

IDEA Seminar Series, 2018-19

“Literary Journalism, Memory and the Struggle for Environmental Sustainability”

Danilo Rothberg

This seminar, part of the ReportAGES project, will focus on how the craft of literary journalism can be studied as a valuable resource for the purpose of documenting personal accounts and testimonies concerning environmental sustainability challenges in countries which, like Brazil and many others in Europe and the Americas, adopt participatory systems of water governance. These are political structures comprising a multitude of social contexts in which individuals and groups develop a wealth of stories, memories and narratives about experiences of living in water scarcity, droughts and floods. The study of literary journalism can contribute, as a source of theory and practice, to uncover perspectives that inspire communities to engage with the adaptation to climate change. We will discuss such contributions, which can be taken as strategies for deepening ecological citizenship.

Biography

Danilo Rothberg is Professor of Sociology of Communication in the Faculty of Architecture, Arts and Communication, Department of Human Sciences, at the São Paulo State University (Unesp) in Brazil. He is also Director of the Postgraduate Programme in Communication at Unesp. Rothberg was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Warwick and King’s College London (2017 and 2015, UK), and is currently a *professeur invité* at the Université de Lorraine (I.D.E.A.). Rothberg was a co-investigator in the research project “Narratives of water (NoW): a cross-cultural exploration of digital hydro-citizenship in the UK and Brazil” (2015-2017), funded by Fapesp (the São Paulo Research Foundation) and the University of Warwick. From 2018 to 2020, his research, again funded by Fapesp, aims to create actionable knowledge to assist decision-making and environmental governance by retrieving, activating and circulating organizational memories, stories and narratives of water management and activism in Brazil.