

CONTRIBUTION TO ESEH

RUTH MORGAN – REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE:

AUSTRALASIA (AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND)

As Regional Representative for Australasia on the board of the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH), I would bring not only energy and enthusiasm to the role, but also extensive international and interdisciplinary experience that would help to facilitate, strengthen, and expand the networks of communication that drive this community of scholars. As a longtime member of the Australia and New Zealand Environmental History Network, I aim to foster and encourage further communication and collaboration between my colleagues in Australasia and our counterparts in Europe and elsewhere, particularly in terms of promoting environmental history within secondary and tertiary education.

The field of environmental history is remarkable for its collaborative and supportive nature, and it is this spirit of inclusiveness and cooperation that I see ESEH's vital contribution to building and strengthening the discipline. I hope to continue and bolster this tradition as Regional Representative through the auspices of ESEH itself as well as through my participation in environmental history conferences and meetings both in my region (Australasia) and further afield. Such frequent conference attendance will help me to listen to, and represent, the diverse interests and concerns of scholars in the field, and to share ideas and experiences along the way.

This collegial approach extends to my membership and engagement with other environmental history organizations, including the Rachel Carson Center, the International Water History Association, and the Women in Environmental History Network. I am also a member of the European Society of Environmental History and the American Society of Environmental History. My involvement in these organisations, either as an ordinary member or in an executive role, has provided me significant insights into issues facing the field within the academic community, as well as with the general public. These concern fair and diverse representation, environmental and social justice, and opportunity, just to name a few.

Having participated in the ESEH meetings in Munich (2013), Versailles (2015) and Zagreb (2017), I am excited by the fresh and dynamic perspectives that await us in Tallinn, Estonia. In light of the local and global political and environmental challenges we face, ESEH's mission has never been more important.

Dr Ruth A. Morgan - Short Curriculum Vitae

Biographical Snapshot:

I am a Senior Research Fellow in the History Program at Monash University, Melbourne. I am an environmental historian and historian of science with a particular focus on Australia, the British Empire, and the Indian Ocean world. My research focuses on the changing relationships between people and their environments, with a particular interest in water resources and climate variability. I hold an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Early Career Researcher Award and I am a co-investigator on an ARC Discovery Project on the water history of urban Australia. This project builds on my involvement in the CRC for Water Sensitive Cities and my role as a Lead Author for the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, Working Group II (2021). I am a member of the executive committees of the Australian Historical Association, the International Water History Association, the International Commission on the History of Meteorology, and a member of the Monash Climate Change Communication Research Hub. In addition to over 25 refereed journal papers and book chapters, I have authored or co-edited five books or volumes: *International Review of Environmental History* (2018); *Rachel Carson Center Perspectives* (2017); *Running Out? Water in Western Australia* (2015); *History of Meteorology* (2014); and *Studies in Western Australian History* (2013). I have successfully co-supervised 3 postgraduate students and currently co-supervise 2 PhD students. Over the past 7 years, I have obtained over \$500,000 in competitive research grants.

Administrative Positions (Monash University):

2019- Deputy Director, Historical Studies Postgraduate Research Program
2013-15 Honours Coordinator, History Program & School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies

Postgraduate Supervision:

Current:

(with Assoc. Profs Andrea Gaynor and Lionel Frost) Co-supervision of PhD student (50%), Phoebe Tang, 'Urban Water Management in Colonial Melbourne and Hong Kong'.
(with Dr Susie Protschky) Co-supervision of PhD student (60%), Joanna Lee, 'British Malayan nature in texts by colonial officials, 1874-1942'.

Completed:

2016 (with Assoc. Prof. Seamus O'Hanlon) Co-supervision of MA student (40%), Kathleen Raulings, 'Landscapes and People of the Mitta Valley 1830-1914: An Environmental History'.
2014 (with Prof. Alistair Thomson and Dr. Richard Gillespie) Co-supervision of PhD student (20%), Margaret Fraser, 'Strathewen: Oral History after Black Saturday'.
2014 (with Dr. Stephen Legg) Co-supervision of MA student (30%), Brian Doolan, 'Institutional Continuity and Change in Victoria's Forests, 1900-2010'.

Undergraduate Teaching (2019):

APG4618 Researching Histories (4th year historiography and methods class)

Fellowships:

2018 Carson Society Munich Fellowship, Rachel Carson Center, LMU, Munich
2016-19 ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award
2017 Carl Friedrich von Siemens Postdoctoral Researcher, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, LMU Munich
2017 Visiting Research Fellow (Centre for World Environmental History), Joint appointment in the School of Art History, History and Philosophy and the School of Global Studies, University of Sussex
2016 Australian Bicentennial Fellowship, Menzies Centre for Australian Studies, King's College London

- 2016 Visiting Scholar, Department II, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin
- 2015 Carson Fellow, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, LMU, Munich
- 2013 Visiting Scholar, Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford University

Awards:

- 2018 Winner, Faculty of Arts Dean's Award for Research Excellence by an Early Career Researcher
- 2016 Winner of the State Library of Western Australia Prize for Western Australian History, WA Premier's Book Awards for *Running Out? Water in Western Australia* (Crawley, UWA Publishing, 2015)
- 2016 Highly Commended, W.K. Hancock Prize, Australian Historical Association (Biennial prize for best first book in any field of history)
- 2016 Theo Murphy High Flyers Think Tank, 'An Interdisciplinary Approach to Living in a Risky World', 20-22 July, Canberra, Australian Academy of Science & UK Royal Society.
- 2016 Allan Martin Award, Australian Historical Association (research funding for early career researchers)
- 2014 Runner-up, Serle Award, Australian Historical Association (best postgraduate thesis in Australian history, 2012-14)
- 2013 Margaret Medcalf Award, State Records Office of Western Australia (for excellence in research and referencing Australian archives)

Selected Refereed Publications

- 2019 'Natural Worlds: Cultures of Climate Concern in the Age of Empires', in Kirsten McKenzie (ed.), *The Age of Empires*, Bloomsbury (Cultural History of Western Empires Series, ed. Antoinette Burton), 67-86.
- 2018 'Climatology and Empire in the Nineteenth Century', in Sam White, Christian Pfister and Franz Mauelshagen (eds), *The Palgrave Handbook of Climate History*, Palgrave Macmillan, 589-603.
- 2018 'Climate, Weather, and Water in History', *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, doi:10.1002/wcc.561.
- 2018 (with Alessandro Antonello) 'Making and Unmaking Bodies: Embodying Knowledge and Place in Environmental History', *International Review of Environmental History* 3, no. 2, 55-67.
- 2018 'Dry continent dreaming: Australian schemes to use Antarctic icebergs for water supplies', *International Review of Environmental History* 3, no. 2, 145-66.
- 2017 (with Christof Mauch and Emily O'Gorman) 'Envisioning Australia', *RCC Perspectives*, 5-8.
- 2017 'The Anthropocene as Hydro-Social Cycle: Histories of Water and Technology for the Age of Humans', *ICON: Journal of the International Committee for the History of Technology*, vol. 23, 37-54.
- 2017 'On the Home Front: Australians and the 1914 Drought', in Georgina Endfield and Lucy Veale (eds), *Cultural Histories, Memories and Extreme Weather: A Historical Geography Perspective*, Routledge (Research in Historical Geography Series, eds Simon Naylor and Laura Cameron), 34-54.
- 2017 'AHS Classics: Rural History and Environmental History', *Australian Historical Studies* 48, no. 4, 554-68.
- 2017 'The allure of climate and water independence: desalination projects in Perth and San Diego', *Journal of Urban History*, doi:10.1177/0096144217692990
- 2017 (with Meredith Dobbie and Lionel Frost) 'Overcoming abundance: social capital and managing floods in inner Melbourne during the nineteenth century', *Journal of Urban History*, doi:10.1177/0096144217692984
- 2015 *Running Out? Water in Western Australia* (Crawley, UWA Publishing)

- 2015 'Salubrity and the survival of the Swan River Colony: health, climate and settlement in colonial Western Australia', in A. Varnava (ed.), *Imperial Expectations and Realities: El Dorados, Utopias and Dystopias*, Manchester University Press (Studies in Imperialism Series, ed. John M. MacKenzie), 89-104.
- 2014 'Farming on the fringe: agriculture and climate variability in the Western Australian wheatbelt', in James Beattie, Matthew Henry and Emily O'Gorman (eds), *Climate, Science and Colonization: Histories from Australia and New Zealand*, Palgrave Macmillan (Palgrave Studies in History of Science and Technology, eds James R. Fleming and Roger D. Launius), 159-76.
- 2014 'Imagining a greenhouse future: scientific and literary depictions of climate change in 1980s Australia', *Australian Humanities Review* no. 57, 43-60.
- 2013 'Histories for an uncertain future: environmental history and climate change', *Australian Historical Studies* 44, no. 3, 350-60.
- 2011 'Diagnosing the dry: historical case notes from southwest Western Australia, 1945-2007', *Osiris*, J. Fleming and V. Jankovic (eds), 26, 89-108.
- 2011 'A thirsty city: an environmental history of water supply and demand in 1970s Perth', *Studies in Western Australian History*, A. Gaynor and J. Davis (eds), 27, 81-97.

Reports

- 2017 (with 2016 Theo Murphy High Flyers Think Tank members) 'Risk and Resource Allocation in the Environment', in *An Interdisciplinary Approach to Living in a Risky World: Recommendations from the 2016 Theo Murphy High Flyers Think Tank*, Australian Academy of Science, ISBN 978-0-858475-29-8, science.org.au/files/userfiles/events/documents/think-tank-risk-recommendations.pdf
- 2016 (with Lionel Frost, Andrea Gaynor, Jenny Gregory, Seamus O'Hanlon and Peter Spearritt) *Water, history and the Australian city: Urbanism, suburbanism and water in a dry continent, 1788-2015*, Co-operative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities, ISBN 978-1-921912-38-2. watersensitivecities.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/A2.1_2_2016_R5-19-12-2016-V2.pdf

Professional Memberships

American Society for Environmental History
 Australian Historical Association
 Australia and New Zealand Environmental History Network
 European Society for Environmental History
 International Commission on History of Meteorology
 International Water History Association