



# Metamorphosis and the Environmental Imagination from Ovid to Shakespeare

October 11-12, 2019 | UCLA Royce Hall 314



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2019**

8:45 Introduction and Welcome  
**Zrinka Stahuljak** (UCLA)  
**Giulia Sissa** (UCLA)  
**Francesca Martelli** (UCLA)

9:00 Chair: **Robert N. Watson** (UCLA)

**Lesley Kordecki** (DePaul University)  
*Ovid's Deconstruction of the Chain: Metaphoric Hybridity in Chaucer and Shakespeare*

**Lara Bovilsky** (University of Oregon)  
*Becoming Brute: Golding's Ovid, Bryskett's Dogs and Human Exceptions*

10:45 Coffee Break

11:15 Chair: **Francesca Martelli** (UCLA)

**Sandra Fluhrer** (University of Erlangen / FU Berlin)  
*"Who can impress the forest?" Terranean Deployments in Ovid and Shakespeare*

**Emily Gowers** (Cambridge University)  
*Are Trees Really Like People?*

1:00 Lunch Break

2:00 Chair: **Zrinka Stahuljak** (UCLA)

**Peggy McCracken** (University of Michigan)  
*The Feelings of Things: Animism, Ecology, and Phaethon's Crash*

**Bronwen Wilson** (UCLA)  
*Lithic Images, Jacopo Ligozzi, and the "Descrizione del Sacro Monte della Vernia" (1612)*

3:45 Coffee Break

4:30 Chair: **Robert N. Watson** (UCLA)

**Sir Jonathan Bate** (Arizona State University)  
*Metamorphosis and Sustainability from Ovid and Lucretius to the Renaissance*

5:45 Reception

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019**

8:45 Chair: **Andre Matlock** (UCLA)

**Diana Spencer** (University of Birmingham)  
*Language, Life and Metamorphosis in Ovid's Roman Backstory*

**Francesca Martelli** (UCLA)  
*Roman "Fasti" and Multispecies Temporalities in Ovid's  
"Metamorphoses"*

10:30 Coffee Break

11:15 Chair: **Erica Weaver** (UCLA)

**Eleanor Kaufman** (UCLA)  
*Classifying Stones*

**Miranda Griffin** (Cambridge University)  
*The World in an Egg: Reading Medieval Ecologies*

1:00 Lunch Break

2:00 Chair: **Zachary Borst** (UCLA)

**Marco Formisano** (Ghent University)  
*Ovid's Gaia. The Earth, the Middle and the Muddle in the  
"Metamorphoses"*

**Giulia Sissa** (UCLA)  
*The Fluidity of Life in Ovid's Metamorphic World*

3:45 Coffee Break

4:30 Chair: **Alex Purves** (UCLA)

**Mark Payne** (University of Chicago)  
*Ancient Aliens: Biotechnology, Slavery, and the Greeks in H. P.  
Lovecraft's "At the Mountains of Madness"*

**John Shoptaw**, (UC Berkeley)  
*Readings from "Whoa!"*

6:00 Closing Remarks

Narratives of metamorphosis, from human into other living and mineral forms, have long provided an important tool for thinking through the complexities of our relationship with the world around us. From Ovid to David Cronenberg, thinkers and artists have used the trope of physical transformation to figure the ways in which human and non-human agencies have evolved from and adapted to one another in a relationship characterized by fluctuating perceptions of friction and symbiosis, distance and proximity. This conference seeks to locate the theme of metamorphosis in the early history of the western environmental imagination, from Classical antiquity to the Early Modern period; and to explore the ways in which the various cultural and historical manifestations of metamorphosis from this earlier period resonate with the environmental approaches and concerns of our present day.

Organized by Francesca Martelli, Associate Professor of Classics, UCLA, and Giulia Sissa, Distinguished Professor of Classics and Political Science, UCLA.

No fee. Limited seating.

Online registration required at [cmrs.ucla.edu/conference/metamorphosis-and-the-environmental-imagination/registration/](https://cmrs.ucla.edu/conference/metamorphosis-and-the-environmental-imagination/registration/)

Parking and transit information at [transportation.ucla.edu/](https://transportation.ucla.edu/)

Co-sponsored by UCLA Center for 17th- & 18th-Century Studies, UCLA Clark Library, and UCI Shakespeare Center.



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Century Studies

**UCI** Shakespeare Center

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