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"Imagining Rivers: The Aesthetics, History, and Politics of American Waterways. A Conversation Between Lawrence Buell and Christof Mauch"

Buell, Lawrence, and Christof Mauch

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This contribution features a transatlantic conversation between Christof Mauch, environmental historian and Americanist from Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, and Lawrence Buell, literary scholar and 'pioneer' of ecocriticism from Harvard University. Buell's *The Environmental Imagination: Thoreau, Nature Writing, and the Formation of American Culture* (1995) marked the first major attempt to understand the green tradition of environmental writing, nonfiction as well as fiction, beginning in colonial times and continuing into the present day. With Thoreau's *Walden* as a touchstone, this seminal book provided an account of the place of nature in the history of Western thought. Other highly acclaimed monographs include *Writing for an Endangered World* (2001), a book that brought industrialized and exurban landscapes into conversation with one other, and *The Future of Environmental Criticism: Environmental Crisis and Literary Imagination* (2009), which provides a critical survey of the ecocritical movement since the 1970s, with an eye to the future of the discipline. (From the article)

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