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Report on the 19th International Scientific Conference in the “Humanistic Ecology” series, entitled *Environmental Philosophy and Ethics in the Face of the Ecological Crisis* (Warsaw, 18–20 September 2025)

Sprawozdanie z 19. Międzynarodowej Konferencji Naukowej z cyklu „Ekologia Humanistyczna”: „Filozofia środowiskowa i etyka środowiskowa w obliczu kryzysu ekologicznego” (Warszawa, 18–20 września 2025)

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Abstract

The 19th International Scientific Conference in the “Humanistic Ecology” series, entitled *Environmental Philosophy and Environmental Ethics in the Face of the Ecological Crisis*, was held in Warsaw on 18–20 August 2025. Co-organized by *Studia Ecologiae et Bioethicae* (SEeB), the conference brought together scholars representing a wide range of disciplines, including environmental philosophy, ethics, theology, education, law, and the social sciences. Over three days, participants presented a broad spectrum of research and analyses addressing the contemporary ecological crisis, the human–nature relationship, sustainable development, and the ethical implications of ongoing environmental change. In addition to plenary sessions,

the programme included parallel thematic sessions, which enabled in-depth discussion of climate change, biodiversity, environmental responsibility, and the axiological foundations of responses to ecological challenges. The conference also strengthened international academic cooperation within the “Humanistic Ecology” network. An important outcome was the facilitation of publication in SEeB: selected papers have already been published or made available as Online First articles, while further texts remain under editorial development.

Keywords

humanistic ecology, environmental philosophy, environmental ethics, ecological crisis, sustainability, SDG 13 – Climate Action, SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 15 – Life on Land

Streszczenie

Międzynarodowa Konferencja Naukowa z cyklu „Ekologia Humanistyczna” pt. *Filozofia środowiskowa i etyka środowiskowa w obliczu kryzysu ekologicznego* odbyła się w Warszawie w dniach 18–20 sierpnia 2025 r. Współorganizowana przez *Studia Ecologiae et Bioethicae* (SEeB), zgromadziła badaczy reprezentujących różne dyscypliny: filozofię środowiskową, etykę, teologię, edukację, prawo oraz nauki społeczne. W trakcie trzech dni przedstawiono szerokie spektrum badań i analiz dotyczących współczesnego kryzysu ekologicznego, relacji człowiek–przyroda, zrównoważonego rozwoju oraz etycznych konsekwencji przemian środowiskowych. Oprócz sesji plenarnych, w programie znalazły się równoległe sesje tematyczne umożliwiające pogłębioną dyskusję nad zmianą klimatu, bioróżnorodnością, odpowiedzialnością środowiskową i aksjologicznymi podstawami odpowiedzi na wyzwania ekologiczne. Konferencja służyła także wzmocnieniu międzynarodowej współpracy naukowej w ramach sieci „Ekologii Humanistycznej”. Ważnym rezultatem było wsparcie ścieżek publikacyjnych w SEeB: wybrane referaty zostały już opublikowane lub są dostępne jako Online First, natomiast kolejne teksty pozostają na etapie opracowania redakcyjnego.

Słowa kluczowe

ekologia humanistyczna, filozofia środowiskowa, etyka środowiskowa, kryzys ekologiczny, zrównoważony rozwój, SDG 13 – Działania w dziedzinie klimatu, SDG 12 – Odpowiedzialna konsumpcja i produkcja, SDG 15 – Życie na lądzie



Figure 1: Logo of the “Humanistic Ecology” conference series.

Since 2018, conferences in the “Humanistic Ecology” series have been held on a regular basis by the Department of Ecophilosophy at the Institute of Philosophy of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw (UKSW). The international academic meetings in this series have enjoyed considerable interest and recognition among scholarly communities both in Poland and abroad. The 19th edition of the conference, held on 18–20 September 2025 at UKSW, was characterized by an international profile and an interdisciplinary approach to the issue of the ecological crisis. The event received the honorary patronage of the Marshal of the Mazovian Voivodeship, Adam Struzik, and was financially supported by the Marshal’s Office of the Mazovian Voivodeship.

The principal organizer of the conference was Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, with the following institutions acting as co-organizers: the Marshal’s Office of the Mazovian Voivodeship, Comenius University Bratislava, the Salesian Pontifical University in Rome, and the Francis de Sales Scientific Society. The opening of the conference commenced with addresses by Prof. Sebastian Sikorski (Vice-Rector of UKSW for Promotion and Cooperation with the Civic and Economic Environment) and Prof. Jozef Masarik (Vice-Rector for Science at Comenius University Bratislava). A letter from the Marshal of the Mazovian Voivodeship addressed to the participants was also read out.

The plenary session comprised papers delivered by three eminent international scholars. Prof. Joshtrom Isaac Kureethadam (Salesian Pontifical University, Rome) presented a paper entitled *Diagnosing the Philosophical, Spiritual, and Socio-Economic Roots of the Ecological*

Crisis, in which he examined the philosophical, spiritual, and socio-economic roots of the contemporary ecological crisis. Dr Anthony Le Duc (St John's University, Bangkok) delivered a paper entitled *Steps Toward Ecoflourishing: A Religious Humanistic Perspective*, discussing the possibility of shaping a concept of the good life from the perspective of religious humanism oriented towards harmony between the human person and the environment. Prof. Jozef Masarik (Comenius University Bratislava) presented a paper entitled *Why do we explore the universe?*, in which he reflected on the motivations underpinning space research and its significance for contemporary science.

During the conference, 37 papers were delivered by 44 speakers representing 30 academic institutions. Among the participants actively presenting their research, 21 were affiliated with Polish research institutions and 23 with foreign academic centres. Poland was represented by 14 institutions, while the international side included 16 institutions from fourteen countries: Italy, Thailand, Slovakia, Croatia, Romania, Lithuania, Ukraine, and Moldova. The Polish institutions included: Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Opole University, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, Ignacy Mosciński University of Applied Sciences in Ciechanów, Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz, WSB Merito in Poznań, University of Warsaw, Maria Grzegorzewska University in Warsaw, University of Wrocław, Pontifical University of John Paul II in Kraków, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, University of Silesia in Katowice, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, and Foundation for the Future of Protected Areas – Kronenberg Institute.

A significant group of participants also consisted of non-presenting attendees representing diverse academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, and private individuals. The participants actively engaged in discussions, sharing their experiences and insights, and established new scholarly contacts in an international setting.

Since SEeB co-organized the event, it is worth noting—without overstating the one-to-one correspondence between conference papers and published manuscripts—that some contributions presented during the conference have already found pathways to publication in *Studia Ecologiae et Bioethicae* (SEeB), while other texts are available as Online First or remain

under editorial development. Two clear examples of conference-to-journal continuity are: the paper on environmental rights and philosophical methodology (Sedová and Plašienková 2026), and the sustainability-oriented analysis of marketing and quality of life (Pechočiaková Svitačová 2026). Additionally, a manuscript by Cristina Onet and Emanuel Tavalá—topically aligned with conference discussions on environmental law and ethics—is currently in the editorial process in SEeB (Onet and Tavalá, forthcoming). For readers' convenience, the relevant SEeB items (both published and in-process) are listed in the References section below.

The programme also included integrative events: a gala dinner, a tour of the Warsaw Old Town, and a study visit to the Kampinos National Park in Granica, during which the park staff presented the participants with the natural and cultural heritage value of this area of Mazovia.

The conference confirmed the established position of UKSW in scholarly reflection on the ecological crisis as well as the reputation of the conference series itself. This series constitutes a significant contribution to the international academic discourse on the subject. Its interdisciplinary approach, international scope, and the strong engagement of participants resulted in a fruitful exchange of views and the emergence of new opportunities for research collaboration. The themes addressed during the conference—ranging from philosophical, ethical, and educational aspects of the ecological crisis, through issues related to climate change, to questions of biodiversity and sustainable development—reflect the growing importance of humanistic reflection in responding to global environmental challenges.

An immediate outcome of this edition was the outlining of preliminary plans for the continuation of the conference series. It is envisaged that the next academic event in the “Humanistic Ecology” series will be held in 2026 at the Ion Creangă State Pedagogical University in Moldova.

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