

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

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

- 2018-2019 Sadler Seminar Series on Language and Nature, Leeds
- 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**