
A day at ICE 20 – Ecolinguistics in 2050

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Résumé

During this creative writing workshop, participants will be invited to travel into the future using Rob Hopkins' time machine technique. Once they are there, they will be guided in a multilingual creative writing activity to imagine a day in the life of Seren, a trilingual Welsh-English-French ecolinguist attending the 20th International Conference on Ecolinguistics in 2050. Bringing together techniques used during the creative writing workshop which was held at the first national meeting of French political ecology collectives in 2023 and the EPolAr workshop 'What do we want to eat in 2050?', this exercise in imaginative projection will require participants to invent answers to the following questions and to weave them into a coherent narrative:

How does Seren travel to the ICE 20 venue and where does she stay? (transport, housing)

Where does the conference take place, what is the university campus like, what kind of activities take place there? (university buildings, research facilities, organisation and management of higher education and research)

What is ecolinguistics like in 2050? What does Seren do, share and learn about at the conference? (knowledge, skills, methods, research in/teaching of ecolinguistics, the arts, languages spoken, translation and interpreting)

What does she eat? (food generally with a special focus on the festive conference dinner)

Participants will be divided into four groups which will each be responsible for writing about one part of the day. Facilitators will ensure coherence between the four parts:

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Travel, accommodation, breakfast, arriving at the conference.

Morning activities and lunch.

Afternoon activities, including an outing.

Conference dinner and end of the day.

Participants will be guided in their creative writing by a team of facilitators who will provide resources and sources of inspiration such as photographs, the INRAE scientific foresight study about food and land use, literary extracts related to the future of linguistics, information about ecobuilding and renovation techniques, about methods for preserving endangered languages, and about relevant translation and interpreting practices. Participants will be invited to compose a short verse of poem or song, as the workshop facilitators include a musician who will help put the story to music. The story produced during the workshop could be performed for all conference attendees during the conference dinner or a restitution moment at the end of the conference.

The workshop will take place on site, will be multilingual in (at least) Welsh, English, Breton and French and can include any other languages contributed by participants. It could accommodate between 12 and 20 participants and will require four hours. Access to a projector or large screen would be appreciated but is not essential.

Bibliography

EpolAr (2024) *What do we want to eat in 2050?* writing workshop, available at <https://epolar.hypotheses.org/what-do-we-want-to-eat-in-2050>

Hopkins, R. (2025). *How to Fall in Love with the Future*. London: Chelsea Green Publishing.

Mora O., Le Mouél C., de Lattre-Gasquet M. et al. (2020) *Exploring the future of land use and food security: A new set of global scenarios*. PLOSOne.

Mots-Clés: creative writing, foresight study, future of ecolinguistics, minoritised languages, translation