

Hamburg, 05.05.2017

To:

Dr. Dolly Jørgensen,
ESEH President

Subject: Proposal for the Institution of Turkey as a new ESEH region

Dear Dr. Dolly Jørgensen,

Environmental history is an emerging field in Ottoman and Turkish studies. Contrary to the growing number of environmental historical studies in North America, Europe, and other parts of the world, the number of studies in this burgeoning subfield in Ottoman and Turkish studies still can be counted on the fingers of one hand. It is not surprising that neither a community, nor a research network, platform, nor forum of any kind dedicated to the environmental history of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey exists.

To fill this gap, we will launch the **Network for the Study of Environmental History of Turkey** this year. It will provide a platform for cooperation and exchange of information among environmental historians of Turkey from all around the world. We plan to contextualize and formalize the network at a meeting during the workshop “Environmental History of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey” that will take place at the Asien-Afrika-Institut of University of Hamburg on 27-28 October 2017. The workshop, organized by the *TürkeiEuropaZentrum* (TEZ), will be the first academic gathering ever to bring historians, sociologists, political scientists, geographers, environmental and natural scientists, both early career and experienced, identifying themselves or showing an interest in the field of Turkish environmental history, together. Therefore, we consider the workshop an important step in the formation of a Turkish environmental history community.

Turkey and Europe have been closely linked and their histories have been woven together for several centuries. However, environmental dimensions of the intersecting histories of Turkey and Europe are yet to be explored. A new, dynamic network can serve to invite and combine inter- and cross-disciplinary research perspectives on the environmental history of the region. We would like to take on the task to bring researchers of Turkish environmental history under the roof of the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) together and hereby request the formation of Turkey as a new regional group. We believe that the formation of a

regional group for Turkey would be beneficial for both Turkish and European environmental historians. It would offer them new opportunities to explore the historical connections between Turkey and Europe and promote academic research on Turkey from an environmental point of view.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Onur Inal

TürkeiEuropaZentrum (TEZ)

University of Hamburg

Information:

Name:

The Network for the Study of Environmental History of Turkey

Short Definition:

The Network for the Study of Environmental History of Turkey (to be launched in October 2017) is an international and interdisciplinary research platform that aims to contribute to the understanding of the history(ies) of Turkey from the perspective of environmental history. It will be based at the *TürkeiEuropaZentrum* of the University of Hamburg, which is an important research center for Turkish studies in Germany.

Founder:

Dr. Onur Inal

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Annual Plan for 2017-18:

- Website/Blog for the Network
- Social Media Tools
- Mailing List
- Annual Workshop/Conference (Hamburg, 27-28 October 2017)
- Edited Volume and/or a Special Issue "Environmental History of Turkey" in a Peer-Reviewed Journal

Participants of the Workshop on the Environmental History of Turkey (alphabetical):

Antonis Hadjikyriacou, Ass. Prof. Dr., Boğaziçi University (Turkey)

Bürge Abiral, Dr., John Hopkins University (USA)

Camille Cole, Ph.D. Candidate, Yale University (USA)

Canan Bolel, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Washington (USA)

Dale J. Stahl, Ass. Prof. Dr., University of Colorado Denver (USA)

Deniz Karakaş, Dr., Sabancı University (Turkey)

Elias Kolovos, Ass. Prof. Dr., University of Crete (Greece)

Ethemcan Turhan, Dr., KTH Environmental Humanities Lab (Sweden)
Hristo Hristozov, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Sofia (Bulgaria)
Isacar Bolanos, Ph.D. Candidate, Ohio State University (USA)
Mateusz Falkowski, Ph.D. Candidate, Princeton University (USA)
Mehmet Kentel, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Washington (USA)
Mehmet Kuru, Dr. University of Toronto (Canada)
Mohammed Gamal-Eldin, Ph.D. Candidate, Princeton University (USA)
Önder Eren Akgül, Ph.D. Candidate, Georgetown University (USA)
Özkan Akpınar, Ph.D. Candidate, Boğaziçi University (Turkey)
Rana İzci Connelly, Ass. Prof. Dr., Marmara University (Turkey)
Seçil Binboğa, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Michigan (USA)
Seçil Uluişik, Dr., University of Arizona / Austrian Academy of Sciences (USA/Austria)
Sezai Ozan Zeybek, Ass. Prof. Dr., Istanbul Bilgi University (Turkey)
Suraiya Faroqhi, Prof. Dr., Emeritus (Germany)
Styliani Lepida, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Cyprus (Cyprus)
Uğur Bahadır Bayraktar, Dr., Independent Scholar (Turkey)
Vaso Seirinidou, Ass. Prof. Dr., National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece)
Yavuz Köse, Prof. Dr. University of Hamburg (Germany)
Yener Koç, Ph.D. Candidate, Boğaziçi University (Turkey)
Zehra Taşdemir Yaşın, Dr., Binghamton University (USA)
Zozan Pehlivan, Dr., McGill University (Canada)