

President's Message Board

Dear Friends, Environmental Historians,

It seems that we are moving forward on many fronts in environmental history all across Europe. Earlier this month we learned that Bo Poulsen and his colleagues at Roskilde University won a prestigious Danish award for their interdisciplinary environmental program on marine population data (HMAP). The program uses historical and environmental archives to document human impact on the oceans; and the prize was awarded by public vote for the most interesting research project in Denmark. Congratulations!

The Board of the European Society for Environmental History will meet in Salzburg in late January both for a regular board meeting and a workshop that will discuss a number of future projects, including a digital project of the ESEH. We are grateful to Christian Rohr who has invited the Board to Salzburg University.

The Rachel Carson Center in Munich has invited senior fellows from twelve different countries for 2010, and the Center is organizing the first workshop for doctoral students from German-speaking countries. The workshop will take place in June and it will be followed by a small conference that is co-organized by KlimaKultur, a new program at the Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen, Germany, that focuses on the cultural and political consequences of climate change; ESEH member Franz Mauelshagen is in charge of the historical projects in Essen.

In France, the CNRS, a large national research institution, has just created a multidisciplinary Research Network that specifically focuses on 'Environmental History'. This new focal point will help develop our research field, and it will enhance discussion and collaboration between the social and the natural sciences.

We are especially excited to report that a number of Summer Schools in Environmental History supported by the ESEH are lined up for 2010, 2011 and 2012. The first one is planned to take place in early July in France at the Musée national de Port-Royal des Champs in the countryside near Paris, in partnership with the Château de Versailles. Grégory Quenet is organizing this with the support of ESEH. Other summer schools are scheduled to take place in Budapest in 2011 and Munich in 2012.

In early May 2010, our colleagues in Portugal – in particular Angela Mendonça at Braga – are hosting a conference on the History of Environment and Global Climate Change: Water, Ecology, De-forestation, Agriculture, Politics and the Management of Nature. Several ESEH members will give papers at this conference.

ICEHO, the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations, which met for the first time informally in August 2009 in Copenhagen,

is planning to formally launch the organization in 2010. An ICEHO board will constitute itself in Portland, Oregon, in March 2010 during the annual meeting of the American Society for Environmental History.

While many initiatives are being taken across Europe, Timo Myllyntaus is already working on the organization and the advertisement for the sixth ESEH conference in Turku 2011. The call for papers for the Turku conference follows this message. We are all looking forward to the meetings ahead of us and we are excited about the many fascinating projects that are underway.

Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud, Christof Mauch, Petra van Dam
Paris, Munich, Amsterdam, December 21, 2009

Call for Papers for the Sixth ESEH Conference

The European Society for Environmental History is pleased to invite proposals for sessions, papers and posters for its next international conference. It will take place in Turku, Finland, from 28 June 28 to 2 July 2011. The venues will be Turku University and Åbo Akademi University.

Inspired by Turku's surroundings, which include Europe's largest archipelago, the main theme of the meeting is *Encounters of Sea and Land*. We encourage proposals that explore the general theme from various environmental history perspectives, such as:

- The emergence of environmental crises of the seas
- Phases of conservation of inland waters, seas, and coasts
- Historical perspectives on marine biodiversity
- History of whaling, fishing and overfishing
- Exploitation of marine resources, such as water, gas, oil, seaweeds, in the past
- History of marine pollution including material flows from land to sea
- History of maritime mobility
- Development of catchment areas as environmental and socio-economic systems
- Environmental history of urban coastal areas
- Landscapes and seascapes: changes in the environment and interpretations
- Islands and archipelagos as natural habitats and social communities

However, contributions on other topics are equally welcome. Potential fields include, but are not limited to:

- Reconstruction of historical weather and climate, and adaptation to climate change in the past
- Environmental history of the polar regions
- Development of environmental movements
- Dimensions of forest history
- Urban environmental history
- History of man-animal relationship, food supply and biodiversity

- Industrial environmental history
- Production, consumption and waste: commodity chains in environmental history
- Cultural values and economic interests: retrospective environmental analyses
- Theories and methods in environmental history

The conference covers all periods and all areas of the globe. In keeping with a cherished tradition of the field, the conference is open to scholars from all disciplines and backgrounds. We encourage submissions from graduate students. The conference language is English; no submissions in other languages will be accepted.

— The deadline for submissions is 3 May 2010 —

Submitting a Proposal

All proposals need to be submitted through our online submission system. Please visit <http://eseh2011.utu.fi/> and follow the instructions. The scientific committee will accept printed or emailed submissions in exceptional circumstances only.

Sessions

Sessions will usually consist of three papers, not more than 20 minutes each. Other formats (debate panels, roundtables) are possible, but please note that all sessions will need to conclude after 90 minutes. Session proposals should include a cover page with session title, list of contributors and a chair, and individual paper titles; a session abstract of 200–300 words; three individual paper abstracts of 200–300 words; and a one-page c.v. for each participant.

Session proposal may also include a commentator. Nevertheless, all sessions should include sufficient time for general discussion.

Papers

Contributors may also submit individual papers of max. 20 minutes, which will be combined into sessions of three papers in case of acceptance. However, scholars should take note that the scientific committee has a certain preference for session submissions, and that it cannot guarantee thematic coherence for the resulting sessions. Paper proposals are to consist of an abstract of 200–300 words and a one-page c.v.

Posters

Poster proposals will include an abstract of 200–300 words and a one-page c.v. Posters will be on display during the Congress and authors will have an opportunity to introduce their research in brief (approx. three minute) oral presentations in a special plenary session.

Review Process

All proposals will be reviewed by a scientific committee consisting of Corinne Beck (Université de Valenciennes, France), Laura Hollsten (Åbo Akademi University, Finland, vice chair), Hilde Ibsen (Karlstad University, Sweden), Julia Lajus (European University, St. Petersburg, Russia), Simone Neri Seneri (Università di Siena, Italy) and Frank Uekoetter (Rachel Carson Center, Munich, Germany, chair). The committee will make its decisions by early September 2010.

For more information on Turku and the conference, please visit the conference website: <http://eseh2011.utu.fi/>

HMAP (History of Marine Animal Populations) project wins major Danish research award

Environmental history certainly has the potential to reach a large audience. Bo Poulsen and the History of Marine Animal Populations project proved this by winning a major Danish award for 'research project of the year' in December 2009. The award came from the research dissemination web portal Videnskab.dk, a collaboration between Danish universities, media, research councils, libraries and ministries.

After almost ten years of work, HMAP's research proves not only that we have eaten about 90% of the global fish stock, but also that individual fish of many species used to be much larger. Overfishing has thus had a direct impact on the evolution of the fish we eat.

HMAP won the vote from the readers in an open competition in which it competed with various projects including some on nanotechnology and medicine. The editor of Videnskab.dk, Peter Hyldgård argued that HMAP won the first prize because the project 'reaches outside and beyond the scientific community and has a meaningful impact on the world we live in. People talk a lot about the environment and the climate these days, and this project has shown that humans have had an influence on the environment for hundred of years.'

Hyldgård also gave credit to HMAP's web site for making their research results accessible to a larger readership beyond academia.

More information:

Videnskab.dk: http://videnskab.dk/content/dk/bagsiden/miljohistorikere_vinder_prisen_for_arets_forskning

History of Marine Animal Populations: <http://www.hmapcoml.org/>

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Contributions for the next Notepad must be received by 15 March 2010.