



9th Biennial Report of the European Society for Environmental History 2017–2019

**Prepared by Péter Szabó
(President of ESEH 2017-2019)
December 2019**

Contents

I. General overview

II. Financial report

III. Presidential report

I. General overview

At its 9th Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) in Zagreb, Croatia, 29 June 2017, ESEH elected new Board Members and five new Regional representatives. At the meeting of the Council of Regional Representatives (CRR) the same day, five Regional Representatives were elected onto the Board. Because the Regional Representative for Italy was not voted in at the OGM in Zagreb, the Board appointed an interim RR for Italy in 2018.

These elections resulted in the following Board and Council of Regional Representatives for 2017–2019:

ESEH Board

President

Péter Szabó, *Institute of Botany, Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic*

Vice-Presidents

Borna Fuerst-Bjelis, *University of Zagreb, Croatia*

Wilko Graf von Hardenberg, *Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Germany*

Secretary

Giacomo Parrinello, *Center for History at Sciences Po, France*

Treasurer

Ulrich Koppitz, *Medical History Library, Düsseldorf, Germany*

Regional Representative for German speaking countries and Chair of CRR

Martin Knoll, *University of Salzburg, Austria*

Regional Representative for Baltic Countries

Kati Lindström, *KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden*

Regional Representative for Romania

Stefan Dorondel, *F. I. Rainer Institute of Anthropology, Romania*

Regional Representative for Israel

Yaron J. Balslev, *Tel Aviv University, Israel*

Regional Representative for Croatia

Hrvoje Petrić, *University of Zagreb, Croatia*

Chair of the Local Organizing Committee for the 2019 Biennial Conference in Tallinn

Ulrike Plath, *Tallinn University, Estonia*

Council of Regional Representatives

Andrea Gaynor, *The University of Western Australia, Australia – Australasia*

Kati Lindström, *KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden – Baltic states*

Tim Soens, *University of Antwerp, Belgium – Benelux countries*

Ian Rotherham, *Sheffield Hallam University, UK – Britain and Ireland*

Hrvoje Petrić, *University of Zagreb, Croatia – Croatia*

Pavel Chromý, *Charles University Prague, Czechia – Czechia and Slovakia*

Charles-François Mathis, *Université Bordeaux Montaigne, France – France*

Martin Knoll (chair), *University of Salzburg, Austria – German speaking countries*

Vaso Seirinidou, *University of Athens, Greece – Greece*

Dénes Sálata, *Szent István University, Hungary – Hungary*

Yaron J. Balslev, *Tel Aviv University – Israel*

Melania Nucifora, *CTSA Catania, Italy* – Italy
Paula Schönach, *University of Helsinki, Finland* – Nordic countries
Adam Izdebski, *Jagiellonian University Krakow, Poland* – Poland
Inês Amorim, *University of Porto, Portugal* – Portugal
Stefan Dorondel, *F. I. Rainer Institute of Anthropology, Bucharest* – Romania
Alexei V. Kraikovskii, *European University at St Petersburg, Russia* – Russia
Jelena Mrgic, *University of Belgrade, Serbia* – Serbia
Sandra Swart, *University of Stellenbosch, South Africa* – South Africa
Juan Infante, *Pablo de Olavide University, Spain* – Spain
Onur Inal, *University of Hamburg, Germany* – Turkey

ESEH Committees

Financial Control Committee

Dominik Collet, *Heidelberg University, Germany*

Stéphane Frioux, *University of Lyon 2, France*

Nomination Committee

Christian Rohr (chair), *University of Bern, Switzerland*

Kati Lindström, *KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden and University of Tartu, Estonia*

Ana Isabel Queiroz, *University of Lisbon, Portugal*

Conference Site Selection Committee

Patrick Kupper (chair), *University of Innsbruck, Austria*

Borna Fuerst-Bjelis (Board representative), *University of Zagreb, Croatia*

Tomasz Samojlik, *Polish Academy of Science, Poland*

ESEH 2019 Program Committee

Finn Arne Jørgensen (chair), *University of Stavanger, Norway*

Hrvoje Petrić (Board representative), *University of Zagreb, Croatia*

Santiago Gorostiza, *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (ICTA-UAB), Spain*

Andrea Gaynor, *The University of Western Australia, Australia*

Kati Lindström, *KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden and University of Tartu, Estonia*

Leona Skelton, *Northumbria University, United Kingdom*

ESEH Travel Grant Committee

Anna Mazanik (chair), *Central European University, Hungary*

Ulrich Koppitz (Board representative), *University of Düsseldorf, Germany*

Renaud Bécot, *Laboratoire de recherche historique Rhône-Alpes, France*

ESEH Research Grant Committee

Marcus Hall (chair), *University of Zurich, IEU, Switzerland*

Giacomo Parrinello (Board representative), *Sciences Po Paris, France*

Sofie Mittas, *Johannes Kepler University, Linz*

Summer School Committee

Inês Amorim (chair), *University of Porto, Portugal*

Martin Knoll (Board representative), *University of Salzburg, Austria*

Omer Aloni, *Tel-Aviv University Buchmann Faculty of Law, Israel*

Žiga Zwitter, *University of Ljubljana, Slovenia*

Victor Matasov, *Moscow State University, Russia*

Editorial Committee (Berghahn/ESEH/RCC book series)

Christof Mauch, *Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich, Germany*

Helmuth Trischler, *Deutsches Museum, Munich, Germany*

David Moon, *University of York, United Kingdom (until 2018)*

Dolly Jørgensen, *Umeå University, Sweden*

Kieko Matteson, *University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, U.S. (from 2018)*

St. Andrews Article Prize Committee

Martin Schmid (chair), *Institute of Social Ecology/Vienna, Austria*

Yaron Baslev (Board representative), *Tel Aviv University, Israel*

Maïka de Keyzer, *University of Antwerp, Belgium*

Turku Book Prize Committee

Jane Carruthers (chair), *University of South Africa, South Africa*

Eva Jakobsson, *University of Stavanger, Norway*

Christof Mauch, *Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich, Germany*

Stefan Dorondel (Board representative), *Institute of Anthropology, Bucharest, Romania*

Marianna Dudley, *University of Bristol, United Kingdom*

Tallinn Dissertation Prize Committee

Gabriella Corona (chair), *National Research Council, Institute of Studies on Mediterranean Societies, Naples, Italy*

Ellen Arnold, *Ohio Wesleyan University, USA*

Elena Kochetkova, *National Research University Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg, Russia*

David Moon, *University of York, UK/Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan*

Viktor Pál, *University of Helsinki, Finland*

ESEH Next Generation Action Team (NEXTGATe)

Viktor Pál, Coordinator (assistant to Board), *University of Helsinki, Finland.*

Roberta Biasillo, *Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society/LMU Munich, Germany.*

Elena Kochetkova, *National Research University Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg.*

Taylor Meredith, *University of Birmingham, United Kingdom.*

Erin Spinney, *Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, University of Oxford.*

Simone Schleper, *Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG), Mainz, Germany.*

II. Financial Report

(prepared by ESEH Treasurer Ulrich Koppitz)

Income_2017			Expenses_2017		
Kind_of_Income	SumIN		Beneficiary	SumEX	
from 2016	Giro+PayPal+Savings	11 094,79	Bank Fees esp. intl. transfer fees	Postbank Dortmund	117,99
Savingsbook interests	netto interests 2017	0,23	Website Hosting & pay-option	Host Europe, Google & Digitalpayment	533,86
Membership Fees	via Giro	2 735,00	Archival travel grant	Melsted	500,00
Membership Fees	net via PayPal	12 627,00	Small Workshop co-sponsoring	Univ. Hamburg	500,00
Membership Fees	cash at the conference	400,00	EU Brussels meeting	VP travel	417,00
Donations	from ESEH members	1 015,00	Membership in umbrella associations	EASSH & ICEHO fees 2017-18	280,50
Book auction at conference	from publishers & delegates	203,00			
Conference organization share	Zagreb University	1 500,00	Travel Grants for conference Zagreb	29 delegates disadvant. Regions incl.fees	7 975,00
	Total_Income_2017	18 480,23	St Andrews Article Prize 2017 & waiver	prize winner de Keyzer	740,00
	plusCapital2018	29 575,02	ESEH Conference travel aid RR	3 of 17 RRs (ISR, ROM, RUS)	1 500,00
			Summer School Croatia conference	Univ. Zadar	500,00
Info: Conference net fees passed to Zagreb & Zadar Univs		84 052,28			
Conference cost Croatia paid directly from conference fees		7 090,72			
			Total_Expenses_2017		13 064,35 €
31.12.2017 Savings	End of Year 2017	5 220,82	Control formula:	Again: savings plus total income 2017	29 575,02
31.12.2017 Giro		10 979,79		Again: total expenses 2017	13 064,35
31.12.2017 Paypal		310,06		Balance 2017: €	16 510,67 €
31.12.2017 Total		16 510,67 €			
Income_2018			Expenses_2018		
Kind_of_Income	SumIN		Beneficiary	SumEX	
from 2017	Giro+Savings+PayP2017	16 510,67	Bank Fees esp. intl. transfer fees	Postbank Dortmund	141,70
Membership Fees & donation	via Giro	1 405,00	Website Hosting & pay-option	Host Europe, Google & Digitalpayment	737,56
Membership Fees	net via PayPal	2 722,50	Notary fee standard change tax paragraph	Dr Wehrstedt & district court	70,57
Savingsbook interests	netto interests 2018	0,04	Small Workshop co-sponsoring France	RUCHE, travel Schmid & van Dam	528,45
	Total_Income_2018	4 127,54 €	Small Workshop co-sponsoring Latvia	Baltehums	500,00
			Summer school	Peronne Memorial	500,00
	plusCapital2017	20 638,21	2 Archival travel grants	Hannaford, Klinger incl. fees (Regan 2019)	1 055,11
			Total_Expenses_2018		3 533,39 €
	End of Year 2018	5 220,86			
31.12.2018 Savings		11 001,40	Control formula:	Again: savings plus total income 2018	20 638,21
31.12.2018 Giro		882,56		Again: total expenses 2018	3 533,39
31.12.2018 Paypal		17 104,82 €		Balance 2018: €	17 104,82 €
31.12.2018 Total					

ESEH Budget 2019			Expenses_2019		
capital_2019-6-7	note	SummIN	Beneficiary	SummEX	
giro	ca.	18 982 €	Bank Fees 9 months	Postbank Dortmund ca.	170
paypal		742 €	Registration fees constitution&election	notary / district court ca.	100
savings		5 220 €	Website Hosting & payfacility 1yr	HostEurope & Digitalpay	500
promised allowance	after conference	2 000 €	EASSH basic fee	Europ. All. Sci. Soc. Hum.	100
	2019 right after conf.	26 944 €	ICE-HO basic fee	Intl.Cons.Env.Hist.Org.	90
			1 of 2 archival research grants 2019	Kleemann, Varfolomeeva	500
			1 archival grant 2018 to be collected 2019		500
			2 Env. Hist. Workshops 2019	Ankara, Budapest	1 000
			Turku Book Prize Funds: for 2021+	Prize winners 2023 sqq	1 000
				SUB-total decisions already taken June 21st:	3 960 €
			10th Conference Tallinn without summer school (cancelled)		
			Turku Book Awardee 2019 conf. fee	Prize by Carson Center: prize winner	250
			Tallinn Dissertation Prize 2019	with NextGATE: prize winner	spons. by crowdft
			Tallinn Dissertation Prize 19 Travel Co	prize winner	500
			White Horse Poster Prize 1st & 2nd	2 prize winners	spons. by WHP
			St. Andrews Article Prize 2019	prize winner 500+conf.fee	750
			Travel Grants ESEH conf. Tallinn	25 applicants (jun/region)	8 000
			Travel Grants ESEH conf. Tallinn addit	next generation action team: 3 of 6	1 500
ESEH Budget 2019 June 21st by president, approved by board, updated			4 BMs conf. Tallinn travel reimburseme	ISR, ROM, CRO, VP: Total	3 770
			2 Conference key notes honorarium	Brown, Hornborg	1 500
			5 key note plenarists lump sum honorar	Gaynor, Jorgensen, Kull, Mauelshagen, Mitman	1 250
			RRs Tallinn conf. fee waivers	1 of 20 RRs	300
				SUB-total conference cost t.b.d.:	17 820
			issues by new board still in 2019	or reserve t.b.d.	2 000
				TOTAL expenses 2019:	23 780 €

In the conference year 2017, the income of ESEH was larger than in previous years because the Board replaced many tasks of a professional conference organizer – otherwise provided by the university administration - with a turnover of more than 84,000 Euro. This effort was rewarded not only with 1,500 Euro from the final surplus, but also an increase of membership fees in connection with conference payments via PayPal. Moreover, 1,000 Euro were donated to support the Turku Prize in the 2020s. Expenditures amounted to ca. 13,000 Euro, mostly for conference and summer school in Croatia, whereas high income of over 18,000 Euro led to an increase of capital by over 5,000 Euro.

In such a good state, expenditures in 2018 have been increased for funding 2 workshops, 1 summer school plus 2 archival travel grants with 500 Euro each, 1 more grant could not be collected before the end of the year. Although income decreased in this non-conference year to 4,000 Euro, the financial means still improved in order to secure prizes, travel aids and grants for the 10th ESEH conference in the following year.

III. Presidential report

Between 2017 and 2019, ESEH focused its activities around six areas: 1) support for next generation scholars, 2) support for scholarly development, 3) biennial conferences, 4) recognition of outstanding scholarship, 5) communication, and 6) members, networks and regions. This report provides details for each of these areas.

1) Support for next generation scholars

It is now traditional for ESEH to co-sponsor the organization of European Summer Schools on environmental history with 500 EUR per event. We co-sponsored the Summer School “An Environmental History of the First World War” held at the Centre International de Recherche de l'Historial de la Grande Guerre, in Péronne, France on 2-7 July 2018. The second co-sponsored Summer School in connection with the 10th Biennial Conference was going to be held in Tartu, Estonia in 2019, but unfortunately this event was cancelled by the organizers shortly before the actual event was going to take place. A further means of supporting the next generation of European environmental historians is through ESEH's travel grant scheme. Travel grants support scholars who need financial assistance to attend the biennial conference. For the 2019 Conference in Tallinn we received 29 travel grant applications, of which 28 were awarded a travel grant. The average amount granted was 285 EUR, totalling 8000 EUR. A different grant scheme, ESEH's recently established research grants assist outstanding doctoral students and recent PhD graduates to complete their research in environmental history. ESEH awards up to two grants per year, each 500 EUR. The awardees for 2018 were Jayne Regan, Australian National University: “‘A Wealth of Romance’: Conservation and commercialism on the Great Barrier Reef, 1885-1970”, and Patrick J Klinger, University of Kansas: “The climate of union: An environmental history of the Anglo-Scottish Union of 1707”. Research grants for 2019 went to Katrin Kleeman, Ludwig Maximilians University/Rachel Carson Center, Munich: “A Mist Connection: The Icelandic Laki Fissure Eruption of 1783” and Anna Varfolomeeva, Central European University, Budapest: “The narratives of hardship and glory: gender dimensions of stoneworking in Northwestern Russia.” In order to strengthen the presence and influence of next generation scholars in environmental history in Europe and beyond, the Board decided to establish the ESEH Next Generation Action Team (NEXTGATE) in 2018. The main activities of NEXTGATE include active social media presence and exploring new ways of scholarly communication. For example, prior to the Tallinn Conference, NEXTGATE members organized a successful Twitter conference. NEXTGATE also organized on-site activities and networking at the conference, including the highly popular ESEH Next Generation Action Team Pub Night, where next generation scholars could meet and mingle in a relaxed atmosphere. NEXTGATE also initiated the ESEH Dissertation database, which in late 2019 included 30 unpublished dissertations on environmental historical topics. More on the activities of NEXTGATE can be found in the 2018/4 Notepad section of the journal *Environment and History*.

2) Scholarly development

ESEH supports with 500 EUR each up to 2 small workshops per year (with less than 100 participants) organized by an ESEH member on any topic in European environmental history. Applications are administered through an open call and decisions are made by the Board. In 2017-2019, the following workshops were selected for support:

- “Environmental History of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey” 27-28 October 2017, TürkeiEuropaZentrum (TEZ) Universität Hamburg, Germany.
- "Writing environmental history in the 21st century: sources, methods and practices" RUCHE (Réseau Universitaire de Chercheurs en Histoire Environnementale). 13-15 June 2018, Lyon, France.
- "First Baltic Conference on the Environmental Humanities and Social Sciences (BALTEHUMS)" 8-9 October 2018, Academic Center for Natural Sciences, Latvian University, Riga, Latvia.
- “The Second International NEHT Workshop: Environmental Histories of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey” 6-7 September 2019, Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Turkey.
- “Conference for Environmental History 2019. Environmental History Events in the Mirror of Historical and Natural Sources in the Carpathian-Balkan Region during the Past Five Millennia.” 29–30 October 2019, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary.

Furthermore, the ESEH Board decided to endorse (without financial support) the workshop "Middle Eastern Animals: Interdisciplinary Perspectives from Early Modern to Contemporary Times" held on 27-28 June 2019, at the University of Vienna, Austria.

ESEH has continued its successful cooperation with Berghahn to publish the series *Environment in History: International Perspectives*. Six volumes were published in 2018-2019:

- Managing Northern Europe's Forests: Histories from the Age of Improvement to the Age of Ecology. Edited by K. Jan Oosthoek and Richard Hölzl.
- A Living Past: Environmental Histories of Modern Latin America. Edited by John Soluri, Claudia Leal, and José Augusto Pádua.
- Ice and Snow in the Cold War: Histories of Extreme Climatic Environments. Edited by Julia Herzberg, Christian Kehrt, and Franziska Torma.
- Changes in the Air: Hurricanes in New Orleans from 1718 to the Present. By Eleonora Rohland.
- Planning for the Planet: Environmental Expertise and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1960–1980. By Simone Schleper.
- Hazardous Chemicals: Agents of Risk and Change, 1800-2000. Edited by Ernst Homburg and Elisabeth Vaupel.

3) Biennial conferences

The 10th Biennial Conference of ESEH was held in Tallinn, Estonia, on 21-25 August 2019. The conference was exceptionally well-organized and many thanks are due to the Local Organizing Committee, especially to Ulrike Plath, Kati Lindström, Linda Kaljundi and Kadri Tüür. The Scientific Committee received 219 individual paper submissions, 73 session proposals, 16 roundtable proposals, 10 special session proposals and 21 poster proposals. Of these, 176 individual papers, 69 sessions, 10 roundtables, 7 special sessions and 21 posters were accepted. In all, the conference was attended by ca. 500 scholars from all over the world. An open call for expression of interest was published by the Board for potential organizers of the 11th Biennial Conference in 2021. Two proposals were received (by the University of Szeged, Hungary and the University of Bristol, UK.) Based on the evaluation of the Conference

Site Selection Committee and the subsequent recommendation of the Board, the CRR selected Bristol, UK, as the site of the 2021 ESEH Biennial Conference.

4) Recognition of outstanding scholarship

Currently ESEH has four different prizes to recognize and promote outstanding scholarship in European Environmental History.

The St Andrews Article Prize (which comes with 500 EUR) rewards innovative and well-written article-length research in any European language published in 2017 or 2018 on any subject in the field of European environmental history, including Europe's (post)colonial impact on the global environment. The Article Prize Committee received 26 submissions. The Prize was won by a multi-author paper: Hartman, Steven, Ogilvie, A.E.J., Ingimundarson, Jón Haukur, Dugmore, A.J., Hambrecht, George and McGovern, T.H. "Medieval Iceland, Greenland, and the New Human Condition: A case study in integrated environmental humanities." *Global and Planetary Change* 156 (2017): 123–139. An honorary mention was awarded to Tim Soens for his article "Resilient societies, vulnerable people: Coping with North Sea floods before 1800." *Past and Present* 241 (2018): 143–177. For the first time, a scientific cartoon for the winning article was prepared by Tomasz Samojlik, which will be available on the ESEH website.

The Turku Book Prize is managed in cooperation with the Rachel Carson Center in Munich, Germany. The Prize (with 3000 EUR) identifies and encourages excellent, innovative, and well-written scholarship in the field of European environmental history. The Book Prize Committee received 31 submissions, of which five were shortlisted. The Book Prize was awarded to Sarah R. Hamilton, *Cultivating Nature: The Conservation of a Valencian Working Landscape*, University of Washington Press, 2018. The following books were shortlisted: Dominik Collet, *Die doppelte Katastrophe: Klima und Kultur in europäischer Hungerkrise 1700-1772*, Vandenhoeck & Rupprecht, 2019. Deborah Coen, *Climate in Motion: Science, Empire and the Problem of Scale*, University of Chicago Press, 2018. Dario Gaggio, *The Shaping of Tuscany: Landscape and Society between Tradition and Modernity*, Cambridge University Press, 2017. Paul Warde, *The Invention of Sustainability: Nature and Destiny, c.1500-1870*, Cambridge University Press, 2018.

ESEH also has the Environment and History Best Poster Prize in cooperation with the White Horse Press to encourage and elevate the status of poster presentations at the biennial conferences. First and second prizes are awarded (100 EUR and 50 EUR, respectively). At the Tallinn conference, the first prize was won by Dimitri van Limbergen for his poster „Back to the roots: Agroforestry and the rediscovery of Roman viticulture (200BC–AD200).“ Nina Schläfli won the second prize for her poster "Shipping on the border: Environmental dimensions in the development of steam navigation in the Lake Constance region."

Acting on the initiative of NEXTGATE, the ESEH Board decided to establish a new prize for the best dissertation in European environmental history. Following ESEH tradition, the prize was named after an important location in the history of our society: Tallinn. The Prize aims at supporting early career scholars based in Europe or based outside Europe but working on a European topic. It is intended to enhance the visibility of PhD students and post-docs in environmental history and the environmental humanities, and to strengthen inter-generational ties within the ESEH. A crowdsourcing campaign was initiated to sponsor

financing. 19 donors gave altogether 810 EUR. The Best Dissertation Prize Committee received 35 submissions. They decided to award a joint first prize to two dissertations: Omer Aloni: “Back to the League of Nations – Evaluation of the Environmental Regime: 1919-1939” and Pierre-Etienne Stockland: “Statecraft and Insect Economies in the Global French Enlightenment (1670-1815).” A special mention was given to John Emrys Morgan for his dissertation: “Flooding in Early Modern England: Cultures of Coping in Gloucestershire and Lincolnshire.”

5) Communication

The ESEH website (www.eseh.org) was managed by the Vice-President Wilko Graf von Hardenberg and Secretary Giacomo Parrinello. ESEH also maintained an active presence on social media (facebook and twitter). We continued to publish the ESEH Society Pages (Notepad) in *Environment and History*. Through the efforts of Notepad liaison Marcus Hall, six further overviews of national research in various ESEH regions were published: Poland – 2017/3, Russia – 2017/4, Turkey – 2018/2, Spain – 2018/3, Israel – 2019/1 and Romania – 2019/2. Three Notepads were dedicated to other topics: Zagreb conference reflections: 2018/1, NEXTGATE introduction: 2018/4, ESEH celebrates 20 years: 2019/3. Members continued to receive the presidential newsletter four times a year and extraordinary communication when appropriate.

6) Members, networks, regions

In August 2019, ESEH had 1166 members, a 9% increase when compared to the previous period. ESEH remains a Basic level member of the International Consortium for Environmental History Organizations (ICEHO), which organizes the World Congress of Environmental History every 5 years. The latest WCEH took place in July 2019 in Brazil. ESEH is also a member of the European Alliance for Social Sciences & Humanities (EASSH), which advocates SSH in EU research funding strategies.

It was an important aim of the Board to widen the geographical scope of ESEH. To this end, two entirely new regions were established (Ukraine and North-Macedonia) by the Ordinary General Meeting. Furthermore, the existing regions of Croatia and Serbia were merged and Slovenia (so far not part of ESEH regions) joined in to create the newly established region of Croatia-Serbia-Slovenia.