

Natural Beauty and the Good Life

An International Workshop

Department of Philosophy, University of Basel, Switzerland
19-20 September 2025

eikones Forum, Rheinsprung 11

Day 1

Friday 19.09.2025

9:00 – 9:10

Welcome: Stephanie Schuster

BLOCK I

Chair: Sandra Shapshay

9:10 – 10:10

«What, exactly, do we mean by ‘natural’ beauty? A relational based approach to aesthetic appraisal and its implications for the connection thought to exist between natural beauty and human wellbeing»
~ **Fran Speed (Dr., Independent Scholar, London)**

10:10 – 11:10

«Aesthetic values as relational values: understanding eudaimonic human-nature relationships through environmental aesthetics»
~ **Anna Deplazes Zemp (Dr., University of Zurich)**

11:10 – 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:30

«Exploring the experience of beauty in nature through micro-phenomenology»
~ **Guðbjörg Jóhannesdóttir (Ass. Prof., University of Iceland)**

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch Break

BLOCK II

Chair: Markus Wild

14:00 – 15:00

«Varieties of natural beauty and the ‘good life’»
~ **Emily Brady (Dr., retired Professor, Texas A&M University)**

15:00 – 16:00

«In praise of humble beauty: a cross-cultural exploration of weeds»
~ **Yuriko Saito (Prof. Em., Rhode Island School of Design)**

16:00 – 16:20

Coffee Break

16:20 – 17:20

«Impermanence, meaning, and natural beauty: a Japanese aesthetic approach»
~ **Samuel Jonathan (MA cand., University of Oklahoma)**

Day 2

Saturday 20.09.2025

BLOCK III

Chair: Anna Deplazes Zemp

09:00 – 10:00 «Nature's meaninglessness, aesthetic experience, and the good life»
~ **Marcello di Paola (Ass. Prof., University of Palermo)**

10:00 – 11:00 «The rhythms of life: natural cycles, beauty, and the good life»
~ **Kerry Clark (PhD cand., University of Tennessee)**

11:00 – 11:20 *Coffee Break*

11:20 – 12:20 «Frugality, humility, care: a eudaimonic aesthetics of nature»
~ **Elisabetta Di Stefano (Prof., University of Palermo)**

12:20 – 14:00 *Lunch Break*

BLOCK IV

Chair: Marcello di Paola

14:00 – 15:00 «Nature aesthetics and climate change»
~ **Laura Fumagalli (PhD cand., University of Augsburg/LMU Munich)**

15:00 – 16:00 «The 'garbage park' and the good life: the case of Freshkills Park on Staten Island»
~ **Sandra Shapshay (Prof., Hunter College (CUNY))**

16:00 – 16:30 *Coffee Break*

16:30 – 17:30 «On feeling at home in the world *or* should the encounter with natural beauty be a human right?»
~ **Stephanie Schuster (PhD cand., University of Basel)**

17:30 – 18:00 Final Discussion