

GENERAL AND LOCAL PERCEPTION OF WETLANDS BASED ON AI IMAGES SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS

Oral Presentation

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Wetlands play a crucial role in preserving biodiversity while ranking among the most endangered ecosystems on the planet. Effective conservation requires the engagement of local communities in pro-environmental behaviours and the cessation of activities negatively impacting these areas. According to the Goal-Directed Behavior Model, behavioural intentions are indirectly shaped by attitudes, subjective norms, perceived behavioural control, and anticipated positive and negative emotions. The study addressed the following research questions: Is the general perception of wetlands represented by the information on the global internet network? If so, how? Does the perception of wetlands differ when asked about specific locations? In the Emys-R project (www.emysr.cnrs.fr), we focus on three sites: Silene (Latvia), Neuburg am Rhein (Germany), and Woerr (France). The concept of “place image” refers to the mental or emotional representation of a particular location or environment. Based on this, an experiment was conducted to answer the above three questions. Artificial intelligence (AI) engines, using Mindjourney and Discord, were asked to draw pictures of wetlands in general. Subsequently, each engine generated three additional images after adding specified locations from the EMYS-R project to every prompt. The perception of wetlands was tested using semiotic and comparative analyses based on AI art.

UNDERCURRENTS: COMMUNITY ART, INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE AND OCEAN GOVERNANCE

Oral Presentation

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Ocean cultural heritage is often overlooked in national and global biodiversity policies and management. Art-based research can provide a transformative way to respectfully engage with Indigenous knowledge, meaningfully connect with unique ocean-human connections, and inform decisions that can ensure biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. In the context of ocean and biodiversity governance, cultural and spiritual connections with the sea

that embody ecosystem custodianship and deep knowledge of species and habitats, including those under extreme threat, should be considered just as important as food security and economic benefit. The One Ocean Hub, a transdisciplinary programme of research connecting marine and social sciences, law and arts for more inclusive and integrated decision-making, has adopted novel approaches to support the integration of Indigenous worldviews into boarder debates about ocean stewardship. This paper discusses community-led art projects ranging from film, murals, music and song, to wearable art and tapestry in South Africa, Ghana, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea that explore the profoundly inhabited nature of the ocean, from marine life to spiritual beings and ancestors. The paper concludes by reflecting on the agency of creative practices to influence decision-making processes and legal frameworks in the face of stressors such as over-fishing, climate change, marine pollution and deep-seabed mining.

THE ARTS APPROACH TO SUSTAINABILITY: UNDERSTANDING ESSENTIAL MECHANISMS

Oral Presentation

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Visions are the foundation to action. Taking the correlations between the theories of sensory perception, cognition and creativity as a starting point, this presentation will explore the unique mechanisms of artistic approaches and methods to envision alternative futures and to motivate action through artistic expression. The presentation focusses on deepening comprehension of the underlying principles and approaches that the arts have developed: critical reflection to challenge societal norms and existing structures; artistic expression to provoke thought and influence the evolution of belief systems; fostering imagination to contribute to the redefinition of cultural values and inspire collective action. In essence, the arts show a unique capacity for envisioning sustainable futures for humanity and nature by exploring new paths to evoke powerful emotions, for encouraging the synthesis of disparate concepts and for shaping the trajectory of human development towards a relational and regenerative paradigm. A series of projects showcasing arts and sciences collaborations will be explored and discussed.

CO-HABITATIONS: SHAPING THE CITY OF TOMORROW BY EMBRACING CO-EXISTENCE TODAY

Oral Presentation