# Sixth Biennial Report of the European Society for Environmental History, 2011-2013



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### 1. General Overview

## **Board, Regional Representatives, and Committees**

During the Sixth Ordinary General Meeting of the ESEH on Friday 1 July 2011 in Turku a new Board for the period 2011-2013, new regional representatives for a large number of established and new regions, and the financial committee was elected. At the meeting of the Council of Regional Representatives held on 1 July 2011 in Turku, five regional representatives were elected onto the Board. The elections and CRR call resulted in the following composition of the ESEH Board and CRR for 2011-2013:

### ESEH Board

President: Prof. Christof Mauch, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and

Society, Munich, Germany

Vice-President: Dr Julia Lajus, European University at St. Petersburg, Russia

Vice-President: Dr Stefania Barca, University of Coimbra, Portugal Secretary: Dr Phia Steyn, University of Stirling, Scotland, UK Treasurer: Ulrich Koppitz, University of Dusseldorf, Germany

RR German

Speaking Countries: Prof. Christian Rohr RR Nordic Countries: Dr Finn Arne Jørgensen RR Russia: Dr Alexei V. Kraikovskii

RR Hungary: Dr Andrea Kiss RR France: Dr Stephane Frioux

# Council of Regional Representatives

Australasia: Tom Brooking, University of Otago, New Zealand Benelux: Adriaan de Kraker, VU University, Netherlands

Britain and Ireland: Ian Rotherham, Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom

Croatia: Hrvoj Petric, University of Zagreb, Croatia

Czechia and Slovakia: Pavel Chromy, Charles University in Prague, Chezh Republic

France: Stephane Frioux, University of Lyon 2, France

German Speaking

Countries: Christian Rohr, University of Bern, Switzerland Greece: Vaso Seirinidou, University of Athens, Greece

Hungary: Andrea Kiss, University of Szeged

Italy:Simone Neri Serneri, University of Siena, ItalyNordic Countries:Dr Finn Arne Jørgensen, Umeå University, SwedenPoland:Tomasz Samojlik, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

Romania: Stefan Dorondel, Academy of Social Sciences, Bucharest, Romania Russia: Alexei V. Kraikovskii, European University at St. Petersburg, Russia

Serbia: Jelena Mrgic, University of Belgrade, Serbia

South Africa: Sandra Swart, University of Stellenbosch, South Africa

Spain: Pablo Corral, EHESS (CRH), Paris (France); Universidad de Granada

(Spain)

#### **Committees**

Arcadia Project

Julia Lajus, European University St Petersburg, Russia

Finn Arne Jørgensen, Umeå University, Sweden

Christof Mauch, Rachel Carson Center for Environmental Studies München, Germany

Timo Myllyntaus, University of Turku, Finland

Conference Liaison Committee for the 2013 Munich conference:

Timo Myllyntaus, University of Turku, Finland

Christian Rohr, University of Bern, Switzerland

Petra van Dam, VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Conference Site Selection Committee:

Christof Mauch, Rachel Carson Center for Environmental Studies München, Germany

Christian Rohr, University of Bern, Switzerland

Riin Magnus, University of Tartu, Estonia

ESEH Publication Prize Committee

Richard Hölzl (chair), Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany

Tomasz Samojlik, Mammal Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences, Bialowieza,

Poland

Marco Armiero, National Council of Research, Naples, Italy

ESEH Travel Grant Committee:

Ulrich Koppitz, University of Düsseldorf, Germany

Andrea Kiss, *University of Szeged, Hungary* 

Agnes Kneitz, Rachel Carson Center for Environmental Studies München, Germany

Financial Control Committee

Martin Knoll, Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany

Ulrike Plath, University of Tallinn, Estonia

Nomination Committee

David Moon (chair), University of Durham, UK

Martin Schmid, Alpen-Adria-University, Klagenfurt-Graz-Wien, Austria

Summer School Committee:

Dolly Jørgensen (chair), Umeå University, Sweden

Carry van Lieshout, King's College, London, UK

András Vadas, Central European University, Hungary

Turku Book Prize Committee:

Franziska Torma (chair), Rachel Carson Center for Environmental Studies München, Germany

Julia Herzberg, Rachel Carson Center for Environmental Studies München, Germany Uwe Lübken, Rachel Carson Center for Environmental Studies München, Germany Stefania Barca, University of Coimbra, Portugal, ESEH Paul Warde, University of East Anglia, UK, ESEH

### Website Committee:

Wilko von Hardenberg (chair), Rachel Carson Center for Environmental Studies München, Germany

Finn Arne Jørgensen, *Umeå University, Sweden*Andrea Kiss, *University of Szeged, Hungary*Phia Steyn, *University of Stirling, UK*Julia Lajus, European *University St Petersburg, Russia* 

## Membership

In August 2013, ESEH had 788 members, which is an increase of 85% from the 425 members the society had in July 2011. European members represent 76.3% of all ESEH members, and Germany has the biggest concentration of ESEM members (118).

The membership on a country basis is as follows:

Australia	10
Austria	29
Belgium	17
Brazil	3
Bulgaria	2
Canada	
17	
China	3
Colombia	5
Costa Rica	1
Croatia	5
Cuba	3
Czechia	33
Denmark	10
Estonia	
4	
Ethiopia	1
Finland	23
France	54

Germany	118
Greece	6
Greenland	1
Hungary	18
Iceland	1
India	10
Ireland	7
Israel	2
Italy	32
Japan	5
Kazan	1
Lithuania	1
Malaysia	1
Malta	1
Netherlands	28
New Zealand	5
Nigeria	
2	

Norway	7
Poland	6
Portugal	11
Rumania	1
Russia	33
Saudi Arabia	1
Serbia	2
Slovakia	5
South Africa	4
Spain	18
Sweden	28
Switzerland	31
Turkey	4
United Kingdom	74
U.S.A.	103
Ukraine	1

#### Societal communication

There are three ways in which ESEH communicates information on the society to its members and the wider scientific public: the ESEH Notepad, the ESEH website and e-mail. Kindly supported by *Environment and History*, the notepad newsletter is published four times a year in this scientific journal. ESEH members are granted free online access to the recent issues of *Environment and History*, and also can also subscribe to the journal at a discounted rate. The ESEH Notepad advertises news, announcements and reports on current activities. It is also available to download at: <a href="http://eseh.org/">http://eseh.org/</a>

The ESEH website was updated and modernised by Wilko Graf von Hardenberg, the ESEH webmaster, who also updated the website on a regular basis. The site provides a broad range of documents (official ESEH documents such as the constitution, conference reports and OGM minutes) and news items (calls for papers, conference announcements and so forth). It is a very important communication tool for the dissemination of information on ESEH and current developments in the field of environmental history.

The distribution of mass e-mails to all ESEH members is an important means of internal societal communication, even if an increasingly problematic one owning to the large number of undeliverable mail. A new development in the past term was the implementation of the President's Newsletter, which has become the formal method by which the Board communicates with its members. The society continues to find H-Environment an important alternative to mass e-mail, and would like to restate the encouragement of ESEH members to subscribe to the H-Environment discussion network.

## **Actions and meetings**

The ESEH Board met six times in the past term: at the conference in Turku in July 2011, online in November 2011, Szeged in April 2012, online in October 2012, in Munich in March 2013, and at the conference in Munich in August 2013.

Phia Steyn ESEH Secretary Munich, 23 August 2013

## 2. Financial Report 2011-2013

The following tables show the development of ESEH finances for the years 2011 and 2012. Annual sums of income are marked in green, sums of expenses in red and the balance of that year in purple, representing the total of funds at the end of the year as well. Apart from fixed cost like notary, ICE-HO-membership, bank and credit card fees the most important expenses in the conference year 2011 were made for the ESEH Article Prize and nine travel grants for active participants from disadvantaged regions and one Regional Representative to enable their travel to the  $6^{th}$  ESEH conference in Turku. ESEH also paid an exhibition table fee of € 210,- to the conference organizer and we are happy that the Local Organisation Committee of the conference transferred a surplus of 3000,- finally. Another issue was programming of our new website, so that an honorarium of € 500,- was due in 2011 as well as in 2012.

**ESEH Account 2011** 

	Kind_of_Inco	Summl				SummE
Income_2011	me	N	_	Expenses_2011	Beneficiary	Х
from 2010	Giro+Savingsb ook 2010	4,453.4 7		Bank Fees	Postbank Dortmund	238.53
Membership Fees	Conference Desk	2,390.00		Credit Card Fees	Postransact	392.71
Membership Fees	via credit card	1,362.89		Bank forms	Postbank Dortmund	16.15
Membership Fees	via bank transfer	1,080.00		Travelgrants as registration advance	3 grantees via LOC	550.00
Savingsbook interests	netto interests 2011	16.44		9 Travel Grants at Turku conference	6 full 300 Euro grant 3	2,270.00
from ESEH members	Donations	100.00		Article Prize at Turku conference	Prizewinner Dr Richard Hoelzl	500.00
Turku conf. organizer	surplus conf. service	3,000.00		Conference exhibition table fees	Turku University	210.00
				Template article prize	St. Petersburg group	50.00
	_	_	_	Eastern RR travel cost to Turku	RR Hungary	870.00
	Total_Income _2011	7,949.33	_	EU meeting travel cost	Prof. Massard	300.30
	plusCapital201 0	<u>12,402.</u> 80		Notary fees to register election results	Dr. Palmer	30.94
	_		_	New Website programming	Webmaster Wilko v. Hardenberg	500.00
	_	_	_	Folder design Munich conference	Carson Center	19.90
	_	_	_	ICE-HO membership fees 2011	Internat. Consortium Env.Hist.Org.	79.06
					Total_Expenses_201	6,027.59
31.12.2011 Saving book	1,128.06	-		Again: savings plus total income 2011	12,402.80	,
31.12.2011 Giro	5,247.15			Again: total expenses 2011	6,027.59	
31.12.2011 Total	6,375.21			<b>Balance 2011: €</b>	<u>6,375.21</u>	

In 2012 ESEH received private donations for the travel grant fund amounting to 1180,- which are spent enabling active participants to join the conference in 2013. Another private donation

and an institutional share in the costs enabled the implementation of an Environmental History Summer School in St. Petersburg in August 2012. Moreover, travel cost for the Board Meeting in Hungary was covered for one board member, while all other costs could be covered by other institutional or private funds. During 2011 and 2012 many joint interests and activities with the Rachel Carson Center in Munich have been implemented successfully, some even without financial engagement from the side of the ESEH.

**ESEH Account 2012** 

	Kind_of_Incom				
Income_2012	e	SummIN	Expenses_2012	Beneficiary	SummEX
	Giro+Savingsbo				
from 2011	ok 2011	6,375.21	Bank Fees	Postbank Dortmund	265.41
Membership	netto incl.				
Fees	Transfer	2,295.25	Credit Card Fees	Postransact	331.38
from ESEH			Website Hosting since		
members	Donations	1,180.00	summer 12	Host Europe GmbH	184.63
from ESEH	Donation		Notary fees constitution		
members	Summer School	1,000.00	change	Dr. Palmer	44.03
Savingsbook	netto interests		ESEH Summer School	St Petersburg group Dr.	
interests	2012	41.83	St Petersburg	Lajus	2,500.00
Kajak Estonia	Summer School		Board meeting Szeged		
share in	cost	500.00	travel cost	RR Russia	595.00
	Total_Income_2		New Website	Webmaster Wilko v.	
	012	5,017.08	programming PayPal etc	Hardenberg	500.00
	plusCapital2011	<u>11,392.29</u>		Total_Expenses_2012	4,420.45
31.12.2012			Again: savings plus total	•	
Savingsbook	5,169.89		income 2012	11,392.29	
31.12.2012			Again: total expenses		
Giro	1,801.95		2012	4,420.45	
31.12.2012					
Total	6,971.84		Balance 2012: €	<u>6,971.84</u>	

With the implementation of the new website and introduction of PayPal on a non-university server, ESEH finally abandoned credit card acceptance which has proved highly uneconomic and finished the contract in 2013. After more than 300 payment procedures the treasurer is satisfied that everything worked well and so far no problems occurred.

Apart from fixed cost set aside in advance, travel cost to an environmental societies' meeting in Oslo and the board meeting in March 2013 in Munich were reimbursed. The article prize 2013 amounts to  $\in$  1000,- as travel cost had to be included this time. The summer school in Switzerland 2013 would need a comparatively small sponsoring of  $\in$  750,- probably. The most important issue are 37 travel grants ranging from  $\in$  70 to 370  $\in$ , chosen from 52 applications, and a little conference fee subsidy for each Regional Representative of ESEH. All these expenses amount to some  $\in$  12,000 at maximum. On the other side, all income up to the first week of August also amounted to  $\in$  12,400 so that the next board and the near future are depending heavily on further income. For this purpose, on Friday evening after the General Meeting a silent auction and eco-food reception are organized with sponsored books and food for the sole benefit of the ESEH.

Ulrich Koppitz ESEH Treasurer Dusseldorf 3 September 2013

## 3. Presidential Report 2011-2013

Environmental history in Europe is on the rise. Over the last two years the European Society for Environmental History has been more active than ever before. It has organized summer schools, sponsored academic events, expanded its research projects, awarded prizes, and redesigned its website, which is now hosted by an independent server. Furthermore, the society published the first volume in its series with Berghahn Books. Today ESEH boasts about 800 members from 49 different countries; its membership has almost doubled within the last two years (up from 425 in 2011). Likewise, the attendance of its biennial conferences has risen dramatically within a two-year period, from 320 in Turku 2011 to over 630 in Munich 2013. The key architects and executives of the society's activities were the members of its board as well as its regional representatives. From 2011 to 2013 the ESEH board consisted of the following delegates: Christof Mauch (President), Stefania Barca and Julia Lajus (Vice-Presidents), Phia Steyn (Secretary), and Ulrich Koppitz (Treasurer). Five regional representatives were also elected to the board: Stephane Frioux (France), Alexei V. Kraikovskii (Russia), Finn Arne Jørgensen (Nordic countries), Andrea Kiss (Hungary), and Christian Rohr (German speaking countries).

Among the most exciting projects that ESEH got involved with is the Arcadia project, a collaboration of the ESEH and the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society (RCC) at LMU Munich. Arcadia is an online platform that presents short, illustrated environmental histories. Forty-three articles written by ESEH members have been published so far, and about the same number are currently under review. Arcadia's short environmental histories on specific topics – like how Danube floods created telegraph networks, or how the European Green Belt transformed a zone of death into one of conservation – give researchers a way to share new work with peers and general audiences online. Each Arcadia entry includes a profile of the researcher, links, and suggested readings, and it is peer-reviewed by an international board of ESEH members and RCC staff (currently the Arcadia Board includes Kimberly Coulter, Andreas Grieger, Finn Arne Jørgensen, Julia Lajus, Christof Mauch, Timo Myllyntaus, Wilko Graf von Hardenberg, and Verena Winiwarter).

A highlight among the educational activities of the ESEH was its first writing and publication workshop, hosted by the Rachel Carson Center in Munich on August 21, 2013. ESEH secretary Phia Steyn served as convener, and presenters included Dolly Jørgensen (Umeå University, Sweden), David Moon (University of York, UK), Sarah Johnson (White Horse Press and publisher of the journal Environment and History), Katie Ritson (Managing Editor, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society) and Anne Boden (Editor, Imre Kertész Kolleg, Jena, Germany). The workshop addressed topics such as article writing techniques, book and grant proposal writing, academic prose style in English, and publisher expectations. Among the participants of the workshop were graduate students and postdocs from 14 different countries.

Since the ESEH organized its first summer school in Versailles, France, in 2010 (convener: Gregory Quenet), ESEH summer schools have become a regular feature of the annual ESEH calendar. In 2011, an ESEH summer school titled 'Water – Culture – History' took place in

Venice, Italy (organized by Christof Mauch). In 2012 the ESEH hosted not just one but two summer schools: the first one took place in Flaran, France, on the topic of 'Rural vs. Environmental History' (organized by Emmanuel Huertas and Gregory Quenet), the second one, titled 'Natural Resources: Historical Ideas, Exploration, and Exploitation' took place in St. Petersburg, Russia (organized by Julia Lajus). Finally, in August 2013, Marcus Hall and Patrick Kupper hosted a summer school in Lavin, Switzerland on the topic 'Mountains across Borders'.

A number of additional academic events were sponsored by the European Society for Environmental History between 2011 and 2013, including the conference 'Time in Environment: Methodological Implications of Narrating' that took place in Tallinn, Estonia, in March 2013. Since 2011 the society has also created an overview of members' book publications (the bibliography, which

is prepared by Julia Lajus, includes images of book covers) and it has provided links to electronic resources for environmental historians; these and many other features have been permanently updated on the website by the ESEHwebmaster, Wilko Graf von Hardenberg.

Even though the programs and initiatives of the ESEH keep growing, the society's biennial conferences remain the highlight of its activities. Under the title 'Circulating Natures: Water - Food - Energy', the city of Munich, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) and the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society (RCC) hosted the 7th biennial conference on August 21–24, 2013. Munich proved to be an ideal location for an environmental history conference: As Mayor 'Hep' Monatzeder (a member of the Green Party) pointed out in his address during the grand opening of the conference in the Old Town Hall, Munich is not just Germany's 'secret capital'; it is also a green city. The Englischer Garten, which spreads more than three kilometres through central Munich, is considered the largest urban park in the world. City dwellers' water is piped directly from the Alps, and the surrounding area is largely agricultural, ensuring that a large part of Munich's food – fish, meat, vegetables, beer - is locally sourced. The Viktualienmarkt, a continuation of a medieval farmers' market, is today known for being one of Europe's exclusive gourmet food markets. A great deal of Munich's energy comes from Alpine hydroelectric plants, and by the year 2025, Munich aims to produce enough renewable energy from its own plants to supply the entire city, making it the first city of more than a million inhabitants to achieve this goal. Thus, Munich's environs were, indeed, rich in inspiration for the theme of a conference on 'Water – Food – Energy.'

The program committee, chaired by Peter Coates (University of Bristol, UK), included members from seven countries from different parts of Europe (Inês Amorim, Marcus Hall, Arielle Helmick, Dolly Jørgensen, Andrea Kiss, and Timo Myllyntaus). They helped sift through a great number of excellent proposals and, after a two-day meeting in the spring, they selected the presentations and posters that constituted the academic part of the conference – over 100 panels and 40 posters. Additionally, 53 scholars were selected by the ESEH travel grant committee to receive travel grants from the society. The conference also featured a keynote speech by Marion Nestle on food politics, a 'Hall of Fellows' that introduced the work of 101 Carson Fellows and alumni, and a number of special events, such as book

exhibits and launches, excursions, and evening receptions in historic locations across Munich. Among the sponsors of the conference was the Deutsches Museum, which hosted a reception in the main exhibition area, the American Society for Environmental History (ASEH), the Augustiner Brewery, several publishers (from Germany, Britain, and the United States), and many individuals who donated books for the silent auction. Moreover, the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society sponsored flying lunch buffets, afternoon excursions, coffee breaks, music, and more. During the final conference banquet on August 24, which was attended by 420 ESEH members, the society's two prizes were awarded by prize committee chairs Richard Hölzl and Franziska Torma. In the ceremony, the ESEH Best Article Prize 2013 was awarded to Ben M. Anderson (Keele University) for his article 'The Construction of an Alpine Landscape: Building, Representing and Affecting the Eastern Alps, 1885–1914', *Journal of Cultural Geography* 29:2 (2012), pp. 1–29; and the Turku Book Award (sponsored by the Rachel Carson Center) was conferred on Patrick Kupper for his book *Wildnis schaffen. Eine transnationale Geschichte des Schweizerischen Nationalparks* (Bern: Haupt Verlag, 2012).

When the founding members of today's ESEH met in Dietramszell, Germany, in 1999, they agreed that environmental history was not a strong field in Europe and not a visible discipline in their country. Today the future of environmental history looks bright. Professorships, research institutes, and informal networks have been established all across Europe, most of them over the last couple of years, and all of them with the involvement of ESEH members. The first volume in the joint book series 'The Environment in History: International Perspectives' of the RCC and the ESEH (Civilizing Nature: National Parks in Global Historical Perspective, edited by Bernhard Gissibl, Sabine Höhler, and Patrick Kupper) was released in 2012, and 14 book manuscripts are currently under review or consideration. Preparations are also underway for the first ever virtual conference in European environmental history, scheduled for November 21–22, 2013; this event is being organized by a new generation of environmental historians in Eastern Europe: graduate students from Zadar, Croatia. The electronic newsletter of the ESEH President, which was started in 2012 with 290 addressees, today goes out to 800 members of the society. Europe hosted the first World Congress in Environmental History in 2009 (in Copenhagen); few people had expected that. But Europe is now hosting the second World Congress in 2014 as well (in Guimarães, Portugal). Moreover, preparations have already begun for the 8th biennial conference of the ESEH. Organized by Gregory Quenet, this conference will take place at the University of Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France, in 2015 under the promising title 'Greening History, Studying the Environment across Disciplines: Past, Present and Future'.

Christof Mauch President of the ESEH, 2011-2013 Munich, November 2013