

Cahiers d'histoire

Call for Papers

Reflections and studies on environmental history

Due date for proposals: **November 15th, 2016**

Due date for articles: **May 15th, 2017**

Les Cahiers d'histoire journal is presently accepting proposals for its **winter 2018** edition. Environmental history will be the topic for this upcoming edition, and it will be published under the supervision of co-directors Michèle Dagenais (Full Professor, UdeM) and Catherine Paulin (M.A. student, UdeM).

As a sub-discipline emerging in the 1970s and 1980s, environmental history offers a new lens into a past that is not only forged by humans, but also by their surroundings, the landscape (urban included), nature and other living beings. By questioning basic assumptions, such as who or what can be an historical agent (whether active or less so), historians have the possibility to reach new perspectives as well as learn new insight about past events and their context. In considering an environment of material and biological beings as well as their interagency, we ensure a full and more complex vision of our, as well as their, past. Broadly, it allows us to perceive history as being more than a purely human achievement, all-the-while keeping in mind that "history" is a human concept.

When applied to historical questions, environmental history offers the possibility of rendering awareness about how complex the past can truly be; its methods, theories and questions bring to the forefront interconnections which develop through time and space. Its openness to new tools to better analyse historical contexts also means its historians appreciate interdisciplinary work and collaboration.

Examining questions about the past with an environmental perspective in mind also allows historians to closely tie their work to the present, demonstrating its relevance to better understanding our own contemporary concerns.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of various themes which could be discussed:

- Spaces and places (urban, rural, appropriation and production of spaces/places, shared places, exclusion)
- Consumption
- Pollution
- Natural resources (impact of, exploitation of)

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- Transportation and movement
- Waste and garbage (impact, recycling, etc.)
- Parks, zoos, botanical gardens (restricted areas, created places)
- Animals (pets, working, livestock, leisure, slaughterhouses, butcher shops, etc.)
- Species (exploitation, endangered, introduction of, indigenous, etc.)
- Markets (agricultural, urban, public, etc.)
- Relations to the environnement (nature/culture, humans/animals, gender, etc.)
- Watercourses
- Populations, borders (frontiers), Aboriginal peoples
- Environmental politics (local, municipal, provincial, national, international, transnational)
- New perspectives on various topics (ex: perspectives disengaged from anthropocentric points of view)
- Various theoretical and methodological reflections (interdisciplinary, GIS)

Both co-directors wish to reiterate the importance of interdisciplinary work in environmental history as well as emphasise the potential diversity of primary sources at hand. As such, individuals who specialise in any temporal or geographical zone, as well as any social science (history, anthropology, archaeology, sociology, etc.), are encouraged to submit a proposal, as long as the historical focus is evident in the proposed text. Methodological and theoretical reflections on environmental history are also permitted.

If this theme is of interest to you, we warmly invite you to submit a **500-word** proposal to describe the article you aspire to write. Please include the references and primary sources which will be of use to your research, as well as explain your proposed article's contribution to the discipline. These proposals must be submitted at the latest by **November 15th, 2016**. Include any images which would be pertinent to your study. Completed articles must remain within an **8000-word limit**, endnotes included, and must be received by the editorial team at the latest by **May 15th, 2017** for evaluation. Texts can be written in English or in French.

***Les Cahiers d'histoire* expects that the articles received follow specific presentation guidelines, which are available online at <http://www.cahiershistoire.org/directives.html>. Please submit your proposals, or write with any requests for additional information, at publication@cahiershistoire.org.**

(Several short reviews, from 700 to 800 words including endnotes, will also be accepted in a limited quantity. Please write to recensions@cahiershistoire.org with your idea or if you wish to contribute!)