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WBKOLLEG
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GSAH | Global and Transregional Studies

Place-based research, embodiment and the planetary

Prof. Dr Karen Barbour

Professor in Te Kura Toi School of Arts, University of Waikato

Public lecture: 2.11.2026, 5.00pm - 6.30pm, room F -105 Unitobler

Workshop: 3.11.2026, 10.00am - 12.00pm, room B -105 UniS



Public lecture

2.11.2026,
5.00pm - 6.30pm,
room F -105 Unitobler,
Lerchenweg 36

Workshop

3.11.2026,
10.00am - 12.00pm,
room B-105 UniS,
Schanzeneckstrasse 1

1 ECTS (Pflicht oder
Wahlpflichtbereich
GTS, ICS, Wahlpflicht-
bereich SLS und SIN-
TA)

Registration (for workshop attendees only)

via KSL or e-mail to
david.castillo
@unibe.ch

Workshop readings
will be communicated
via ILIAS.

Place-based research, embodiment and the planetary

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Professor in Te Kura Toi School of Arts, University of Waikato

Organization and moderation: **David Castillo**

Institute of Theatre Studies, University of Bern

Drawing on her current work on entanglements in the more-than-human world, Karen locates herself in Te Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa/the Pacific Ocean and specifically Aotearoa New Zealand. Her embodied creative practices and ethnographic research engages deeply in the felt sense of relationship to the remote islands and surrounding oceans of her home.

Through engagement with the material agencies of oceans and islands, Karen discusses place-based embodied experiences, memories, affect and elemental motifs. She reflects on how humans are entangled in places, and how human actions, sustainable or destructive, reveal and reflect changes in immediate environments and the planet as a whole.

Karen's embodied practices enable insights about climate change and offer opportunities to expand the aesthetics of the Anthropocene, reimagining the more-than-human world as a practice of hope. In this presentation she combines photographs, video dance and forms of creative writing to prompt reflection and commitment to change.

Biography

Dr Karen Barbour is a Professor in Te Kura Toi School of Arts at the University of Waikato in Aotearoa New Zealand, engaged in arts and transdisciplinary research. Focussed on embodied ways of knowing, particularly relationships with sites, places, theatres and digital video performances, she also researches movement pedagogy.

Karen is the author of *Dancing across the Page: Narrative and Embodied Ways of Knowing*, co-author of *(Re)positioning Site Dance: Local Acts, Global Perspectives*, co-editor of *Ethnographic Borders and Boundaries: Permeability, plasticity and possibilities* and *Ethnographic Worldviews: Transformations and Social Justice*, and editor of *Dance Research Aotearoa* journal.

Her articles, book chapters and video works are published internationally.

