



NTGENT

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The influence of colonialism on climate catastrophe

12 December 2023 | Gent, Belgium

WORKSHOP CONTENT

The main topics tackled in this workshop are political and human ecology. The scientists and artist worked in depth around marketization and commodification of climate change in Green Economy discourses, grassroots climate movements, transition management and the intersection of genetic engineering and democracy.

The team pursued their work around ecofeminism, linking women's oppression with environmental degradation:

- *Presentation of Philsan Osman on her work and research.*
- *Presentation of Lara Staal on her artistic project Empire's Island.*
- *Presentation of Anneleen Kenis on her academic research.*

BIOGRAPHY OF THE ARTISTS:

LARA STAAL

Lara Staal, born 1984 in Zwolle, The Netherlands, is a researcher, writer and curator. She studied theatre pedagogy at ArtEZ in Arnhem and theatre science and dramaturgy at the University of Amsterdam. Between 2013 and 2016, she worked as a programmer at Frascati where she developed various sociopolitical programmes in which alliances were created between art and other fields on the basis of shared urgencies. She takes interest in developing innovative forms within which dialogue and reflection can take place.

PABLO CASELLA

Pablo Casella, a Brazilian composer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist, has been a resident of Ghent since 2008. Pablo pursued classical guitar studies at UNESP (São Paulo) and Communication for radio and TV at FAAP (São Paulo). With a diverse musical background, he has contributed to numerous music projects and played a key role in the composition, co-arrangement, and co-production of two albums with the band Little Dots. Additionally, Pablo is actively involved in the theater scene, serving as a composer, producer, and live musician.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE SCIENTISTS:

MARY-ANN MANAHAN

Mary-Ann Manahan is a Ghent-based feminist activist researcher. Her doctoral research delves into the intersections of indigenous peoples' struggle for self-determination, forest conservation, and development. Preceding her academic pursuits, she has 17 years of professional practice collaborating with an activist think tank, advocacy NGO grant-making organization, and social movements. Her advocacy spanned areas such as redistribution, ecological, gender, and social justice, along with exploring alternatives to development. Mary Ann earned her undergraduate degree in sociology from the University of the Philippines-Diliman and her master's degree in Globalization and Development from the Institute of Development Policy and Management at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. She perceives her doctoral and teaching journey as a strategy of self-care, enabling her to sustain her commitment to political work and activism.

ANNELEEN KENIS

Anneleen Kenis is a senior post-doctoral research fellow affiliated with the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), and she is associated with both the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at KU Leuven and the Centre of Sustainable Development (CDO) at UGent. She holds a Ph.D. in Bio-Engineering Sciences with a focus on Political Ecology, along with master's degrees in Psychology and Sustainable Development and Human Ecology. Her previous research has delved into various topics, including the marketization and commodification of climate change in Green Economy discourses, grassroots climate movements, transition management, localization, and the intersection of genetic engineering and democracy. Her research interests encompass (urban) political ecology, feminist and queer ecologies, gender studies, scholar activism, social movement studies, and critical political theoretical approaches to climate change, air pollution, and genetic engineering (e.g., technocracy).

PHILSAN OSMAN

Philsan Osman is a student of African Languages and Cultures at Ugent. She volunteers at Black History Month Belgium, writes for the online feminist magazine Spijker Magazine and works as an educator for Avansa Oost Brabant. In her research, she works around the theme of 'ecofeminism', the link between women's oppression and environmental degradation. On this subject, she wrote the book 'Care to Care: Ecofeminism as a source of inspiration'.

UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) LINKED TO THE WORKSHOP

