NEWSLETTER #3 DECEMBER 2025

OSLO CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES NEWSLETTER



AT YEAR'S END, OUR THANKS

This semester has been shaped by many shared conversations and encounters across OCEH. As the year draws to a close, we send our warmest season's greetings and look forward to all that the coming year will bring!

DEAR FRIENDS

The last months of the semester brought a lively energy to OCEH. From the Research Groups Meet at Tøyen Hovedgård to full lunch seminars and new collaborations, November and December were packed with ideas and conversations. We ended the year together with Sadie Menicanin's talk – and a shared cup of gløgg.

It's been a semester that grew fuller than we expected, and we're grateful to everyone who joined us along the way. As we look toward January, we're excited to see our new research groups begin their work and to follow the projects that will take shape in the year ahead.

Thank you for being part of this growing community of people, ideas, and environmental humanities.

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AIR, ABSENCE, LANDSCAPES: OCEH EVENTS NOV–DEC 2025

A cross-section of recent conversations bridging music, anthropology, food systems, and environmental art.

Lunch Seminars

George Cusworth – Digitally Mediated Planetary Encounters (Nov 18) - On the rise of the metabolic subject in an age of planetary diets and data-driven sustainability – and what it means to internalize ecological concerns through everyday acts of eating.

Sadie Hale – Storytelling with(out) Whales (Dec 5) - On whale-watching in Andenes and the narrative atmospheres guides weave around presence, rhythm and absence.

Sadie Menicanin – The Air of the Vienna Woods (Dec 15) - Forest air and fin-de-siècle music in a smog-choked Vienna. Sadie traced how poetic breezes and rustling leaves gained new resonance amid a city dreaming of fresh air and green belts.

Symposium

Curating "the Wild": Environmental Approaches to Art History (Nov 27) - At the National Museum, Isabelle Gapp and Dehlia Hannah invited participants to reimagine how art meets ecological thinking. From circumpolar landscapes to experimental museum "rewilding," the symposium asked how art history and curatorship can speak – and respond – to climate futures.

Organised by the Environmental Art Research Group.

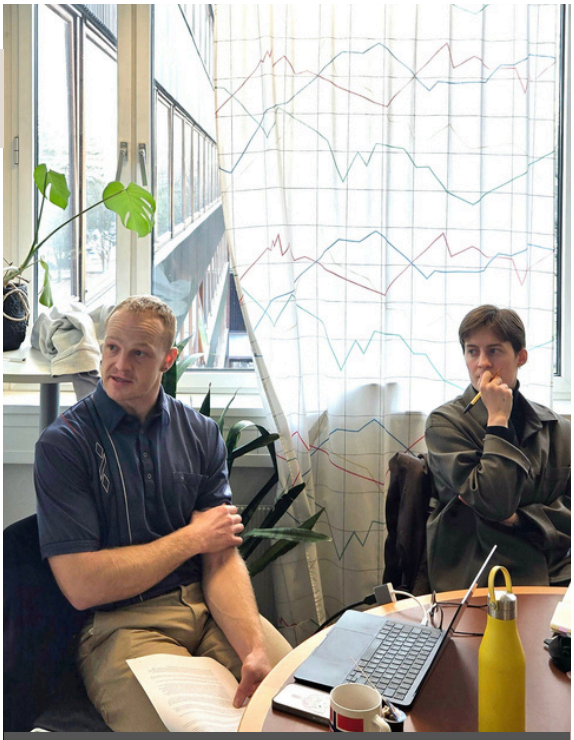
Gatherings

OCEH Research Groups Meet 2025 (Nov 14) - A day at Tøyen Hovedgård where current and new research groups exchanged ideas, shared ongoing projects, and mapped out collaborations for the year ahead.

CAPTURED MOMENTS



Current and new research groups coming together at Tøyen Hovedgård.



George Cusworth on linking everyday eating to global ecological change.



A glimpse into Sadie Hale's talk on guiding, whales, and narrative atmospheres.

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WELCOMING OUR NEW GUEST RESEARCHER



INTRODUCING VISITING RESEARCHER HAUKE OHLS

OCEH is pleased to welcome Hauke Ohls, Visiting Researcher at IFIKK from December 2025 to May 2026.

Hauke comes to us from the University of Bonn, where he works as a Postdoctoral Researcher in Contemporary Art and Digital Image Cultures. Supported by an Argelander Mobility Grant, he will spend December 2025 to May 2026 at IFIKK and lead the Critical Resources Lab at OCEH.

His work explores eco-relationality in contemporary art, ecological aesthetics, extractivism, and the intertwined material, economic, and theoretical lives of images.

You can read more about Hauke and his project on his OCEH profile page.

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WHAT'S NEW ON OUR WEBSITE



A NEW SPACE FOR IDEAS: THE OCEH BLOG

✦

Launched at the end of October, our new blog is a living space for reflections, interviews, and glimpses into the work happening across OCEH.

New posts:

Welcome to the OCEH Blog!

A warm introduction to the blog's purpose: sharing stories, insights, and behind-the-scenes moments from our growing community.

Where Literature Meets the Living World

An interview with visiting researcher Stefano Rozzoni on environmental narratives, collaboration, and creative research – plus a look into his workshop on AI-generated poetry.

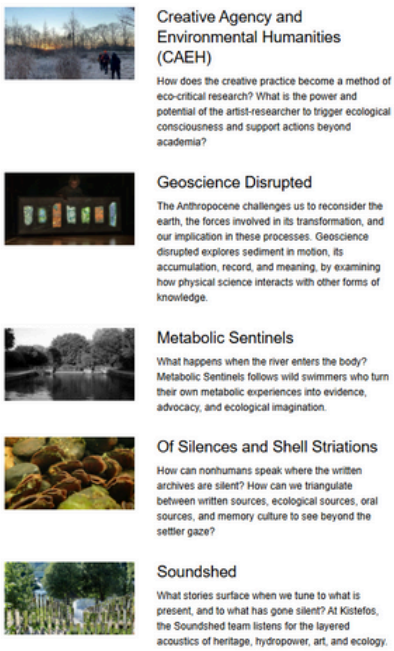
Sensing the Ocean Through Whales

Meet visiting researcher Sadie Hale, who explores human-whale relations, Arctic encounters, and the multisensory practices of marine storytelling.

RESEARCH GROUPS: NEW PAGES NOW LIVE

As our new research groups prepare to begin in early 2026, most now have dedicated pages where you can explore their projects, members, and upcoming activities.

Junior Collaborative Teams



- Creative Agency and Environmental Humanities (CAEH)
- Geoscience Disrupted
- Metabolic Sentinels
- Of Silences and Shell Striations
- Soundshed

Each page offers a window into the questions and methods guiding the next phase of OCEH research.

Senior Research Groups



© Aike P. Rots

REAP — Ritual, Ecology, Affect, and Performativity

How rituals shape – and are shaped by – their environments.

FIND OUT MORE


© Lucia Carminati

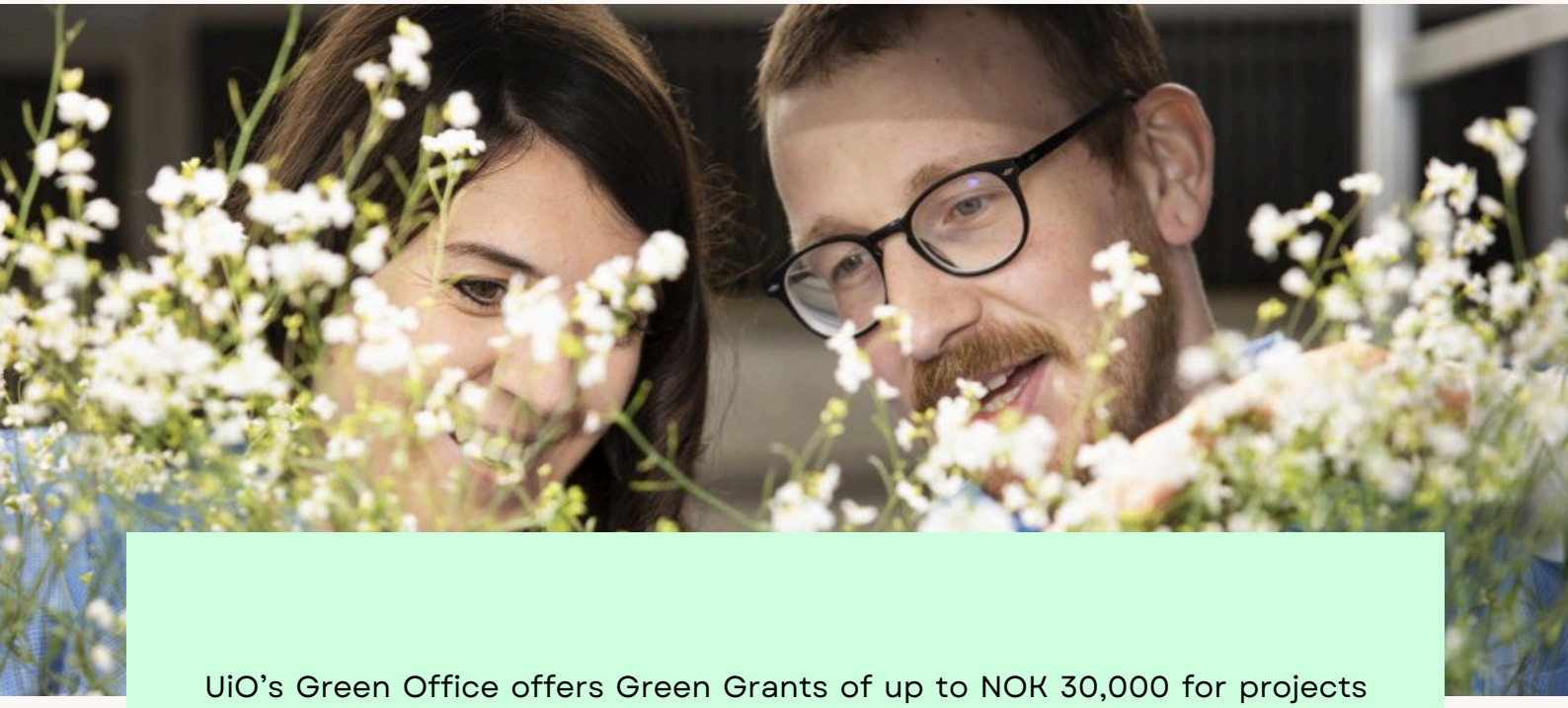
al-ARD — The Land We Care For

Environmental responses and everyday resilience across the Middle East and North Africa.

FIND OUT MORE

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: GREEN GRANTS



UiO's Green Office offers Green Grants of up to NOK 30,000 for projects that help make the university more sustainable. Students, staff, and student organizations are all welcome to apply – especially for initiatives that bring students and employees together, link knowledge to action, and support UiO's climate and environmental goals.

Applications are submitted through Nettskjema and processed four times a year (15 March, 1 May, 1 October, 1 December).

Read more and apply on the Green Office website.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...



CHRISTMAS... BANNED?

As England banned Christmas in 1647, early Christmas trees were emerging in Germany.

Together they show how winter traditions arise from shifting links between culture and the natural world.

Did you know that Christmas was once banned in England?

In 1647, England's Puritan-led Parliament outlawed Christmas celebrations – no church services, no feasts, no decorations. They viewed the holiday as a leftover from pagan festivals and worried it encouraged too much merry-making.

Meanwhile, in 16th-century Germany, a very different custom was emerging: families began bringing evergreen trees indoors and decorating them, an early ancestor of the Christmas tree we know today.

Over the centuries, these contrasting traditions blended into the familiar holiday rituals many celebrate around the world. It's a reminder of how seasonal practices shift and travel shaped by culture, belief, and our enduring ties to the natural world.

COMING SOON

While we continue to finalize our spring programme, two upcoming events are already in place:

- **Jan 12 – Against the Planetary**

Kasia Paprocki and Michael Levien unpack why climate action can take regressive forms, drawing on research from Bangladesh and Louisiana.

Co-hosted by the Centre for South Asian Democracy and OCEH.

- **Mar 27 – Anne-Maria Magga: Siida laws**

Anne-Maria Magga presents Sámi political and legal perspectives on land, community, and human–reindeer relations – and the challenges posed by climate change and industrial land use.

Our full spring programme is coming soon. For updates and registration links, keep an eye on our website and future newsletters.



WHO WE ARE AT OCEH

Meet the Team Creating the Center



HUGO REINERT
Head of OCEH

Hugo is an Associate Professor of Cultural History and Environmental Humanities at the University of Oslo, and since 2025 he has served as the head of OCEH. His research spans topics from forests to deep-sea environments, with a special focus on how human and nonhuman worlds intersect.

As the center's second leader, Hugo continues to guide OCEH's growing community of researchers and students, strengthening its role as a hub for environmental humanities in Norway and beyond.



KAROLINA POLTORAK
Admin. Coordinator

Karolina serves as Adviser and Administrative Coordinator at OCEH, overseeing the center's daily operations and supporting the OCEHLab. She brings together project management, administrative guidance, event planning, and research support to help OCEH run smoothly day-to-day.



SONJA IRENE ÅMAN
Lab Manager

Sonja is a Postdoctoral Fellow in Environmental Humanities at the University of Oslo, where she explores the politics and cultural histories of marine life – like herring migrations and Indigenous whaling practices.

Trained as an interdisciplinary environmental humanities researcher, Sonja weaves together environmental history, political ecology, and rich storytelling to examine how people and nonhuman worlds intersect.

STAY CONNECTED



Want to keep up with OCEH between newsletters? Visit our website for news, updates, and upcoming events – and follow us on social media for more.

hf.uio.no/oceh

We are on Bluesky and Facebook:

Edited by Karolina Poltorak, on behalf of the Oslo Center for Environmental Humanities.