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<https://www.pelionsummerlab.net/>



pelionsummerlab@gmail.com



@pelionsummerlab



Pelion Summer Lab



Pelion Summer Lab for Cultural Theory
and Experimental Humanities



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VOLOS

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PELION

SUMMER

LAB

VOL. 5

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FACULTY

Vivien Sansour (Bard College, USA)
Olga Cielemecka (University of East Finland, Finland)
Gene Ray (Geneva School of Art and Design, Switzerland)
Tom Western (University College London, England)
Jenny Marketou (New School for Social Research, USA)
Ismi Gatou (University of the Aegean, Greece)
Alexandros Papageorgiou (University of Thessaly)
Alexandra Siotou (University of Thessaly)

PSL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Penelope Papailias, Director of PSL, 2023 Program Co-Director
Pantelis Probonas, Public Relations
George Mantzios, 2023 Program Co-Director
Alexandros Papageorgiou, Logistics
Penny Paspali, Communications
Dimitra Morosou, Student Intern
Erika Tsioukantana, Student Intern

GRAPHICS

Erika Tsioukantana

STRANGE WEATHER SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZERS

Penelope Papailias
Penny Paspali
George Mantzios
Eleni Chrysopoulou (Day 2)
Panos Galanopoulos (Day 3)

ec/o/ntologies

The Pelion Summer Lab (PSL) for Cultural Theory and Experimental Humanities (PSL), founded in 2017, is an initiative of the Laboratory of Social Anthropology at the University of Thessaly in Volos, Greece. Every summer we convene an interdisciplinary group of graduate students, researchers, academics, artists and cultural producers for a ten-day period of intensive exchange and exploration regarding the pressing problems and questions of our worlds. So far, we have conducted four successful summer labs - Democracy & Dissent (2017), Liminal Lives & Para-Sites (2018), Data & Power (2019) and After/Lives in 2022.

The theme of this year's 5th lab, Ec/o/ntologies, explores how debates, methods, and epistemologies informing the emergent interdisciplinary field of Environmental Humanities might help confront and retool collective responses to the dire planetary exigencies of the mounting climate crisis. A central contention of ec/o/ntologies is that the ongoing collapse of human-planetary relations has made the bracketing of natural history from human history, the distinction between life and nonlife, nature and culture, increasingly untenable politically, intellectually and on the level of everyday existence.

Ec/o/ntologies aims to create an experimental space-time to consider these collective dilemmas of world-un/making by expanding our field of engagement: i.e., from relations among humans, however attuned to the power dynamics and histories of capitalism, colonialism and patriarchy, to encompass -and be encompassed by- the more-than-human, the entire material, multi-species cosmos: Gaia.

Wednesday, June 28th, 2023

- 18:30 **Cohort speed-dating**
- 19:00 **Intro to PSL & Eco/o/nologies**
Penelope Papailias & George Mantzios
- 19:30 **Intro to the Experiment**
Penelope Papailias & Alexandros Papageorgiou

Thursday, June 29th, 2023

- 7.30 - **Yoga**
8:30 Violetta Koutsoukou
 - 10:30 **Registration**
 - 11:00 - **Skills for Commoners**
13:00 Gene Ray (Geneva University of Art and Design)
- Commoning is the doing-together that composes commoners and shareable goods into a commons. Doing-together is kin to sympoiesis (making-together) and symbiosis (living-together). Commoning builds shared worlds, as well as shared goods.
- A 500-year project known as capitalist modernity has been busy destroying worlds, enclosing the earth in a globe, and constructing an “automatic subject...an inspirited monster” (Marx) that tirelessly turns living and nonliving beings into toxins called commodities.



Commoning is a mode of de-commodifying, of detoxing. Can it be more? Can it become more-than-human, extending the doing-together in multispecies co-production and re-worlding (Haraway, Tsing)? Can it become a project of biospheric reparation and resurgence, of “survivance” (Vizenor) and “commonisation” (De Angelis)?

In this seminar we will share skills, each of us taking turns teaching and all of us learning. We’ll show ourselves how easy it is to compose a simple commons. What do we know how to do or make? What do we need to know how to do, what would be useful and helpful for “livability” in the capitalist ruins (Tsing)? Please consider the wealth of your experience and bring a simple skill to teach us. A remedy, a recipe, a repair or hack or. . .

- 15:30 - **Anthrobombing: A collaborative storytelling and performance workshop**
18:30 Alexandros Papageorgiou & Alexandra Siotou (University of Thessaly)

Inspired by improv theater, this workshop invites participants to co-produce and “perform” stories related to the critical political and environmental issues that PSL 5 addresses. During this exploration in collaborative, performative storytelling we will engage playfulness, humor, dialogue and sharing, drawing on embodied and affective knowledge. In this experimental space of social encounter we will reflect on the ways we (scholars, artists, activists, etc.) (could) produce narratives while moving beyond our disciplinary backgrounds and opening up to uncertainty and ambiguity.

19:00 - **Makrinitza Guided Tour** | Georgia Paveli
20:30

This informative walk around Makrinitza will take as its starting point the local topography and ecology -notably the abundant water supply- and the political economy that developed around it. Topics will include the village’s elaborate masonry (towers, networks of cobblestone paths, springs), Makrinitza in popular culture and as a tourist destination, local mythology, ritual and religious practice, the folk artist Theofilos, the Europeanized elite – and much more! Our tour will begin at the school and end in the square.

Friday, June 30th, 2023

7:30 - **Yoga**
8:30 Violetta Koutsoukou

11:00 - **Eating earth: Experiments in Finitude**
13:00 Olga Cielemeńska (University of Eastern Finland)

In an environmentally traumatized world, the labour of repairing and healing comes as an exercise in finitude – of “living in the world of wounds” (Leopold, Sandilands). In a deforested area, new vegetation overgrows the wounds left by extractive logging but does not erase them. Lizards can regrow a compromised tail but can’t replace it by a perfect copy of how it was before. A healed wound leaves a scar; some scars thicken with time. These are exercises in remembering (Barad), mending, and repairing, where the ‘healing process does not raise life to a form of completion’ (Malabou).



Healing and repair are trauma and damage. In the seminar we will share our experiences of reading Dolores Reyes’ *Earthater/Cometierra*, a story of systemic violence materially inscribed in the ecology of a place—of violence deposited in the soil. We will gather to think together how matter remembers and resists, and to imagine political ecologies of healing.

17:00 -
20:00

Dispatches! (Environmental) Humanities in a Posthuman World” Hybrid Assembly @ Volos

Room B.1, Economics Department, Matsangos Complex

Dispatches are messages sent with urgency and purpose, often from the brink of hard to reach places of danger and shared consequence. To mark the opening of the Strange Weather Symposium we will host a hybrid assembly where members of this year’s PSL 5 Ec/o/ntologies faculty and cohort, together with PSL alum hailing from all over the terrestrial globe, will join community members affiliated to the Laboratory of Social Anthropology at the University of Thessaly and engaged citizens of Volos and Pelion to provide dispatches from the front lines of today’s mounting climate crisis. The aim of our assembly will be to relay these multi-sided dispatches so that they may more clearly resonate as interconnected and collective struggles.



Towards these ends we offer two orienting prompts (choose one):

- From your particular experience and standpoint, what do you think we should know about the ecological violence that is ongoing in the places you live, work, create, and struggle? Accordingly, what are the modes and techniques of redress, repair and commoning you've witnessed that might inspire us?
- From your (inter/un)disciplinary perspective, how is the fact and extent of the climate crisis (i.e., the ongoing and rapid collapse of human-planetary and ecological relationships) calling into question the anthropocentrism on which the division of the humanities/social sciences and natural history/physical sciences has been based? As a result, how do you think the humanities/social sciences should/have/might be transformed (or abolished) to confront the dire exigencies of planetary ruination more meaningfully?

After a first round of dispatches (3-4 minutes each), we will take a break to invite members from the audience to add to the conversation.

This event will take place live on the campus of the University of Thessaly in Volos and through a zoom link.

Saturday, July 1st, 2023

11:00 - **To Eat Alone is to Die Alone*** |
13:00 Vivien Sansour (Bard College)

Oftentimes when Palestinian farmers put seeds in the ground, they mutter a quiet prayer, "may we eat and may we feed others". This and many other linguistically profound sayings provide a lens into a cultural design based on the idea that our survival as individuals is connected to the well-being and survival of our community.

In this time together, we will be invited to let go of our commitments to and preconceptions with "reality" in order to allow ourselves to imagine alternative universes that are inspired by nature and her daring imagination. From the real to the fantastical, we will engage in a hybrid and intimate activity of being physically present with other living beings, while channeling this co-presence into a writing activity that will bring us deeper clarities about who we have been, who we are, and whom we would like to be.

This workshop will take us through a short but profound trip into our own spirits, the spirits of other people, and the seeds that help us weave stories to navigate a world that is in a state of hospice. For instance, how did imagination, nature, and science come together to make it possible for humans to develop bread from a wild grass, and how might this relationship of co-creation between humans and other beings inform our future?



These questions call for urgent contemplation, because many of the things we love are dying or are already gone. We will have to learn how to grieve, and even how to die, together, in order to rebirth a new world in which we become “better designers”, together.

* A Palestinian proverb

15:30 -
17:30

Undercartographies |

Tom Western (University College London)

Far from the cartographic practices that mark resources for extraction and people for dispossession, we make worlds out of relation – to the places and things we live with and hold dear, and to each other. This session initiates a collaborative art-research exercise; an experiment in developing collective spatial imaginations; a map that folds and unfolds over the course of the summer lab.

We make undercartographies: maps that are invented and inscribed from below, that write spaces into existence, that support free movement, that bring all beings together. Starting from our gathering point at Pelion, we carry and combine knowledges and ecologies, mapping ourselves into the mountain and the mountain into ourselves. These aren't maps in any conventional sense, but are rather a form of geopoetics – of reorganising the world. Sound and story, poem and dance, colour and texture, rhythm and emotion. 'Maps', as geographer Nour Joudah puts it, 'can confine and erase peoples and places, but they can also free a vision. Spatial imagination provides opportunities that policy debates do not' (2023).



Inspired by a set of geopoetic practices – Etel Adnan's *Ieporellos*, Natalie Diaz's water poems, Predrag Matvejevic's cultural landscapes, Mona Kareem's exile mappings, Robyn Maynard and Leanne Betasamosake Simpson's rehearsals for living – we make methods and forms of space-writing that create worlds from below.

18:30 -
20:30

Futuring Waters: Rewilding (Regeneration, Transformation, Purification, Biodiversity |

Jenny Marketou (New School for Social Research)

What about figuring out how to design for the water and its restoration? How do we artists empower ourselves to make living things which create space and habitats for other things to come back into life and cleanse the waterbody?

In this workshop, Jenny Marketou engages with ecological crises, mythological ancestry, and indigenous knowledge and histories in an attempt to propose solutions to ecological issues, to raise awareness, and to re-imagine our relationship to waters in an era of intense climatic and social change. Marketou's artistic practice is exemplified by her collaboration with scientists, activists, academics, and boat builders as part of The Billion Oyster Project and the Swale Lab on Governors Island in New York, where she lives and works. Thus, during the workshop Marketou will transmit the knowledge, methods, and techniques she has acquired in her long-term artistic research, enriching and creating new collaborative methods of knowledge and artistic production that respond to the increased needs of asserting access to clean water as a human right.

21:00 -
22:00

Screening of *Up to the Last Drop - The Secret Water War in Europe* | (2017, Dir. Yorgos Avgeropoulos, 60')

This public screening, hosted in collaboration with Cine-Doc Volos and supported by the Thessalian Regional Government, will take place on day 2 of the 3-day symposium *Strange Weather: Ecologies of Resistance and Repair*

In this film, Greek journalist and documentary filmmaker Yorgos Avgeropoulos follows the money and the corporate interests involved in attempts - and resistances - to the privatization of water in six EU countries over a period of four years. The EU has still to recognize water as a human right, as the UN did in 2010. Although Berlin and Paris have recently taken back public control over their water services, the financial and political European elites have repeatedly demanded that Greece, Portugal and Ireland privatize their public water systems as common stipulation provided in every bailout agreement signed between the debt-ridden countries and their lenders. The struggle over water depicted in the film has much to tell us about contemporary European values and the quality of the current European democracy.

Sunday, July 2nd, 2023

9.00- **Hike to Stagiates**

12:00 - **Common Ground**

14:00

The last day of the symposium "Strange Weather: Ecologies of Resistance and Repair" is dedicated to the intersecting struggles of local movements in Volos and Pelion related to environmental issues and the privatization of resources. The movement of the inhabitants of Stagiates village to defend their water source ("Free Water") will host us in the village square, where reports will be given from representatives of the coordinating assembly of various collectives in the city of Volos and Pelion. They will present to us the environmental issues that they face in their region and discuss the ways that the state often represses their activities, either through police violence or bureaucratic means. The aim of this meeting will be to discover through interaction between members of local movements and members of this year's cohort and faculty of the Ec/o/ntologies PSL common experiences, as well as effective mode of resistance and creative practices of reciprocity on a planet in the midst of climate collapse.

ΣΧΗΜΑΤΑ



14:00 - **Collective Kitchen in the courtyard of the former primary school, hosted by the Assembly of Stagiates Village "Free Water"**

15.30 - **Collective listening to 3rd season of the *Apo to Pempto* podcast, entitled. "Claiming visibility: Voices from the margins" |**

curated by Antonis Petras and Dimitra Morosou

In this installation, we will collectively listen to podcasts, trying to answer the question of how we could listen to podcasts through an embodied engagement and other experimental modalities of listening. The current season, which consists of five podcasts produced by students from the University of Thessaly and the University of Ioannina, deals with a spectrum of various exclusions and "unwanted" bodies that succeed, fail or remain in the border/lands while trying to access society.

Decolonizing Animals: Truth or Dare? |

Styliani Rapti & Thomas Papanikolaou, University of Ioannina

Invisible Lives: Migrant- Refugee Work |

Mary Stathokosta & Alexandros Palikidis, University of Ioannina

Give me an identity! |

Kristina Grompalli & Thomas Papanikolaou, University of Ioannina

Cement Dreams: A tale of envioning pollutants and militant ecologies |

Antonis Petras, University of Thessaly

Ambiguous Whitenesses |

Dimitra Morosou, University of Thessaly



The podcasts were produced at the Laboratory of Social Anthropology (University of Thessaly) in collaboration with the student network of the dēcolonize hellás, with financial support from the Experimental Humanities Collaborative Network (EHCN)

19:00 **Hike back to Makrinitza**

Monday, July 3rd, 2023

7:30 - **Pelion Excursion & Beach Day**

20:30

Tuesday, July 4th, 2023

7:30 - **Yoga**

8:30 Violetta Koutsoukou

11:00 - **Ec[h]/o/ntologies: Making Sound-based Geolocated Walks** | Ismini Gatou (University of the Aegean)

14:00

In this session, the theory and mechanics of making geolocated sound walks will be presented. The Echoes platform and use of sound recording equipment will be discussed. We will then do some sound walking and recording in the village, followed by a discussion of the areas (theoretical and spatial) on which each group would like to work.

17:00 - **Scenario** | Ismini Gatou & Anthrobombing
20:00

Discussion of the sound recording, followed by the brainstorming of the collective narrative based on the PSL themes, seminars, workshops and the symposium. Development of ideas for scenarios by each group.

Wednesday, July 5th, 2023

7:30 - **Yoga**
8:30 Violetta Koutsoukou

11:00 - **Sound editing & recording**
14:00

17:00 - **Workstations & Anthrobombing office hours (groups)**
20:00

20:00 **Walk to Portaria for dinner / drinks**

Thursday, July 6th, 2023

7:30 - **Yoga**
8:30 Violetta Koutsoukou

11:00 - **Workstations & Anthrobombing office hours (groups)**
14:00

17:00 - **Dress Rehearsal (groups)**
20:00

Friday, July 7th, 2023

11:00 -
14:00 **Final Beta Testing for Experiment**

17:00 -
20:00 **Public Experiment designed by PSL5 cohort!**

22:00- **PSL "5th Anniversary" Reunion Dance Party**

Saturday, July 8th, 2023

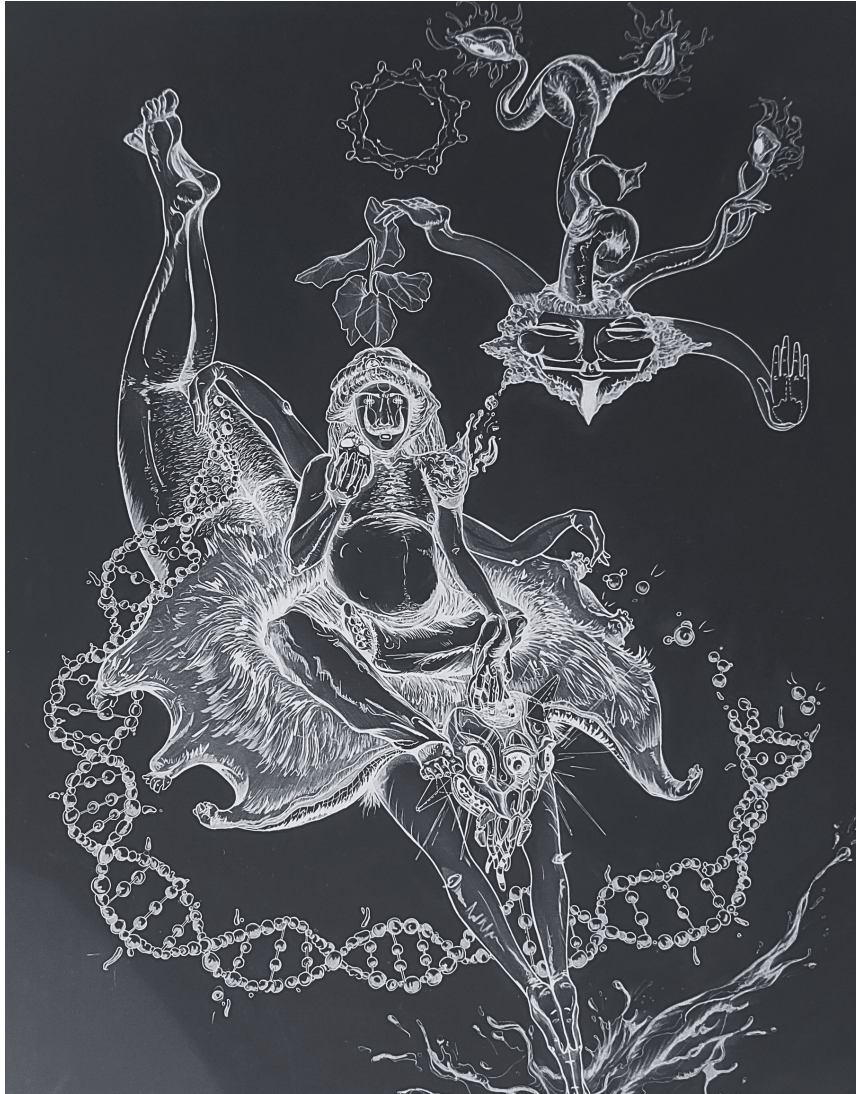
Departure :(



STRANGE WEATHER

JUNE 30 – JULY 1 — JULY 2

VOLOS – MAKRINITSA – STAGIATES



Artwork by George Mantzios

Strange Weather: Ecologies of Resistance and Repair

The weather has been so very strange. Extreme weather events ranging from relentless coastal flooding, acidifying oceans, to desertification, and uncontrollable forest fires are disabusing us of any delusions of exceptionalism or escape from the climate crisis now englobing us all. This weather is neither “incidental, nor accidental; it is an intra-active, naturalcultural phenomenon”; it is “the external conditions that structure ... quotidian existence”, “existence felt in and as our [porous] bodies” (Neimaris).

The public symposium “Strange Weather: Ecologies of Resistance and Repair”, held in the context of the 5th Pelion Summer Lab on “Ec/o/ntologies”, takes for granted the imbrication of state power, material phenomena and atmospheres, the strangulating grip of racism, colonialism, patriarchy and capitalism on the water, the air, the land. We must now learn to live with these more-than-human traumas, whether inflicted or endured. This strange weather has a way of catching up with us all.

Our aim in this three-day symposium is to sound out alternatives to despair and paralysis, on the one hand, and to a naïve faith in techno-capitalist solutions, on the other. We bring together activists, researchers, artists, from near and far, to join local community members responding to what we see as a planetary imperative: to regroup and ground our respective imaginative powers, everyday experiences, and multi-sited struggles for racial, historical, political, and environmental justice. Yes, all these things, all at once. The stakes could not be greater, the timing more urgent. We must prepare for what is already arriving.

menu

	WED June 28th	THU June 29th	FRI June 30th	SAT July 1st	SUN July 2nd	MON July 3rd	TUE July 4th	WED July 5th	THU July 6th	FRI July 7th	SAT July 8th
coffee table		Ice /Hot Tea, Instant Coffee, Filter Coffee, Fresh Fruits & Cookies	Ice /Hot Tea, Instant Coffee, Filter Coffee, Fresh Fruits & Cookies	Ice /Hot Tea, Instant Coffee, Filter Coffee, Fresh Fruits & Cookies			Ice /Hot Tea, Instant Coffee, Filter Coffee, Fresh Fruits & Cookies	Ice /Hot Tea, Instant Coffee, Filter Coffee, Fresh Fruits & Cookies	Ice /Hot Tea, Instant Coffee, Filter Coffee, Fresh Fruits & Cookies	Ice /Hot Tea, Instant Coffee, Filter Coffee, Fresh Fruits & Cookies	
lunch		Lentil salad (zucchini, carrot, corn, onion, tomato, dill and lemon vinaigrette)	Vegetarian sandwich, boiled egg, cereal bar and apple	Spinach pie and yogurt	Collective	Neochori /Milies	Briam (roasted zucchini, potatoes and eggplants in the oven) with feta cheese	Boiled beans with red sauce and country salad (tomato, cheese, onion, feta cheese)	Gemista (Stuffed tomatoes and peppers baked in the oven with vegetables, raisins and pine nuts)	Vegetarian souffle with vegetables and soy mince	





Intercity Bus Station KTEL

🌐 ktelvolou.gr/en/home/
 📍 Korai56 | 38222 | Volos
 ☎ 2421033253 | 2421033254

Doctor

📍 Portaria (village neighboring Makrinitza to the east)
 ☎ 24280-99920

Hospital in Volos

📍 Polymeri St. 134
 ☎ 2421094200 | 2421351000

Pharmacy in Portaria

Emmanoulidou Sotiria
 ☎ 2428099692

BUS SCHEDULE

VOLOS	→	PORTARIA - MAKF						
DEPARTURE	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	INFORMATION
06:15	●	●	●	●	●	-	-	
08:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
12:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
14:30	●	●	●	●	●	-	-	
16:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
21:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
PORTARIA - MAKRINITSA → VOLOS								
DEPARTURE	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	INFORMATION
07:00	●	●	●	●	●	-	-	
08:45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
13:15	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
15:15	●	●	●	●	●	-	-	
17:15	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
21:45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Nikos Tsoukas
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SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Experimental Humanities Collaborative Network (ECHN)
Laboratory of Social Anthropology, University of Thessaly
Regional Government of Thessaly Prefecture
The "Maides" of Makrinitza, Pelion - Non-Profit
Kosmopolitik: Network for Social Research and Public Action

SUPPORTED BY



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ANTHROBOMBING

