

Sandra Swart (Stellenbosch University, South Africa)

The beloved ESEH has been my academic home for an - astonishing - twenty years now. I was a regional representative for many years. It was an honour to serve as programme director for ESEH Bristol - and I enjoyed being drawn deeper into the society as co-vice president. I really value what the society has given me and I am eager to return some small part of this. My campaign promises can be modest because I think the ESEH is already a wonderful organisation – engaged, warm, diverse, and very welcoming (even to a strange South African like me) - so my intention is simply to continue to foster connection and serve where I can.

- I wish to support and extend our existing initiatives for collaboration: among researchers, between institutions, and between global north and south by facilitating platforms for interdisciplinary discussions, joint research projects, and networking opportunities. Of course, this includes our already impressive support for early career researchers (like NEXTgate).
- I still really like the encouragement of professional development opportunities, (even if the term is dauntingly and awkwardly corporate): I think we need workshops on AI (ethics and practicalities), grant writing, new teaching methodologies, and also on research ethics.
- If there is perhaps one thing that we could promote more actively it is engagement with policy and broader society: I would to promote academic engagement with policymakers, NGOs and broader public fora (organizing panel discussions, and policy forums that bridge the gap between academia and the broader community).



Curriculum Vitae Sandra Swart

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Education

DPhil (in Modern History), Oxford University, 1998-2001.

MSc with Distinction, Environmental Change and Management, Oxford University, 2001.

MA, History, cum laude, Honours, cum laude, BA summa cum laude, University of Natal, Durban, 1992-1997.

Brief Bio

SANDRA SWART is Professor and Chair of the Department of History and Director, African Anthropocenes Research Center, at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. She received her DPhil in Modern History from Oxford University in 2001, while simultaneously obtaining an MSc (with distinction) in Environmental Change and Management, also at Oxford. She studies the socio-environmental history of southern Africa, with a particular focus on the shifting relationship between humans and animals.

It has been her privilege to supervise 21 successful doctoral students from Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. She is an editor of the Brill book series *African and Asian Anthropocene: Studies in the Environmental Humanities*, editor of the *South African Historical Journal*, current co-vice president of ESEH and past president of the Southern African Historical Society. She is on editorial boards of *Germinate: Environmental History Review* (*American Society for Environmental History*), *Environment and History*, *Animal History* (USA-based), and *Society & Animals – Journal of Human-Animal Studies*. She has authored/co-authored over 80 peer-reviewed articles and chapters in academic books. She co-authored with Greg Bankoff *Breeds of Empire: The 'invention' of the horse in the Philippines and Southern Africa, 1500-1950* (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies Press 2007); co-edited with Lance van Sittert *Canis Africanis: a dog history of southern Africa* (Brill, 2008) and co-edited with Emily O'Gorman, Mark Carey and William San Martín, *The Routledge Handbook of Environmental History* (Routledge, 2024); and with a collective, *Gender and Animals in History* (Amsterdam University Press, 2024). She is sole author of *Riding High – Horses, Humans and History in South Africa* (Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press, 2010) and *The Lion's Historian – Africa's Animal Past* (Johannesburg: Jacana Press, 2023, Ohio University Press, 2025).