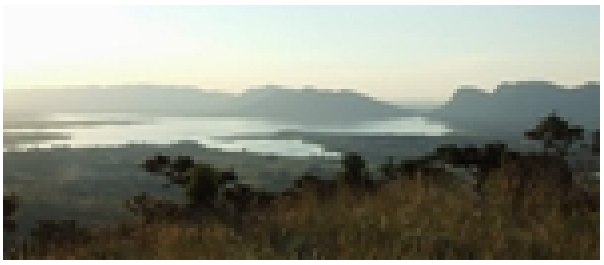
# The 11th Literature & Ecology Colloquium
# 11 - 12 September 2014, Oxwagon Lodge, Hartbeespoort Dam



First call for papers

## *Words on Water*

In 2012 the Literature & Ecology Colloquium focussed on coastal littorals and literatures of South Africa's seas. This year, we invite papers exploring the relationship between words and our inland waters: rivers, dams, rains, pipelines, taps, irrigation schemes, floods, droughts. South Africa's water situation is dire, with over-use and extensive pollution now exacerbated by climate change.

What role does literature play in shaping ideas and reflecting on the role of water in the national or sub-continental consciousness? How do literary genres like poetry and fiction articulate with non-fiction such as travelogues and scientific works? The colloquium, therefore, particularly encourages offerings of a transdisciplinary nature and the involvement of practitioners in pragmatic disciplines relating to water health, conservation and distribution, as well as historians and anthropologists.

While the colloquium particularly encourages papers on southern African literatures, explorations of other areas of the world are also welcome. Comparative perspectives can be especially enlightening.

Suggested, but by no means exhaustive, topics might include the following:

- Waters in indigenous oral literatures (eg. rains in San cosmology; spiritual significance of pools in Xhosa writing)
- Rivers as barriers/goals/conveyances in travelogues
- Water, rains, droughts and floods in the farm novel (*plaasroman*)
- Water-dwelling animal presences in literature (fish, crocodiles, hippos etc.)
- Water distribution, class and race in urban settings
- Polluting water
- Swimming, fishing, drinking as tropes
- Dam-building as iconic of control and belonging
- Water, history, and national consciousness
- Science writing and public discourses on water
- Language, law and water justice

Papers with a broader focus in the subdiscipline of environmental literature will also be considered. Send abstracts or proposals by 17 June 2014 to:

Erika Lemmer, Department of Afrikaans and Theory of Literature, University of South Africa (lemmee@unisa.ac.za) or Alan Northover, Department of Afrikaans and Theory of Literature, UNISA (northra@unisa.ac.za). E-mail submissions should be sent as MS Word attachments. Consult the website of the Literature and Ecology Colloquium on the website of the Department of English (Rhodes University) for information on previous conference proceedings.

**Conference registration and payment**

To be announced later.

**Accommodation**

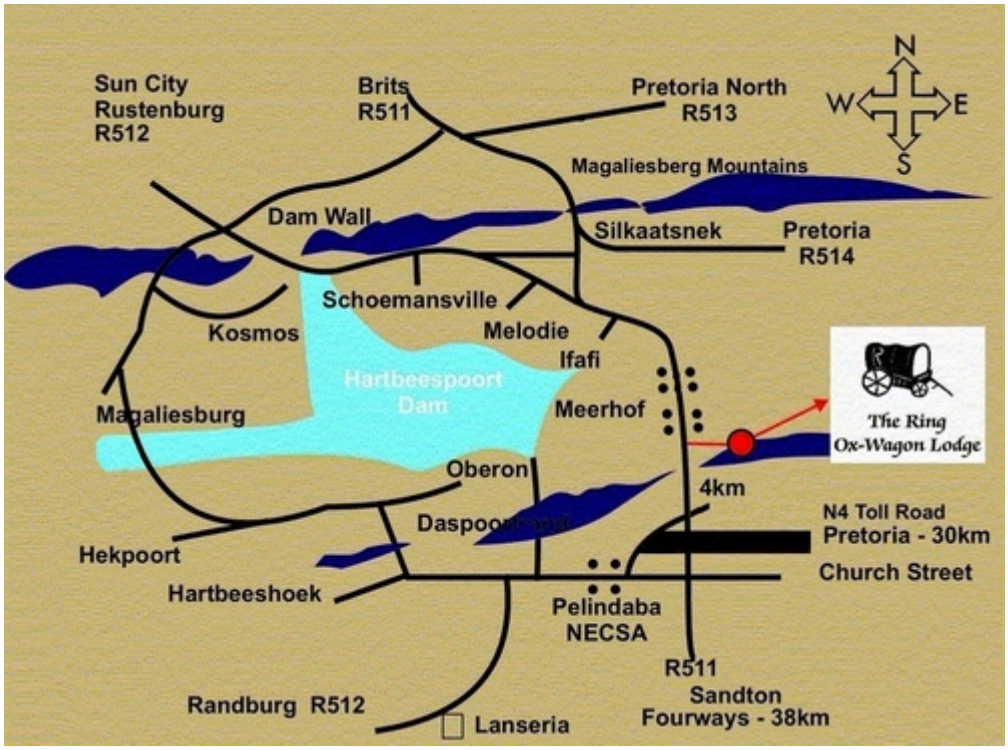
Delegates are responsible for making their own booking and travel arrangements. Accommodation at the Oxwagon Lodge, where the conference venue is situated, is limited, but adventurous individuals can google the quirky oxwagon accommodation; contact Mark Turner (0780750720 or 073-544-7300; mark.turner@OxwagonLodge.co.za; fax 0966105113). There is an open restaurant on the premises. For the faint-hearted, we suggest the following, more conventional establishments and links:

Fires Mountain Lodge (firesmountainlodge@gmail.com), contact Edward Clarke (083-284-5767): self-catering, 1 km from Oxwagon Lodge.
Cocomo Guesthouse (cocomo@vodamail.co.za), contact Tieka Oosthuizen

(012-259-0303); 4 km from conference venue.
Benlize www.hartbeespoort.co.za/benlize, contact Ben Botha (082-338-3977); self-catering,12 km from venue.

Please note that there are dozens of other guesthouses around Hartbeespoort Dam. A Google search for accommodation at Hartbeespoort will yield many results. Try to avoid the guesthouses in Kosmos, which is on the exact opposite side of the dam: stick to the Ifafi, Meerhof and Schoemansville areas.

**Directions to conference venue**




The Oxwagon Lodge is located on the main Johannesburg - Hartbeespoort road, the R511. If you drive north from **Fourways** (Johannesburg), stay on the R511 all the way. Remember to look out for the **left-turn which the R511 takes** a few kms after Diepsloot/Dainfern. Just as Hartbeespoort Dam comes into view, proceed down the hill for 0.5 km and look for our entrance, on the right hand side. Turn in here and take the sand road back to the top of the hill.

If you're coming from **Randburg** along the R512, proceed to the Broederstroom Farm Stall T-junction and then turn right. Drive about 9 kms to the R511 (passing Pelindaba on your right) and see the signs for Hartbeespoort. Turn left

onto the R511 and proceed up the hill until the Dam comes into view. As above, proceed down the hill for 0.5 km and look for our entrance on the right hand side. Turn in here and take the sand road back to the top.

From the centre of Pretoria, take the "original" N4 heading west and come off at the second Pelindaba exit. We are then about 2 km along the R511 towards Hartbeespoort, just follow the signs.

If travelling from **Pretoria's northern suburbs**, take the "other N4" heading west (very confusing!) towards Rustenburg and come off at the Brits exit. Turn left (south) away from Brits and follow the signs to Hartbeespoort. Watch out for the right turn just after Silkatsnek. Proceed to the 4-way stop and turn left at the Total garage We are then about 5 km further on the R511. Look for our entrance on the left hand side.

If travelling from **Krugersdorp/Maropeng**, take the Hartbeeshoek road eastwards towards Hartbeespoort Dam. At the T-junction turn right onto the R512, come around the Dam via Broederstroom, continue straight and pass Pelindaba on your RHS. When you reach the R511, turn left towards Hartbeespoort. We are 2 km further - up the hill, at the top you see Hartbeespoort Dam, and then you proceed down for 0.5 km and look for our entrance on the right hand side.

**GPS Coordinates:**

(Latitude and longitude, in 3 formats)

**Degrees and minutes and decimal minutes: S 25 deg. 45.526' E 27 deg. 55.555'**

**Degrees, minutes and seconds and decimal seconds: 25 deg. 45′31.0″S, 27 deg. 55′33.5″E**

**Degrees and decimal degrees: -25.7586 deg, 27.926 deg**