



KTH Royal Institute of Technology -School of Architecture and the Built Environment  
Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment  
Environmental Humanities Laboratory

Dear members of the ESEH:

I am proud and excited to present my candidacy for the presidency of our society. I have been a member of the society since the very beginning, and I have always tried to contribute to its development. As you can see from my CV, I have served the society in various capacities: as a regional representative, a member of the panel for the best article prize, the chair of the search committee for the conference venue (2016), and the chair of the 2017 conference programme committee. Besides these institutional services, I have also supported the development of our discipline and thereby our society through my scholarly work.

In this concise statement, I will illustrate the background and the strategic points of my candidacy as president of the ESEH.

With a PhD in Economic History from Italy, several postdocs in the United States, work experience in Italy, Spain, and Portugal, and, finally, my current position as the director of the Environmental Humanities Laboratory in Stockholm, I offer an international background, which would be a critical asset for a transnational organization such as the ESEH. This diverse background not only highlights my commitment towards creating an inclusive transnational approach, it also indicates another positive characteristic of my academic profile, that is, my familiarity with working across disciplinary boundaries. In particular, in the last few years, I have contributed in shaping two emerging post-disciplinary fields of studies: political ecology and environmental humanities. This has meant that I have brought environmental history into diverse networks and academic venues, cooperating with geographers, ecocritics, anthropologists, sociologists, urban planners, law scholars, economists, and fellow historians. As I will argue in the section dedicated to my plans for the society, I would like to employ this transdisciplinary experience as a crucial resource at the service of the ESEH.

My CV also speaks of my skills in terms of collaborations. I have coordinated book projects, networks, and research teams. I serve in the editorial boards of several journals and I have co-organized events across institutions and countries. Being a historian, I have a considerable number of co-authored publications, something which also stands for my commitment to teamwork.

My position as the director of the Environmental Humanities Laboratory in Stockholm is precisely based on these skills. Collaboration across disciplines is crucial for the environmental humanities. Networking with other institutions in Europe and beyond has been an important part of my job. Under my leadership, the Environmental Humanities Laboratory has also developed a strong commitment to societal engagement through collaborations with non-academic partners (for instance, with local authorities or grassroots organizations) and through outreach activities (for instance, the establishment of the EHL Film Festival CrossCuts).

I believe that these experiences will be instrumental for implementing the kind of innovations I would bring into the ESEH. However, before presenting a few ideas for the future of our society, let me say first that continuity with the collective work we have done so far is also a crucial point in my prospective leadership. We can be grateful that our society is in a healthy state, properly running its multiple activities, from the biannual conferences to the summer schools and from a growing number of prizes (for books, articles, and dissertations) to a rich array of thematic and regional workshops. Exploring our website, one can only be impressed by the number of activities we run. Some activities are new as, for instance, the NextGate initiative to foster the involvement of early career scholars; others have been with us for a while, as the fantastic Arcadia project, in collaboration with the Rachel Carson Center. If elected as the new president, I can only be grateful to my predecessors who have built such a rich portfolio of initiatives and ensure that they will continue flourishing. This will imply both commitment to our traditions and creativity in finding new ways to involve more people in those initiatives.

Below, I will list a few areas where I would like to further focus my efforts in case I will become the next ESEH president.

1. **Organization and involvement.** In order to facilitate collaboration among ESEH members and foster new ideas and initiatives, I would like to propose the establishment of forums dedicated to specific themes. I believe it would be relevant for the society to work on **teaching, societal engagement and outreach, diversity, and**

**sustainable practices.** By adopting a bottom-up approach, I would encourage our members to propose forums on themes, which they find relevant for our community. I envision those forums as intellectual spaces where people can discuss relevant themes, promote various initiatives, and make a collective contribution to our society such as reports, guidelines, or in any other ways they will find appropriate. Similar experiences have been carried out by our sister society ASEH with great results.

2. Societal engagement and outreach. Facing the current global socio-ecological crisis, scholars are often asked to engage with the grand challenges of our times. For scholars working on the environment, as we do, the urgency to contribute is even stronger. Societal engagement can take various forms, from lobbying at the international level to co-production of knowledge with grassroots organizations. While I do believe that it is crucial to engage with the current challenges and, thereby, with the general public, as president of the ESEH, I would nurture all the diverse forms this engagement might take. In particular, I would like to establish a prize for projects/events which have demonstrated social engagement or creativity in reaching the wider public.

3. Teaching. In his presidential address to the American Historical Association, Bill Cronon raised the issue of the meager consideration scholars generally show towards teaching. Instead, teaching is indeed foundational for the establishment and development of a discipline. Several years ago, as the regional representative of Italy, I proposed a mapping exercise of the environmental history courses in Europe. Now, I am one of the co-authors of a global survey on environmental humanities teaching, just published in the *Environmental Humanities* journal. Perhaps, it is time to repeat that exercise and provide an updated picture of the state of environmental history teaching in Europe. Besides this survey, I believe that a forum specifically dedicated to teaching could also provide interesting insights for the ESEH in terms of best practices, syllabi, or pedagogical materials. In this respect, I would like to explore the possibility to join forces between the ESEH and the Environmental Humanities Laboratory and develop further the Videodictionary, which was initiated a few years ago by the Lab and designed precisely as a teaching tool.

4. Foster integration and communication. Ours is a vibrant and diverse community, which hopefully will grow even more so into the future. As the president of the society, I would strive to strengthen our communication, especially employing the social media tools that can be effective in both internal and external communication. However, as much as I do appreciate the advantage of virtual communication, I also believe in the importance of face-to-face human interaction. For this reason, if elected, I would invest time and energy working with the regional representatives; because in a linguistically diverse society such as ours, I believe they have a crucial role I would like to valorize even more. As much as possible, I would like to learn more about the diverse national communities forming the ESEH and meet with members (and potential members) of the society. This means I will encourage the organization of national events to which I will commit to participate (I may use my own institutional resources for this, without infringing too much on the ESEH budget).

5. Cross-disciplinary collaboration. As individual scholars, many of us already collaborate through networks, publications, and research projects. I would like to make this practice more visible at the institutional level, fostering dialogue and collaboration among diverse academic societies and networks. This could be done through joint roundtables at our conferences/events, common statements on relevant themes, and joint events or even conferences.

6. History matters. Our society is now almost twenty years old. Many of our members know its history very well (they have been part of that history) while others are less informed about it. I must confess that I am unsure about the state of our archive. The website offers several materials, including the minutes of the general assemblies and the programmes of the previous conferences, though not all of them. I would like to establish a committee dedicated to curating the history of our society, exploring what we have so far, collecting relevant materials (programmes, pictures, reports, media coverage, interviews with relevant ESEH members, etc.) and think of the best ways to preserve and share our history.

In conclusion, I believe that the next president of our society should be a good gardener, taking care of the plants already growing in our garden, planting some new varieties, and being attentive and supportive with the many plants flourishing everywhere, even beyond our garden. Metaphor apart, I would be proud to serve our community, basing my leadership on a listening attitude, a passion for societal engagement, a participatory and bottom-up approach, and a desire to experiment through collaboration in new and meaningful ways.

Marco Armiero

## Marco ARMIERO – CV and publications

### • PERSONAL INFORMATION

Family name, First name: Armiero, Marco

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### • EDUCATION

1997 PhD Economic History, Faculty of Economics, University of Bari, Italy

1992 Laurea Magistralis cum lode, Humanities (History major). University of Naples “Federico II”, Italy

### • CURRENT POSITION(S)

2013-present Director of KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory, Stockholm Sweden

2015-present Associate Professor in Environmental History, KTH Stockholm, Sweden

### • PREVIOUS POSITIONS

2012-2013 Visiting Scholar, Center for Social Studies, University of Coimbra, Portugal

2006-2007 Visiting scholar, Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management, University of California at Berkeley, USA

2000-2005 Senior Researcher Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Istituto di Studi sulle Società del Mediterraneo, Naples, Italy

### • FELLOWSHIPS

2010-2012 Marie Curie Fellow, Institute for Environmental Science and Technology, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain

2009-2010 National Endowment for the Humanities/CNR Research Fellow, Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford University, USA

2008-2009 Post-doctoral Fellow, Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford University, USA

2005-2006 Post-doctoral Fellow, Program in Agrarian Studies, Yale University, USA

### • GRANTS (2010-2019)

From European Union: 3,000,000 \$

From agencies: 1,200,000 \$

Private foundations: 155,000 \$

University grants: 36,000 \$

### • SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

2016 Convener of International Conference of the European Network of Political Ecology (ENTITLE) “Undisciplined Environments”, Stockholm

2016 - Chair for the Programme Committee of the 2017 European Society for Environmental History Conference, Zagreb 2017

2015 - Site Selection Committee the 2017 European Society for Environmental History Conference, Zagreb 2017

2013 Member of the ESEH prize committee for the best article published in the environmental history field in 2011-12

2016 - Associate Editor of the editorial board of the journal Environmental Humanities

- 2016 - Member of the editorial board of the journal *Fennia*, Journal of the Nordic Geographers
- 2014- Member of International Advisory Board of Australian Environmental Humanities Hub
- 2013 - Senior Editor of the journal *Capitalism Nature Socialism*
- 2013- Member of international scientific board, E-cadernos CES ([www.revue.org](http://www.revue.org))

• **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

Monographs

- 2013 *Le montagne della Patria. Nazione e natura nella storia d'Italia*. Einaudi (translation of *A Rugged Nation*)
- 2011 *A Rugged Nation: Mountains and the Making of Modern Italy*. White Horse Press

Currently in progress: *Wasteocene. A History*, contracted by Cambridge University Press and *La natura del Duce. Una storia ambientale del Fascismo*, contracted by Einaudi

Edited volumes

- 2018 *Future Remains. A Cabinet of Curiosities for the Anthropocene*. (co-editors G. Mitman and R. Emmett). Chicago University Press
- 2017 *Environmental History of Modern Migrations*. (co-editor R. Tucker). Routledge
- 2014 *Teresa e le altre. Storie di donne nella Terra dei Fuochi*. Jaca Book
- 2010 *Nature and History in Modern Italy*. (co-editor M. Hall). Ohio University Press

Chapters (excluded those in the edited volumes listed above)

- 2018 The World in a Tin. Migration in Environmental History. In *A field of fire. The Future of Environmental History* (eds. M. Harsey and T. Steinberg). University of Alabama Press
- 2018 An Environmental Historian among Activists. In *Italy and the Environmental Humanities* (eds. S. Iovino, E. Cesaretti, and E. Past), Virginia University Press

Articles

- 2019 **M. Armiero**, F. Gravagno, G. Pappalardo, A. D. Ferrara, "The Nature of Mafia: An Environmental History of the Simeto River Basin, Sicily." *Environment and History* Fast Track, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3197/096734019X15463432086793>: 1-30.
- 2019 M. Armiero et al. (21 authors). "Toxic Bios: Toxic Autobiographies—A Public Environmental Humanities Project." *Environmental Justice* 12 (1): 7-11.
- 2017 I. Iengo and **M. Armiero**, "The politicization of ill bodies in Campania, Italy." *Journal of Political Ecology* 24 (2017): 44-58.
- 2014 G. D'Alisa, **M. Armiero** and S. P. De Rosa, "Political ecology: Rethink Campania's toxic-waste scandal," *Nature* 509 (427) doi:10.1038/509427d
- 2014 Fascism and nature, *Modern Italy* 19 (5): special issue
- 2013 **M. Armiero** and W. Graf von Hardenberg, "Green Rhetoric in Blackshirts: Italian Fascism and the Environment." *Environment and History* 19, 283-311
- 2011 "Enclosing the Sea. Work and Leisure Spaces in the Remaking of the Naples Waterfront (1870-1900)," *Radical History Review* 109: 13-35