From the President

On the way to WCEH 2019 ...

NOTE: This will be a regular feature of the Bulletin until 2019 from now on – if you have information to share or reflection to contribute, please do so by contacting Libby, the Bulletin editor, at libby.robin@anu.edu.au

At the ESEH conference in Zagreb, ICEHO held a charity sale. As you may recall from an earlier Bulletin announcement, we had planned a silent auction of books and other items. However, this proved impractical so we had a ‘charity sale’ to raise funds for bursaries to help students and other scholars attend the Third ICEHO World Congress to be held in Florianopolis in July 2019.

We set up the table at the entrance to the conference building and it was a tremendous success. Thank you to the ESEH for giving us this opportunity and to everyone who assisted at the table. From the books, socks, and other donated items, all of which were on sale for €30, we raised the very large sum of €3000. Many of the books were fresh from the publishers and many dealt with unusual and interesting topics of environmental history.

Thank you very much to everyone who donated an item and to everyone who bought a book, a pair of socks, or anything else, we are very grateful for your contribution to the success of the World Congress and to the participation of younger scholars and those who would not be able to attend for financial reasons.

In addition to our sales, the ICEHO table at Zagreb was a great opportunity to chat to old friends and make new acquaintances. It was also chance to reflect on the challenges we are facing not just as scholars but as fellow human beings. As many of you know, I am a knitter, and my particular contribution to the sale consisted of 15 pairs of socks in various sizes and colours, most of which I had knitted myself, but I also brought a couple of pairs knitted by a friend. It was very pleasing for me to see people walk off with a pair of socks and a smile on their faces!

In this column, I’d like to reflect on those socks a little more as they highlight, very simply, some of those human challenges of our time. The yarn I buy through small retailers is mostly virgin wool with some nylon for strength, some of it is 100% natural wool, hand-dyed, some Tofutsie (http://www.yarnzone.com/tofutsies/, also available through small retailers), some are wool/silk mixtures, and in special instances, I buy Yak wool or Alpaca. The yarn alone costs between US$5-15 for one pair of socks (approximately €4.5-13). The time spent knitting a pair is about 20 hours per adult-size. If we calculated a ‘price’ for them, in order that I might make a living out of knitting socks, we would have to ask for more than €30. Some people at Zagreb thought that this was quite a high price for a pair of socks, colourful and handmade though they were.

So, let us calculate for a moment: Assume I was a very fast knitter, because I do this for a living, and could knit a pair at the lightning speed of ten hours per pair (double my current speed) and we did buy the yarn cheaply, so just US$, the €30 would translate into roughly US$30, and I would end up with US$3 per hour.
for my work. Which is still much more than many people in the world earn per hour.

The ICEHO sale and the price of handmade items made us consider the inequities of labour. Even within the countries of the Danube River Basin (all within Europe), the differences in income are breath-taking. In 2016 The Economist reported that the poorest area in Slovakia, the Eurozone’s most geographically unequal economy, had an income per person of just 28% of the richest Eurozone country.

Convening a World Congress means that we not only have to be conscious of carbon footprints and of the different styles and expectations between different national scholarly cultures, but that we are also always reminded of the (growing) economic inequality and the almost zero economic value of (often female) work going into garments of all kinds.

At the ASEH conference in Riverside, California next year, we will hold another charity sale and ask you to consider donating to our fund-raising efforts there. And there will be more socks for sale! They will be there because I love knitting and I also love wearing hand-made socks from natural materials and want you to enjoy this warm, cosy feeling yourself. If you tweet a picture of you or your beloved ones wearing them, my joy will be even greater.

Verena Winiwarter
President

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WCEH2019 Program Committee Announced

This program committee, which offers wide-ranging expertise, hopes to put together an inclusive, diverse, multi-disciplinary program that continues the momentum from the last two world congresses. We look forward to receiving proposals.

Stefania Gallina and Lisa Mighetto (Co-Chairs)

Kate Brown, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Micheline Cariño, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur
Peter Coates, University of Bristol
Stefan Dorondel, Institutul de Antropologie “Francisc J. Rainer”
Marianna Dudley, University of Bristol
Stefania Gallini, Universidad Nacional de Colombia (co-chair)
Simo Laakonen, University of Helsinki
Lisa Mighetto, University of Washington-Tacoma (co-chair)
Ruth Morgan, Monash University/ Rachel Carson Center LMU (2017)
Micah Muscolino, Merton College, Oxford
Mucha Musemwa, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
Giacomo Parrinello, Louisiana State University
Ligia Pinto, University of Minho, Guimarães, Portugal
David Schorr, Tel Aviv University
Fei Sheng, Sun Yat-Sen University
John Soluri, Carnegie Mellon University
Paolo Squatriti, University of Michigan
Helmut Trischler, Deutsches Museum Munich
The Turku Book Award is awarded every two years at the biennial European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) conference. Established in 2009 as a joint award of the ESEH and the Rachel Carson Center, the prize was named for the city in which it was first awarded—Turku, Finland, in 2011. The committee always consists of members from the RCC and the ESEH. Eligible books are all environmental history monographs published in the previous two years, with preference given to those that focus at least somewhat on Europe and/or are written by authors with a European affiliation or background.

The 2017 Turku Book Award committee was formed in early 2016 and consisted of its chair, Verena Winiwarter, along with Ellen Arnold, Jane Carruthers, Arielle Helmick, and Jan-Henrik Meyer. The deadline for submissions was 31 January 2017; on this date, we had forty-five contenders and the reading began in earnest. In order to manage the long list, the committee began by dividing up the books; each submission was read and evaluated by two members. Following this process, committee members nominated their top three monographs and then read everyone’s top contenders.

At this point, we met via Skype and discussed the top volumes; thankfully, we were able to set a short-list easily. From that point on, though, things got a bit more difficult, as all five monographs from the short-list are exceptional. Verena Winiwarter had set the criteria for the award to include style, depth, innovation, and impact on the field.

With this in mind, and a bit more discussion, the committee then decided on William Cavert’s *The Smoke of London: Energy and Environment in the Early Modern City* (Cambridge UP, 2016) as the...
winner. Cavert’s monograph is beautifully written and researched; it takes the issue of air pollution in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century London and shows its relevance not only for the period in question but also for today’s air pollution issues.

Verena Winiwarter presented Will Cavert with the award on 1 July 2017 at the ninth biennial ESEH conference in Zagreb, Croatia. Her complete award citation, which gives a detailed look at Cavert’s work as well as honors the other monographs on the short-list, can be found online. Congratulations again to William Cavert for winning the 2017 award!

Congratulations!

Maïka De Keyzer
Winner of ESEH Article Prize

The ESEH article prize that this year for the first time bears a name - St Andrews Article Prize in European Environmental History - was awarded to Maïka De Keyzer for her article All we are is dust in the wind: The social causes of a “subculture of coping” in the late medieval coversand belt. The article was published in the very first volume of the brand-new Journal for the History of Environment and Society in 2016.

The article prize committee, consisting of Kati Lindström, Peter Coates and Péter Szabó, considers that De Keyzer’s article makes a substantial contribution to the environmental history of pre-modern Europe and will be insightful for anyone who is interested in disasters, ‘natural’ hazards and their cultures of coping. De Keyzer discusses the hazardous nature of sand drifts in the Campine region, located on the border between Belgium and the Netherlands. In her rigorous analyses, blending social, economic and ecological history, she rewrites the region’s history, concluding that unlike previously presumed by historians, geologists and archaeologists alike, prehistoric small-scale communities could trigger big disastrous sand drifts, whereas late medieval intensification of agriculture and road transport were accompanied by small-scale drifting events that did not have a disastrous effect while the mechanisms of coping were in place. The risk of drifts became a disaster again in the 18th and 19th centuries when the changing land ownership concentrated land into the hands of faraway urban elites, eroded social control over land use and favoured short-term interests.

To argue her case, De Keyzer devises a new method combining critically traditional archival sources with archaeological findings and optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) studies that help to date the age of sand layers. Applicable in other areas as well, this method has a potential to change our understanding of the history of the coversand belt region, which stretches from England to Russia.

Due to the amount of high-quality submissions, the prize committee has also decided to give two honorary mentions. First, in alphabetical order, to Johanna Conterio for Inventing the Subtropics: An Environmental History of Sochi, 1928-1936 (in: Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History 16:1, 2015); and second, to Chris Pearson for Between Instinct and Intelligence: Harnessing Police Dog Agency in Early Twentieth-Century Paris (in: Comparative Studies in Society and History 58(2), 2016). Hopefully, future Article Prize Committees will continue with the practice, as this measure increases the visibility of high quality scholarship in environmental history and hopefully helps talented younger scholars in finding employment and funding.

Kati Lindström (Chair)

Welcome to New Members

Routledge Environmental Humanities Series is ICEHO’s latest ‘publisher’ member. Established in 2014, with series editors Iain McCalman and Libby Robin, the series includes environmental history, together with other humanities from all around the world. 24 titles have been published already in the series, with a further 4 in production and several more under contract.

Routledge Environmental Humanities recognises that understanding environmental problems requires a rich mix of disciplinary expertise, and that the humanities have a capacity to offer responses and adaptive solutions to our historical and future environmental challenges. Our books
are designed to reach thoughtful readers from all disciplinary backgrounds, who are concerned about the human dimensions of environmental change.

Please contact the Managing Editor, Charlotte Endersby (Charlotte.Endersby@tandf.co.uk) to submit book proposals from all humanities and social sciences disciplines for an inclusive and interdisciplinary series. As our series shows, we publish manuscripts aimed at an international readership, written in a lively and accessible style.

Latest books include two highly recommended environmental histories featured at the recent ESEH meeting in Zagreb (see report below).


The Nature State:
Panel discussion at ESEH Zagreb


Many new books were on show at the ESEH conference in Zagreb. The publication of one of them, The Nature State: Rethinking the History of Conservation, the latest in the innovative Routledge Environmental Humanities series, was the topic of a well-attended panel discussion chaired by Lisa Brady. Authors and editors, Wilko Graf von Hardenberg, Matthew Kelly and Claudia Leal were present, as were chapter contributors Michael Hathaway and Stefan Dorondel.

The collection includes contributions from some familiar names in the discipline of environmental and resource history. Like many co-authored books, the contents of The Nature State are wide-ranging in topic and diverse in space. A quick list will illustrate the case studies from every inhabited continent: national parks in the Philippines, Namibia, southern India, Colombia and Brazil, science and conservation in Patagonia, China’s tropical rainforests and in the Danube Delta. A rich haul indeed, all well written, balanced and interesting.

However, what makes this book somewhat different, and certainly worth discussing at a conference, is that the chapters are tied together by a bold new concept devised by the authors during the process of workshopping the volume. This is the ‘nature state’, formulated to take its place beside the ‘welfare state’ or ‘patrimonial state’, even a ‘failed state’. This innovation ensures that the book is more than a motley collection of academic research topics because there is a definite underlying and articulated theme: to compare the state’s capture of ‘nature’ (however conceived in various places at different times during the 20th century) in various parts of the world. For some time, there has been the need for a book that constructs a strong argument and new framework for thinking about protected areas.

Providing the ‘state’ with a distinct adjective makes it a loaded term, as the authors intended it to be. Only, by their argument, in the 20th century did the state begin to protect its citizens from pollution, and provide water and other conservation, environmental management and management of domestic animals.

The argument is that the state moved beyond medieval (royal) forms of control and politicised resource and nature conservation. Thinking about the role of the state in matters around conservation makes possible new connections, new comparisons and new source material.

The authors on the conference platform received interesting points of discussion from the audience, not all of whom were convinced at the outset that the term
'nature state' was self-explanatory or even useful. Certainly, the role of globalisation, of activists and civil society and non-governmental organisations such as WWF and the international bodies such as the IUCN, were debated by the panel in thinking about the role of the state, as well as the impacts of the transnational effects of state control.

It was very rewarding to have an animated examination of a fresh theoretical approach to the history of conservation rather than the more usual case study and factual discussion that inevitably follows. No doubt the idea of a 'nature state' can be refined and argued in more detail, but the contributors to this book have performed a service for the discipline by moving a focus of analysis on to the particularities of the state, its type, its population, forms of governance etc. and the intertwining of state and conservation methods and structures. The book will be useful as a teaching tool and, no doubt, the type of discussion at the ESEH panel will be replicated in the classroom and beyond.

Jane Carruthers

ESEH Zagreb, Croatia 2017

28 June to 2 July 2017

Ninth meeting of the European Society for Environmental History

From the Organizer:

Borna Fuerst-Bjelis

Zagreb conference hosted 444 participants from 42 countries of the world. The most represented countries were USA (76), Germany (64) and UK (35), with the significant contribution (over 10 participants) from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Finland, France, Italy, Netherlands, Russia, Spain and Sweden. There were 105 sessions held, including two plenary sessions: Plenary poster session, reporting on 22 displayed posters and Plenary Round table session with the topic: Trespassing. Environmental history and the challenges of migrations.

ESEH’s New Board

The mandates of past president Dolly Jørgensen, ESEH secretary and both ESEH’s vice-presidents expired and the elections delivered a significantly renewed board, which will remain in charge until 2019. Péter Szabó (Institute of Botany of the Czech Academy of Sciences) is the new ESEH President, and sits in the Board with vice-presidents Wilko Graf von Hardenberg (Max Planck Institute for the History of Science) and Borna Fuerst-Bjeliš (University of Zagreb), and secretary Giacomo Parrinello (Sciences Po Paris). The Board is completed by the Chair of the Council of Regional Representatives Martin Knoll (University of Salzburg), Regional Representative for Romania Stefan Dorondel (Institute of Anthropology, Bucharest, Romania), Regional Representative for the Baltic Countries Kati Lindström (University of Tartu), and Hrvoje Petrić, (University of Zagreb) Regional Representative for Croatia. Ulrike Plath (Tallinn University) also sits in the Board as liaison with local organization committee for the 2019 ESEH meeting which will be held in Tallinn, Estonia. For all the changes and new faces in the Board, one thing has not changed: Ulrich Koppitz, Treasurer of the ESEH since its
foundation, has been re-elected to this office and will thus continue to sit in the society’s Board. Ulrich’s long service and willingness to ensure the continuity in ESEH’s administration has won him the first Lifetime Contribution to ESEH Award. Congratulations Ulrich!

Keynote speaker: Andrew Baldwin (left); Below left: Croatian-Australian Diane Erceg; Below: Eunice Nodari (Brazil) with Shen Hou (China) & Peter Coates (UK) in panel on migration and environment

EVENTS and EXHIBITIONS

Publishers on display
Berghahn Books
Oxford University Press
Rachel Carson Center
White Horse Press
Yale University Press

Launches
Friday 30 June at 10:30-11:00
Environmental History of Modern Migrations, ed. M. Armiero & R. Tucker
Location: KTH table
Friday 30 June at 15:30-16:00
Environment in History Book Series (new books)
Location: Berghahn Books table

KTH EHL - The KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory is a post disciplinary space for undisciplined experimentations within and beyond the university. https://www.kth.se/en/abe/inst/philhist/historia/ehl
Contact person armiero@kth.se

Poster exhibition
Poster exhibition open on Thursday and Friday with

Exhibitions
Horizon2020 CLISEL - CLISEL (Climate Security with Local Authorities) is a Coordination and support action of Horizon 2020, aimed at exploring the climate–security nexus from the perspective of local administrations and communities, with a special focus on the Italian region of Sardinia. http://clisel.eu/
Contact person Elisa.Fornale@wti.org

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Women’s Environmental History Network reception

ICEHO General Assembly

ICEHO President, Verena Winiwarter, addresses the Meeting 28 June 2017, Zagreb

plenary poster session Friday 30 June
Environment and History Poster Prize reception
Sponsored by White Horse Press

Francophone Environmental Historians Breakfast

Katrin Kleeman (Editor) addresses the Arcadia board

resistance (2016).
Directed by Kelly Nyks.
Panel: Stefania Barca
University of Coimbra, Portugal and Frank Zelko
University of Vermont, USA and William Cronon
(chair), University of Wisconsin-Madison

Green Movie Soirées
at Tuškanac Movie Theatre, Tuškanac 1
29 June 2017
The Land Beneath Our Feet (2015). Directed by Gregg Mitman and Sarita Siegel.
Panel: Gregg Mitman,
University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA and Jane Carruthers, University of South Africa
30 June 2017
Disobedience. The Rise of the global fossil fuel

Websites:
http://www.historiografija.hr/?p=4848 (in Croatian)
http://eseh.org/event/next-conference/
Other News

Solcha’s next symposium, in 2018, will be hosted by the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica at its Liberia campus (Guanacaste province) https://solcha.uniandes.edu.co/index/index.php/simposios/simposios-solcha.

see latest CLIMATE HISTORY NEWS here: http://www.climatehistory.net/news2/2016/10/6/chn-fall-newsletter-published

Connecting History and Geography

A Short Report about the 2017 ESEH Summer School in Zadar

From 4th to 7th July 2017, The Department of Geography at the University of Zadar, Croatia in cooperation with the Department of Geography and the Department of History at the University of Zagreb, and support from the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH), organized a transdisciplinary summer school on “Natural and Cultural Heritage under Different Governments” for postgraduate and PhD-students specializing in environmental history and geography.

The first morning was dedicated to introducing the participants to some of the main questions and interests at the crossroads of history and geography. Thus, Simone Gingrich (Vienna/Klagenfurt) followed the trajectory “From the Land to the Atmosphere: Shifting Sustainability Problems During European Industrialization”. Then, Grit Martinez (Berlin) talked about “Historical, Cultural and Socio-Economic Path Dependencies in Human Adaptation to Environmental Challenges: The Example of Two Coastal Communities at the Baltic Sea”, Borna Fuerst-Bjelis (Zagreb) dedicated her presentation to “Borderland Environments”, Josip Faričić (Zadar) introduced “Old Maps as a Source for Studying Environmental Changes”, Zoran Šikić (Zadar) showed the “Influence of Water Levels of Vrana Lake and the Adriatic Sea to the Water Chemistry of Vrana Lake”, and Ante Blaće (Zadar) retraced the major aspects of “Landscape Development of Zadar Hinterland”.

In the afternoon, local students as well as participants from the United States of America, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Russia and Germany presented their ongoing research. Here, a strong focus was put on the reflection of respective natural cultural heritages, on values and traditions, as well as norms and believes that formed the young scientists’ ways of thinking as geographers and historians. Elizabeth Hameeteman (Boston) spoke of the “Legal and Cultural Status of Irrigation Structures in the United States under the Clean Water Act”, Patrick Klinger (Kansas) about “The Decline of the Scottish Herring Industry 1660–1707”, Timm Schönfelder (Tübingen) on ”Irrigation and Soil Salinization around the Kuban River: A Regional Environmental History of the Soviet Union”, Victor Matasov (Moscow) presented “Drivers of Land Use Change in the Meschera Lowland (European Russia): Reconstructions by Palaeoecological and Historical Data”, Ivan Tekić (Nottingham) retraced “Dalmatian Woodlands and Reforestation Through 200 Years of Political Changes” and Fran Domazetović (Zadar) highlighted “Archeological Sites as an Indicator of Environmental Changes: Examples from Northern Dalmatia”.

On the second day the group visited some of the most important landmarks in the greater Zadar region: Maškovića han, Vransko jezero Nature Park, the Asseria archaeological site, and Masvin agricultural cooperation. In preparation for their group work the following day, the students paid special attention to the possibilities and limitations of local land use and development which were to be discussed in two working papers. Consequently, the fourth day was dedicated to the presentation of the results of both a geographic and a historical approach.

In their concluding talk the group of geographers presented an analysis of landscape suitability for vineyards in the Ravni kotari region. To emphasize the strong connection between nature, its perception, and human land use in the planning of new crops, the students showed that the idealized Mediterranean landscape never existed the way people imagine it by comparing today’s maps to maps from the 18th and 19th century. This historical perception keeps many locals from tapping the region’s true potential, as traditional
local consumption seems to be (at least in part) opposed to today’s requirements for international trade. The group of environmental historians focused on the question of how different cultural heritages create different forms of land use. After delivering a broad introduction to the main questions of their field, they presented two case studies on the Zadar region: Vrana lake and the Asseria stonewall. While the former presented a rather traditional approach by collecting encyclopedic information that may then lead to further questions, the latter started with an idealized (and overtly subjective) first impression on why and how the city of Asseria might have developed the way it has. Ultimately, the two approaches come together in the everyday work of an environmental historian, which also underlines the strong need for collaboration with other disciplines. Thus, the challenge of bringing geography and history together proved to be the main task during the summer school, and it makes for a strong desideratum in the further development of both fields.

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Check out our website:
http://www.iceho.org
There is always something new happening here!