The symbiotic relationship between language and nature in southern and eastern Arabia

24-26 April 2019
University of Leeds
AHRC Network
Workshop structure

• Housekeeping
• PANEL 1: When you name a thing, you see it: The importance of names
• PANEL 2: Digital mapping
• Key-note: Bedouins, movement and environmental change, Professor Dawn Chatty
• PANEL 3: The role of popular literature: Narratives and literature around nature
Participants

Specialisms
• Sociology
• Linguistics
• Language documentation
• Cognitive science
• Literature
• Natural resource management
• Marine ecology
• Botany
• Media and communications
• Anthropology
• Education
• Ethnography
• Cartography

Institutions
• Qatar University
• University of Leeds
• SOAS, London
• Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, London
• Middlebury College, USA
• Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat
• National Research University, Moscow
• Leiden University
• Ministry of Education, Oman
• Ministry of Health, Oman
• Carleton University, Ottawa
• University of Oxford
• Naples University
• University of St Andrews

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Work to date

• February 2018 team symposium at Qatar University
• February 2018 student workshops at QU (JW)
• July 2018 Endangered Languages workshop, Leeds
• August 2018 Mehri language documentation workshop, Salalah (for Nizwa University)
• September 2018 student workshops at QU (JW)
• October 2018 video conference, with focus on digital mapping
• Expansion of network
Related work


• January 2019 launch of Centre for Endangered Languages, Cultures and Ecosystems (CELCE), Leeds (JL, JW and others) Mark Cocker (author of *Our Place*) keynote
Related collaborations

• 2019-2020: Yemen in Conflict: Popular literary heritage as expression of conflict and tool for conflict resolution. British Academy grant (Deryn Rees-Jones, JW, Sam Liebhaber, Leonid Kogan)

• February 2019: The maintenance of language and culture among Bedouin women in Qatar, UoL funding (Kaltham al-Ghanim, JW)

• 2019-2020: Digital tools for global endangered languages. Carleton University Multi-Researcher Catalyst Fund (Erik Anonby, Kumiko Murasugi, and team, with CELCE)

• Submission to UoL: Quantifying interacting changes in climate, fishing, and language in remote coastal communities (Maria Beger, JW, Erik Anonby)
Edited book with Bloomsbury

• Language and Nature: Interdisciplinary methodology – edited by JW, Diane Nelson, Jon Lovett
  – Basic proposal accepted by *Bloomsbury Advances in Ecolinguistics*
  – Main sections (provisional):
    • Perceptions and expressions of environmental change
    • The role of narratives in language and nature
    • Conservation and revitalisation
    • Mapping language and nature
    • What’s in a name?
  – Contributions requested from partners!
THANK YOU, AND ENJOY THE WORKSHOP