultures, Imaginaries

**Chair:** Samir Dayal (Bentley University, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA)

**Room:** D4

**Presenters:**

Samir Dayal (Bentley University, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA), Island Consciousness and Chosen

Loneliness: Collective Refusal Against Extractive Seasteading in Richard Powers' *Playground*

Jane E. Evans (University of Texas at El Paso, USA), Bruno Cabanes' *Les Fantômes de l'Île de Peleliu*

(Ghosts of Peleliu): A Clash of Cultures

Ayda Önder (Istanbul Arel University, Turkey), Waves of Relation: Oceanic Epistemology and the

Fluid Formation of Multiethnicity in Abdulrazak Gurnah's *By the Sea* (2001)

### **Panel 3.3**

**Title:** Revisiting Motherhood: Matrifocal Narratives with an Environmental and More-than-Human Focus

**Organizer:** Gala Arias Rubio (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain)

**Chair:** María Laura Arce (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain)

**Room:** Lecture Hall

**Presenters:**

Gala Arias Rubio (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain), The Wolf Woman and the Mother Wolf

M<sup>a</sup> Isabel Pérez-Ramos (University of Oviedo, Spain), From Motherhood to Pollination: and Eco-

Narratological Analysis of Barbara Litkowski's "Monarch Blue"

María Laura Arce (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain), Queer Mothering and Nature in Carmen

María Machado's Short Story "Mothers"

### **Panel 3.4**

**Title:** Archiving the Border/lands: Art, Narratives, and Memory in Turbulent Times

**Organizer:** Svitlana Kot (Saarland University/Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University)

**Chair:** Svitlana Kot (Saarland University/Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University)

**Room:** D6

**Presenters:**

Danica Trifunjagić (TU Darmstadt, Germany), Rivers as Witnesses to a Turbulent History in Post-Yugoslav Prose

Svitlana Kot (Saarland University/Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University), Narratives of

Displacement: Cultural Responses to Violent Border Rifts in Ukraine

Alexandra (Oleksandra) Filonenko (Independent Scholar), (Re)Creating a Nostalgic Border Identity:

Artistic-Archaeological "Archives" of Volodymyr and Tatiana Bakhtov

17:30 – 18:00

Coffee

18:00 – 19:30

Parallel Panel Sessions 4

### **Panel 4.1**

**Title:** Geographies, Narratives of Resistance, Race

**Chair:** Malin Pereira (University of North Carolina at Charlotte, USA)

**Room:** D4

**Presenters:**

Malin Pereira (University of North Carolina at Charlotte, USA), Representing Jacob Lawrence: A Tale

of Two Museums and Ten Ekphrastic Poems

Maria Lauret (University of Sussex, UK), *Against Storytelling: Attica Locke's Recalcitrant Fiction*  
Leah Perry (SUNY-Empire State University, USA), *Eating Empire: Foodways, Settler Colonial Racial Capitalism, and the Public Pedagogy of US Empire*

**Panel 4.2**

**Title:** Fantasy and the Environment in Contemporary Fiction and Graphic Novel

**Organizer/Chair:** Eleanor Ty (Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada)

**Room:** D7

**Presenters:**

Patricia P. Chu (George Washington University, USA), *Nonhuman Agency and the Miraculous in Amitav Ghosh's Gun Island*

Eleanor Ty (Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada), *Flora and Fauna in Nnedi Okorafor's After the Rain*

Monica Chiu (University of New Hampshire, USA), *Where We Live in Khan's Graphic Memoir The Roles We Play: In-Habitation and the Built Environment*

**Panel 4.3**

**Title:** Memory, Community, Agency

**Chair:** Bettina Hofmann (University of Wuppertal, Germany)

**Room:** D6

**Presenters:**

Eira Betthell (University of Essex, UK), *Liminal Sovereignty: The Nile Crocodile as Ecological and Mythic Agent in Cultural Environments*

Bettina Hofmann (University of Wuppertal, Germany), *American Jewish Youth Books on Jewish Exile in Siberia during WW II*

Danelle Dyckhoff Stelzriede (California State University, Los Angeles, USA), *Creating First-Gen Ecologies of Community through Global Education*

**Panel 4.4**

**Title:** Indigenous Biospheres: Relational Ontologies, Intergenerational Solidarity, and Earth-centered Perspectives in Contemporary Native American Literature

**Organizer/Chair:** Anna M. Brígido-Corachán (University of Valencia, Spain)

**Room:** Lecture Hall

**Presenters:**

Christopher Meade (Appalachian State University in North Carolina, USA), *No Ecojustice Without Decolonization: Natalie Díaz's "Colorado River"*

Anna M. Brígido-Corachán (University of Valencia, Spain), *"From the Birthing Waters to Air":*

*Transcorporeality and Environmental Ethics in the Poetry of Linda Hogan and Ofelia Zepeda*

Ewelina Bańka (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland), *Margo Tamez's Stories of "Rivered Exist Stance" at the Texas-Mexico Border*

19:30 – 20:45

Keynote Lecture by Juan Ignacio Oliva (Universidad de La Laguna, Tenerife, Canaries, Spain)

**Title:** Border Membranes: An Ecomaterialist Approach to Crossing-Corporeality

**Room:** Lecture Hall

**Chair:** Silvia Schultersmandl (Münster University, Germany)

21:30-

Conference Reception at Base San Marco Resto Bar (Historic City of Zakynthos)

## Friday, June 12, 2026

09:00 – 16:00                      Registration/Information Desk  
09:15 – 10.45                      Parallel Panel Sessions 5

### **Panel 5.1**

**Title:** Speculative Flesh: Materiality, Violence, and the Unmaking of Latinx Form

**Chair:** Thomas Conners (University of Florida, USA)

**Room:** Lecture Hall

**Presenters:**

Thomas Conners (University of Florida, USA), Objectless “Latinx” Literary Critique

Marion Christina Rohrlleitner (The University of Texas at El Paso, USA), “Becoming Flesh”:  
Translation and Non-Human Agency

Melissa Melpignano (The University of Texas at El Paso, USA), Corporeality and Speculative  
Imaginarities: “Fleshing” Out Time

### **Panel 5.2**

**Title:** The Anthropocene, Frames, Poetry

**Chair:** David Greenham (University of the West of England, Bristol, UK)

**Room:** D7

**Presenters:**

David Greenham (University of the West of England, Bristol, UK), Anaxagoras and the Golden Spike:  
Towards a Conceptual Genealogy of the Anthropocene

Marquita Smith (University of Mississippi, USA), Framing the South: Identity, Environment, and  
Cultural Narrative

Claudia Duran (Saint Mary’s University, Los Angeles, USA), Poetry Reading

### **Panel 5.3**

**Title:** Crises, Trauma, Culture

**Chair:** Naila Keleta-Mae (University of Waterloo, Canada)

**Room:** D6

**Presenters:**

Cristina Chevereșan (West University of Timișoara, Romania), The Tragicomedy of Corporeality: Crisis  
and/of Agency in Philip Roth’s *The Anatomy Lesson*

Naila Keleta-Mae (University of Waterloo, Canada), Black Expressive Culture in the Atmosphere

Loredana Bercuci-Murariu & Andrada Nemeș (West University of Timișoara, Romania), Interacting  
with the Specious Other: Climate Trauma in *The Last of Us* Video Games

### **Panel 5.4**

**Title:** (De)Coloniality, Belonging

**Chair:** Jaroslav Kušník (University of Prešov, Slovakia)

**Room:** D4

**Presenters:**

Jaroslav Kušník (University of Prešov, Slovakia), Place, Nature and Cultural Identity in Louise Erdrich’s  
*The Night Watchman*

Malgorzata Poks (University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland), Decolonizing Climate Change: Indigenous Alaska

Niki-Grigoria Karamanidou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece), On Identity Negotiation and Belonging: Exploring the Nature/Culture Nexus and the Cultural Representation of the Non-Human in Leslie Marmon Silko's *Gardens in the Dunes*

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee

11:00 – 12:15 *Atlantic Studies Lecture* by Alexandra Ganser (University of Vienna, Austria)

**Title:** The Astropelago: Navigating North American Imaginaries of Outer Space

**Room:** Lecture Hall

**Chair:** Dorothea Fischer-Hornung, *Atlantic Studies*

12:15 – 13:45 MESEA Membership Meeting (Lecture Hall)

13:45 – 16:00 Lunch Break (in Zante Town area)

16:00 – 18:00 Parallel Panel Sessions 6

### **Panel 6.1**

**Title:** Transethnicity and Environmental Spheres: Reworking the Archive (Part 1)

**Organizer/Chair:** Cathy Waegner (University of Siegen, Germany)

**Room:** Lecture Hall

#### **Presenters:**

Marcel Hartwig (University of Siegen, Germany), Tulsa's Best Kept Secret as a Mobile Archive: Environmental Erasure and Transethnic Memory

Sonja Georgi (Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany), Un/Haunting the Plantation: Land-Based Counter-Archives and Memory in African-Native American Novels

Cathy Waegner (University of Siegen, Germany), "Landback for the People," "The Abolition Hour," and *BlueJay's Canoe*: Transethnic Challenges to Hegemony through Podcasting

Vanessa Evans (Syracuse University, USA), "To see and hear the world in a different way": Land and Relationality in the Global Indigenous Novel

### **Panel 6.2**

**Title:** Oceanic Counter-worlds: Towards a Hydrospheric Turn in Monsoon Asia (Part 1)

**Organizer/Chair:** Daniela De Simone (Ghent University, Belgium)

**Respondent:** Annalisa Bocchetti

**Room:** D7

#### **Presenters:**

Daniela De Simone (Ghent University, Belgium), Chank and Pearl Diving in Monsoon Seas: Littoral Craft and Submerged Labour Worlds in South Asia

Annalisa Bocchetti (University of Naples "L'Orientale," Italy), When the Sea Prays Back: Sufi Coastal Shrines in Urban India

Serena Autiero (Thammasat University, Bangkok), *The Mystic Tree at the Bottom of the Ocean: Materiality and Spirituality of the Coco-de-mer*

### Panel 6.3

**Title:** Worlds in Mutation: Asian/American and Transpacific Narratives of Transformation and Belonging (Part 1)

**Organizer/Chair:** Nicoleta Alexoae-Zagni (Paris 8 University, France)

**Respondent:** Pin-chia Feng (National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan)

**Room:** D6

**Presenters:**

Eun-Gwi Chung (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, Korea), Archipelagic Intimacies: Hydrospheric Consciousness and Eco-poetic Interconnection in Juliana Spahr's *Fuck You—Aloha—I Love You*

Nicoleta Alexoae-Zagni (Paris 8 University, France), Performing Ethnicity, Negotiating Belonging: Race, Corporeality, and Survival in C Pam Zhang's Climate Fiction

Pin-chia Feng (National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan), Crisis of Existence: Disease, Care, and Reproduction in Larissa Lai's *The Tiger Flu*

Chang Liu (Heidelberg University, Germany), Race, Energy, and Environmental Contamination in *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*

### Panel 6.4

**Title:** (Eco)justice, Identity, Place-Making

**Chair:** Peter Powers (Messiah University, USA)

**Room:** D4

**Presenters:**

Pekka Kilpeläinen (University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland), Anthropocentric and Ecocentric Intersections: Animism and Spectrality in Bernice L. McFadden's *Gathering of Waters*

Veronica Tatiana Popescu (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania), The Transformative Powers of Nature: Resistance, Healing and Belonging in Margarita Engle's *The Surrender Tree* (2008) and *Enchanted Air* (2015)

Peter Powers (Messiah University, USA), Learning Otherwise: Race, Environment, and the Counter-Classroom in the Work of Ta-Nehisi Coates and Cole Arthur Riley

Maria-Sabina Draga Alexandru (University of Bucharest, Romania), Deep Ecology and Middle Passage Corporealities in *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi

18:00 – 18:45

Coffee

Early Career Researchers! Meet the MESEAns (Library): Come and Meet the Board

18:45 – 20:45

Parallel Panel Sessions 7

### Panel 7.1

**Title:** The Healing Power of Nature in Toni Morrison's Fiction

**Organizer/Respondent:** Anna Pochmara (University of Warsaw, Poland)

**Chair:** Mar Gallego (University of Huelva, Spain)

**Room:** D7

**Presenters:**

Paola A. Nardi (University of Genova, Italy), Surviving Through Nature: Women in Motion in Toni Morrison's *A Mercy* and *Paradise*

Mar Gallego (University of Huelva, Spain), Revisiting the Forest: Survival, Healing, and Hope in Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and *A Mercy*  
Emmanuelle Andres (University of La Rochelle, France), Killing Trees or Reading the World? Toni Morrison's *A Mercy*  
Anna Pochmara (University of Warsaw, Poland), Black Cultivation Beyond Binaries: Toni Morrison's Reimagined Pastoral

### **Panel 7.2**

**Title:** Oceanic Counter-worlds: Towards a Hydrospheric Turn in Monsoon Asia (Part 2)

**Organizer:** Daniela De Simone (Ghent University, Belgium)

**Chair/Respondent:** Annalisa Bocchetti (University of Naples "L'Orientale," Italy)

**Room:** D4

**Presenters:**

Sunil Gupta (Ghent University, Belgium & Indian Archaeological Society, New Delhi), Guardian Spirits and Divinities of the Seas: Ritual Worlds of Ancient Seafaring in the Western Indian Ocean (1st–8th centuries CE)

Stefania Cavaliere (University of Naples "L'Orientale," Italy), Exploring Oceanic Liminalities: Shipboard Worlds and the Making of a Laskari Counter-Archive

Roundtable discussion: Daniela De Simone, Sunil Gupta, Stefania Cavaliere, Annalisa Bocchetti, Serena Autiero

### **Panel 7.3**

**Title:** Worlds in Mutation: Asian/American and Transpacific Narratives of Transformation and Belonging (Part 2)

**Organizer/Respondent:** Nicoleta Alexoae-Zagni (Paris 8 University, France)

**Chair:** Pin-chia Feng (National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan)

**Room:** Lecture Hall

**Presenters:**

Sämi Ludwig (Université de Haute Alsace in Mulhouse, France), The Sphere of Experience vs. the Sphere of Training: Evaluating the MFA-trained Authors of the 21st Century

Amal Selaimia (Université de Haute Alsace in Mulhouse, France), Memory, Environment, and Cultural Survival in Toshio Mori's *Yokohama, California*

Marie-Agnès Gay (Université Jean Moulin – Lyon, France), "Terre... Ether... Air...": Theresa Hak Kyung Cha's Atmospheric Self

Nelly Mok (University of Montpellier Paul-Valéry, France), Cambodian American Poetic Sites of Mourning and Memory: Remapping Resting Places for the Missing Ones

### **Panel 7.4**

**Title:** The Himalayas and Its Rivers: Resisting Erasure through Narratives and Rituals

**Organizer:** Sutanuka Ghosh (Jadavpur University, India)

**Chair:** Sipra Mukherjee (West Bengal State University, India)

**Respondent:** Sharmistha Chatterjee

**Room:** D6

**Presenters:**

Sipra Mukherjee (West Bengal State University, India), Of the Need to Protect Mayal-Lyang: Legends, Literatures and Resistance

Sharmistha Chatterjee (Aliah University, West Bengal, India), Towards a Poetics of 'Re-enchantment': Reading 'Storied Matter' in Select Texts of North-East India

Rai Kamalini Mukherjee (Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, India), The Mountaineer as Celebrity: Interrogating the Role of a Himalayan Cryospheric Imagination in Post-Colonial Nation-Building in India

Sutanuka Ghosh (Jadavpur University, India), Homing, Un-homing, Precarity: Narratives of a Transboundary River

21:30 – Optional Conference Dinner (Restaurant Alektor)

## Saturday, June 13, 2026

09:00 – 12:00                      Registration/Information Desk  
09:15 – 11:15                      Parallel Panel Sessions 8

### **Panel 8.1**

**Title:** Marginal/Dissident Voices and Endangered Languages in Troubled Geographies

**Organizer:** Jenny Webster (University of Lancashire, UK)

**Chair:** Alan Rice (University of Lancashire, UK)

**Room:** D7

#### **Presenters:**

Astrid Haas (University of Bergen, Norway), Drawing Resistance in the Borderlands: Fighting Trumpism in/with the *El Peso Hero* Comic Series

Jenna Altomonte (Mississippi State University, USA), Crossing [Virtual] Borders

Antri Kanikli (UCLan Cyprus University) & Alan Rice (University of Lancashire, UK), Endangered Languages and Family Language Policy Interventions: Evidence from a QR PSF Project

Jenny Webster (University of Lancashire, UK) & Kang-Suk Byun (Kangnam University, South Korea), Deaf Signers' Role in Assessing Sign Language Vitality: Literary Texts and Linguistic Identity

### **Panel 8.2**

**Title:** Cultural Identity, Spaces, Memory

**Chair:** Rocio G. Davis (University of Navarra, Spain)

**Room:** D6

#### **Presenters:**

Sevgin Özer (Sabancı University, Turkey), From Under a Roof to Beneath the Sky: Longing and Belonging in Nermin Yıldırım's *Ev*

Martha Cutter (University of Connecticut, USA), Networked Futures: Posthuman Agency and Ecological Restoration in Nnedi Okorafor's *Death of the Author*

Cathy M. Jackson (Norfolk State University, USA), Homeplace No More: When African American Communities Are Destroyed, Culture and Memory Remain

### **Panel 8.3**

**Title:** Transethnicity and Environmental Spheres: Reworking the Archive (Part 2)

**Organizer:** Cathy Waegner (University of Siegen, Germany)

**Chair:** Page Laws (Norfolk State University, USA)

**Room:** Lecture Hall

#### **Presenters:**

Hsinya Huang (National Sun Yat-Sen University NSYSU, Taiwan), From River to Reef: Indigenous Pacific Water Cosmologies and the Ethics of Care

Page Laws (Norfolk State University, USA), Woke is Broke: Indigenous-, Other-, and Self-Mocking in Larissa FastHorse's Indigenous Teaching Plays

Nicole Schneider (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, Germany), Response-able Archives: Transethnic Gazes, Ecological Crises

A. Robert Lee (Nihon University Tokyo, Japan), Land and Water: The Native American Poetries of Luci Tapahonso, Diane Glancy, Joy Harjo, and Linda Hogan

#### **Panel 8.4**

**Title:** Toxicity, Environmental (In)Justice, Agency

**Chair:** Panteleimon Tsiokos (Western University, ON, Canada)

**Room:** D4

**Presenters:**

Panteleimon Tsiokos (Western University, ON, Canada), Literary Agency in Creating Cultural Environments of Memory: The Case of Japanese American WWII Internment Camps in the USA

Andrea Holešová (University of Ostrava, Czech Republic), Porous Bodies, Toxic Waters: Corporeality and Environmental Injury in *cullud wattah*

Alexandra-Camelia Varvorea (Ovidius University of Constanța, Romania), Toxic Bodies, Toxic Beliefs: Internalized Sexism as a Trans-Corporeal Process in Margaret Atwood's Gilead

Kwakiutl L. Dreher (University of Nebraska at Lincoln, USA), Multicultural Ecologies of the South: Ethnicity, History, and Place-Making in Ryan Coogler's film *Sinners*

11:15 – 11:45                      Coffee

11:45 – 13:45                      Parallel Panel Sessions 9

#### **Panel 9.1**

**Title:** Xicanx geo-cultural readings of *Trapped in Amber*

**Organizer:** Grzegorz Welizarowicz (University of Gdańsk, Poland)

**Chair:** Carlos Morton

**Room:** Lecture Hall

**Presenters:**

Grzegorz Welizarowicz (University of Gdańsk, Poland), DeiXic Gdańsk: Xicanx Geo-Cultural Readings of *Trapped in Amber*

Maiza Hixson (The University of Texas at Dallas, USA), Greetings from Gdańsk: *Trapped in Amber* as Collaborative Urban Placemaking

Ewa Barbara Łuczak (University of Warsaw, Poland), From the Tragic to the Comedic Mode and Back: The Ethics of Humor in Carlos Morton's *Trapped in Amber*

Carlos Morton (University of California, Santa Barbara, USA), Conversation with the Playwright

#### **Panel 9.2**

**Title:** (Trans)Cultural Memory, Narrative

**Chair:** Raúl Rubio (The New School in Manhattan, USA),

**Room:** D7

**Presenters:**

Ari Räisänen (University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu), Mobility and Transcultural Memory in Atticus Lish's *Preparation for the Next Life*

Raúl Rubio (The New School in Manhattan, USA), Desire, Dissent & Disobedience: Ethnic Narratives in Latin American Performance Art

Justyna Kielkowicz (Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland), "Wouldn't life be so much simpler...?" Medievalist Responses to Contemporary Geopolitical and Environmental Challenges in Nicola Barker's *Darkmans*

Sihem Arfaoui (University of Jendouba, Tunisia), Poetics of Post-human Passages in Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West* and the Collapse of Anthropocentric Environments

### Panel 9.3

**Title:** Kinship, Imaginaries, Performativity

**Chair:** Peter Maber (Northeastern University London, UK)

**Room:** D6

**Presenters:**

Irina Diana Mădroane (West University of Timișoara, Romania) Rhetorical Citizenship and Performativity in the “Floodlines” Podcast: Centering Black New Orleanians’ Voices During and After Katrina

Hend Nasser (University of Lancashire, UK) Performing Environmental Justice in the Diaspora

Peter Maber (Northeastern University London, UK), “The Universe is my voice”: Sun Ra’s Astro-Black Cosmology and Diasporic Reimagining of the Earth’s Spheres

Hsin-chi Chang (Tamkang University, Taiwan), Learning Without Fathers: Posthuman Pedagogy and Kinship Reimagined in Octavia E. Butler’s *Adulthood Rites*

### Panel 9.4

**Title:** Challenging (Photographic) Circuits of Denaturalization, Dispossession and Neglect

**Organizer/Chair:** Anna Pegler-Gordon (Michigan State University, USA)

**Room:** D4

**Presenters:**

Susette Min (University of California, Davis, USA), Gleaning Photography's Failures

Anna Pegler-Gordon (Michigan State University, USA), Settled or Unsettled? Images of Wong Kim Ark and US Birthright Citizenship

Christina Jackson (Rutgers University–Camden, USA), Embodied Archives of Abandonment: Race, Spatial Neglect, and Environmental Inequality in Trenton and San Francisco

13:45 – 17:00

Lunch Break (in Zante Town area)

### Saturday, June 13, 2026 (evening)

Readings and the keynote address will be held at the Municipal Theatre of Zakynthos in Zakynthos (Zante) Town area.

17:00 – 19:00

**Title:** Poetry Reading and Dramatic Presentation: Carlos Morton & Tino Villanueva

**Chair & Moderator:** Francisco A. Lomelí (University of California, Santa Barbara, USA)

**Readers:** Tino Villanueva (Boston University, USA) & Carlos Morton (University of California, Santa Barbara, USA)

**Actors:** Maiza Hixson, Grzegorz Welizarowicz and Mayra Gomez-Labrada

19:00 – 19:30

Break

19:30 – 20:45

Keynote Lecture by Christos Karydis, Ionian University, Greece

**Title:** Preserving Culture in a Time of Environmental Crisis: The Role of Preventive Conservation

Chair: Jopi Nyman (University of Eastern Finland, Finland)

20:45 – 21:00

Closing Words

## Practical Conference Information

### 1. Local Organizers/Department of Environment, Ionian University

Sophia Emmanouilidou, Christos Karydis, Panagiotis Bourgiezis, Apostolos Vainopoulos and Aristeidis Kleiotis.

**Volunteers:** TBA

### 2. Ionian University, Department of Environment, Zakynthos Island Campus

The Ionian University was founded in 1984, the same year as the University of Thessaly and the University of the Aegean. The university comprises five faculties and twelve departments. Its seat is in Corfu, with university units in Lefkada, Kefalonia and Zakynthos. The University aims to contribute to the revival and cultivation of the local intellectual heritage, a heritage partly deriving from the cultural impact of the long-lasting European occupations. What is more, the Ionian University aspires to play a significant academic role as one of the Greek Higher Education Institutions through its educational, scientific and intellectual activities.

For more information on campus & Ionian Islands maps, see: <https://ionio.gr/en/university/map/>

Please note that the Ionian University is a multi-island Institution. MESEA 2026 will take place on the island of **Zakynthos (also known as Zante)**, Department of Environment, not in Corfu, where the Rector's Office is located.

### 3. Conference Venue

The MESEA 2026 Conference will take place at the Department of Environment, Ionian University, Zakynthos Island Campus (M. Minotou-Giannopoulou Str., Panagoula, 29100 Zakynthos) from **Thursday, June 11 to Saturday, June 13**, with sessions scheduled on campus until Saturday afternoon.

Evening sessions on **Saturday, June 13** will be held at the Municipal Theatre of Zakynthos (Zante) in the town center (Lomvardou 48, Zakynthos 291 00, Greece).

For more information about the Department of Environment, Ionian University, please visit: <https://envi.ionio.gr/en/>

### 4. Registration

Registration for the conference will take place at the Information Desk (Main Entrance Area) of the Department of Environment building, starting at 9:00 a.m. on the first day of the conference. For further details, please consult the Conference Schedule above.

## 5. Opening Reception

MESEA 2026 Conference Reception at Base San Marco Resto Bar (Historic City of Zakynthos) on Friday, June 11.

## 6. Coffee Breaks and Lunch

Coffee and light snacks will be served during the coffee breaks of the MESEA 2026 Conference, next to the registration desk at the Department of Environment building. Conference coffee breaks (coffee, juices and light snacks) are included in the conference fee.

Please note that there are no restaurants or resto-bars within walking distance of the campus area.

For MESEA attendees who wish to make plans for brunch or dinner, we have secured a **10% discount** at Barralu (<https://barralu.com/>) and Base San Marco (website under construction). Both resto-bars are located in Zakynthos Town area. To receive the reduced price, please use the code: **MESEA 2026**.

## 7. Conference Dinner (Friday, June 12, 2026)

Dinner will begin at 21:30 pm. The menu will consist of four courses: appetizer, salad, main dish, dessert & fruit with drinks included (wine and beer). The event will be an opportunity to meet and share experiences in a relaxed atmosphere. The restaurant is in the town center.

Price per person: 60€.

Place: Alektor Restaurant, 2 Dimokratias Square, Historic Zakynthos (Zante) Town center.

Please note that the restaurant has limited capacity, so pre-registration on the website is essential.

## 8. Young Scholars Excellence Award 2026

The winner of this year's Young Scholars Excellence Award will be announced and receive their award at the opening ceremony.

## 9. Zakynthos (Zante)

Located off the west coast of the Peloponnese and south of King Odysseus's legendary Ithaca, Zakynthos (also called Zante) is the third largest of the Ionian islands. With a distinct triangular shape, the island offers visitors the chance to see diverse landscapes: the mountainous north, the fertile plain in the central area with olive groves and vineyards, and the south-east region with sandy beaches and nesting grounds for the loggerhead sea turtle. Celebrated by Homer in *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, Zakynthos has a complex geopolitical history with the most significant cultural and architectural influence being the Venetian rule (1484-1797), during which the island was called "Fiore di Levante" ("Flower of the East"). The disastrous earthquake of 1953 almost erased the original beauty of "Chora" (central town) while the only areas that escaped destruction are the villages on the northern side. As a popular and budget-friendly travel destination, Zakynthos can be reached by plane and intercity buses from Athens or by ferry from the port of Kyllini in the Peloponnese. In June, there are numerous daily connections (low-cost flights) with major European airports.

More information on Zakynthos (Zante) Island can be obtained online:

<https://www.visitgreece.gr/islands/ionian-islands/zakynthos/>

## 10. Accommodation and Getting Around

We strongly recommend booking accommodation in **Zakynthos (or Zante) Town** area. There are no hotels within walking distance of the campus. However, a free shuttle bus will connect the town area with the campus. The schedule will be shared by late April.

For private transfers in Zakynthos (Zante) (e.g. to and from campus) and for travel between the airport and your hotel, you may contact the providers listed below.

When making your inquiry, please mention that you are attending **MESEA 2026 Conference**.

**Tip:** If you are open to sharing the transfer, the provider may be able to arrange a shared ride, which could further reduce the cost.

**15% discount** for MESEA 2026:

<https://zakynthosbooking.com/services/transportation/vans/exclusive-mini-van-transfer.html>

<https://zakynthosbooking.com/services/transportation/busses/exclusive-mini-bus-transfer.html>

<https://zakynthosbooking.com/services/transportation/cars/luxury-transport-in-zakynthos.html>

**10% discount** for MESEA 2026:

<https://roadstartransfer.com/>

No conference discount is available for **Zante Taxi**. However, their rates are generally reasonable:

<https://www.zantetaxi.gr/>

Please note that a private transfer is the most convenient option for reaching **Zakynthos (or Zante) Town** from the airport and for returning to the airport at the end of your stay.

The conference has secured rooms at select hotels in the heart of Zante Town. Discounted conference rates are available subject to availability, and participants are therefore encouraged to contact the hotel reservations desks directly.

Further details are available at:

<https://mesea.org/fourteenth-biennial-mesea-conference-travel-and-accommodation-info/>

Please note that Zakynthos (Zante) Town is not within walking distance of the campus.

## 11. WiFi/Internet

Participants can access the open wireless network at the Ionian University, Department of Environment. Login details will be provided upon registration.

## 12. Conference Abstracts

The Book of Conference Abstracts will be available on the MESEA website [www.mesea.org](http://www.mesea.org) by late May.

## 13. Copy and Print

Please consult the front desk in the registration office.

