

# Aesthetic Adaptation as Response to the Future: On Reading and Reworking Poetry



Keynote Lecture by Prof. Dr. Per Esben Svelstad,  
Norwegian University of Science and Technology

in the framework of the CCM project “Just Futures? An  
Interdisciplinary Approach to Cultural Climate Models”

According to Hartmut Rosa, Western late modernity is characterized by a diminishing sense of responsiveness between humans and the world. I will argue that the aesthetic experiences fundamental to the Humanities can help cultivate a patient form of responsive attention—one currently under threat. Crucial in this respect is the idea of adaptation, understood both as an aesthetic practice of reworking artistic works for new contexts, and as a mode of existing in a systemically interconnected, volatile world. In my lecture, I will address theoretical and pedagogical aspects of this issue and discuss what happens when students work on poetic texts as part of an interdisciplinary project on visions of the future in education for sustainability and the environment.



**Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025, 18:00 / 6 pm**

**RESOWI, SR 15.13 (Bauteil B)**

**No registration necessary, everybody welcome!**

Per Esben Svelstad is Professor of Norwegian with an emphasis on literature and literary education at the Department of Teacher Education, NTNU in Trondheim. He has published in the fields of Scandinavian and European literature, queer theory, and adaptation studies. His current research focuses on how to integrate an education for sustainability emphasizing pluralism, creativity, and critical thinking in the literary classroom.