

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
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	<i>Coffee Break</i>
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	<i>Lunch Break</i>
14:00 – 15:00	«Natural beauty and the enhancement of life» ~ David E. Cooper (Prof. Em., Durham University)
15:00 – 16:00	«Varieties of natural beauty and the ‘good life’» ~ Emily Brady (Prof., Texas A&M University)
16:00 – 16:20	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:20 – 17:20	«The rhythms of life: natural cycles, beauty, and the good life» ~ Kerry Clark (PhD cand., University of Tennessee)
17:20 – 18:20	«Impermanence, meaning, and natural beauty: a Japanese aesthetic approach» ~ Samuel Jonathan (MA cand., University of Oklahoma)
18:30	<i>Workshop Dinner</i>

Day 2

Saturday 20.09.2025

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	«In praise of humble beauty: a cross-cultural exploration of weeds» ~ Yuriko Saito (Prof. Em., Rhode Island School of Design)
11:00 – 11:20	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:20 – 12:20	«Frugality, humility, and the art of living: a eudaimonic aesthetics of nature» ~ Elisabetta Di Stefano (Prof., University of Palermo)
12:20 – 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
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	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:30 – 17:30	«On feeling at home in the world <i>or</i> should the encounter with natural beauty be a human right?» ~ Stephanie Schuster (PhD cand., University of Basel)
17:30 – 18:00	Final Discussion