

## **Work plan for the Baltic States region**

Kati Lindström

Baltic States region is possibly one of the smallest ESEH regions in terms of population in the member countries, but the number of people drawn to environmental history events has been steadily rising. If five years ago Estonia was the principal centre of activities, then now the number of researchers who join us from Latvia and Lithuania has increased considerably. My ambition would be to continue working in the region so that in 4 years' time I could hand this post over to a representative that comes from outside Estonia.

A particularity of environmental history in our region is its interdisciplinarity. Many colleagues that join our events are not historians by training and work in other departments in their universities. Environmental history has become a natural part of the history discipline by now but I expect interdisciplinarity to continue important for us in recruiting new members, as well as for generating new creative ideas and collaborative projects. An important event for generating encounters between environment-inspired scholars from the Baltic region has been BALTEHUMS, the Baltic Conference on Environmental Humanities and Social Sciences. First of these conferences was held in Riga in 2018 and next will happen this November online, organised by Tallinn University. During my mandate I would hope to organise two more of these meetings and will hopefully see BALTEHUMS become a tradition. Time is also ripe for more co-publications on environmental history from the Baltic region which could take a form of special issues growing out from the BALTEHUMS conferences.

As a RR for the Baltic States, I would continue with the tactics to raise interest among scholars who are still under formation. Continuing KAJAK's biannual doctoral school tradition may be one way forward, but regional graduate schools in cooperation with other Baltic universities would also be desirable. New scholars' disciplinary identities are still flexible and it is probably easiest to find new ESEH members in this tier. If our focus has hitherto been on getting people interested in environmental history or humanities, the next step would be to further promote formal society membership. I will be working in this direction.

Since Baltic history is unimaginable without the cultural, economic and political cross-influences from Germany, the Nordic countries, Russia and Poland, I see it as my duty to continue and further develop collaboration with centres and individual scholars in these areas. I feel that we have become better with the regional information exchange but because of a high risk of cross-posting, the present mailing list is not widely used. Information on regional activities is often shared through KAJAK's Facebook page which inevitably leaves out people who do not spend time on the platform. During the next mandate period it is necessary to try to reach a better functioning solution where information is accessible to all interested parties, information exchange is agile and not centralised to one-two active persons. Now that the ESEH's new webpage is up and running, the regional home page should be developed better. However, for a decentralised information exchange that would be capable of catching up the many dispersed events in the region, a more dynamic solution is necessary. During my next (and last) mandate period I hope to bring more structure to both information exchange as well as the organisation of BALTEHUMS conferences and meetings.

## *Curriculum Vitae. Kati Lindström*

### **Current Employment**

Researcher. KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment (since 2017); Researcher at Institute of History, Archaeology and Art History, School of Humanities, Tallinn University (2020-2024)

### **Higher education**

2010 – 2011 PhD course, **University of Tartu** (Estonia), **Department of Semiotics**, was conferred the **PhD degree in semiotics and culture studies** on April 4, 2011.

### **Commissions of trust relating to environmental history and ESEH in particular**

2011 to 2019 **Estonian Centre for Environmental History** (KAJAK) at the Institute of History, Tallinn University – founding and board member; since 2019 ordinary member.

**European Society for Environmental History** (ESEH), member since 2013, serving as:

2017–2021 Board member and Regional Representative for the Baltic States

2019–2021 Summer school committee member

2017–2019 Nomination committee member and Program committee member

2015-2017 Chair of the Best Article Prize Committee

From 2018 to now – Coordinating for the informal network of **BALTEHUMS**, the **Baltic Environmental Humanities and Social Sciences** (mailing list, conference calls, gatherings etc)

### **Project participation**

I participate currently in 6 research projects, of which I am a grant holder for one. My projects deal with a variety of topics from Antarctic environmental protection regime to Japanese nuclear energy. Common denominator to all these is how environmental value is generated and practiced through historical narratives in environmental and cultural heritage protection. Two projects concerning the Baltic region are *Cold War Coasts: The Transnational Co-Production of Militarized Landscapes* (Grant holder: Per Högselius, KTH) and *Estonian Environmentalism in the 20<sup>th</sup> century: Ideology, discourses, practices* (Grant holder: Ulrike Plath).

### **Organized conferences, symposia and graduate schools**

I have been the member of LOC and scientific committee for many international workshops, symposia and graduate schools in environmental history and/or humanities, including the following: **BALTEHUMS** (online from Tallinn, 2021); *STREAMS, Transformative Environmental Humanities* (online from Stockholm, 2021); ESEH biannual conference 2019 (Tallinn); **BALTEHUMS I** (Riga, 2018); *Animals in transdisciplinary environmental history* (Estonia, May, 2015); conference *Bellies, Bodies, Policy: Embodied Environments between Catastrophes and Control* (Tallinn and Tartu, 2014); *From Instants to Eons: Time in Environment and Environmental History* and Intensive graduate seminar *Time in environment: methodological implications of narrating* (Tallinn University, 2013).

### **Publications**

I have published widely in English, Estonian and Japanese on matters relating to Estonian and Japanese environmental history and landscape studies, as well as Antarctic history, including popular science publications in all my research areas. See [Estonian Research Information System](#) and [katilindstrom.com](http://katilindstrom.com) for more details.