

CALL FOR PAPERS

Established in recent decades as a research area in its own right, the study of ecology in the Renaissance has diversified into several distinct but related fields. The 7th Conference of the Nordic Network for Renaissance Studies aims at taking stock of the broad range of meanings, creating conversations between the existing areas and inquiring into possible directions onward.

We suggest a range of both literal and more metaphorical conceptions of 'ecology' in which nature, broadly defined, may be considered both an object of study and an agent of change or stasis. The relationship between humans on the one hand and climate and the animate world on the other; the ability of humans to compete with or outdo nature; nature as both a physical and symbolic order; and the interest in hybrid forms, between human and non-human are among the topic areas the conference seeks to address. However, we welcome papers from scholars in and outside the Nordic countries on any aspect of ecology in the 'long' Renaissance, approximately 1400–1700.

Topics may include:

- Conceptions of 'nature' in the Renaissance world, and how these related to the human world
- Climate theories in the Renaissance
- Cold versus heat as metaphorical, theological and physiological phenomena, as represented also in the arts
- Gendered ecologies, e.g. how nature as fertile or generative was gendered, and how the ecology of gender impacted scientific, theological and literary interpretations of the world
- Revisiting genre conventions, including, but not limited to, pastoral genres
- Animal studies, including conceptions of animal rights/agency

- Sustainability as a literary and artistic topos
- The material world interpreted as a symbolic order, in relation to e.g. divine transactions
- Aesthetics of ars/technology vs. natura/nature/environment
- Hybrid beings, cyborgs and automatons, including the blurring of boundaries between human and machines and depictions of 'monsters' or 'aliens'

Confirmed keynotes:

Sophie Chiari (Université Clermont Auvergne),
Carin Franzén (Stockholm University)
Christopher P. Heuer (University of Rochester)

We welcome abstracts of 200 words together with a brief bio, to be submitted to renaissanceecologies2026@lir.gu.se by 28 August, 2025. Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes.

If you wish to propose a whole panel, the maximum number of presenters is three (or, alternatively, a two-part panel with 5–6 presenters). In such cases, please also submit a 500-word description of the panel. Decisions on accepted proposals will be communicated by the end of September, 2025.

The conference is organized by the Early Modern Seminar, University of Gothenburg. Enquiries should be directed to Cecilia Rosengren (cecilia.rosengren@lir.gu.se) and Per Sivefors (per.sivefors@spraak.gu.se); please send any messages to both.



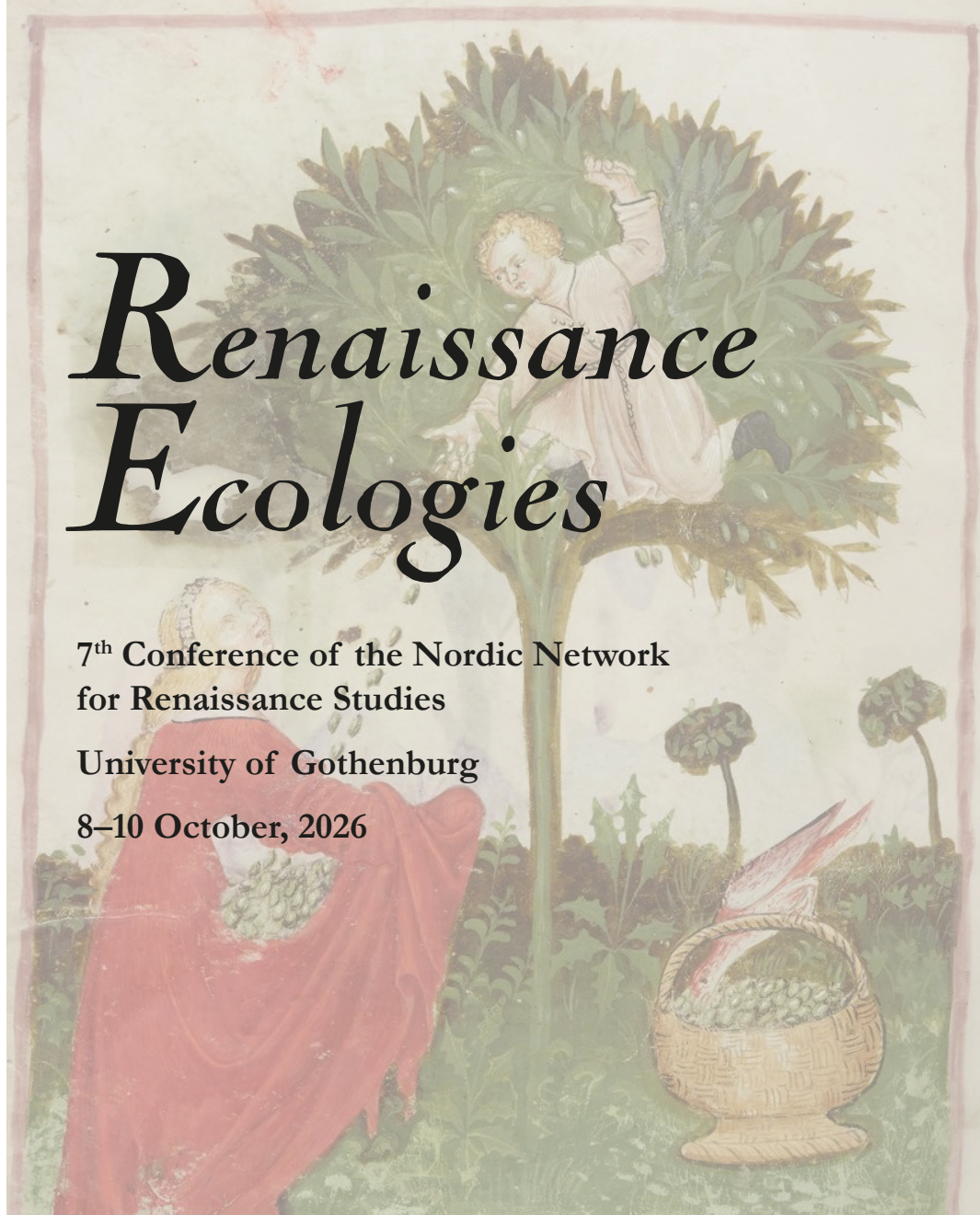
UNIVERSITY OF
GOTHENBURG

Renaissance Ecologies

7th Conference of the Nordic Network
for Renaissance Studies

University of Gothenburg

8–10 October, 2026



Olue.

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que sicutate. a. m. inuamentum. exatant aptatum.
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