

Statement of the candidate for the regional representative of the proposed new ESEH region Croatia-Serbia-Slovenia

Dear respected colleagues!

My colleagues from the proposed ESEH region Croatia-Serbia-Slovenia kindly proposed me for the office of the regional representative which I am honoured to accept. Following the suggestion by the nomination committee, the statement focuses on my main planned activities to promote environmental history (EH) in the ESEH region Croatia-Serbia-Slovenia, but my colleagues plan also further extremely valuable activities, pointing to the same goals, like the regular publication of the scientific journal *Economic- and Ecohistory* in Croatia. The region is open for further suggestions. The main goals of EH activities in the planned region for the next four years are:

(1) to continue raising interest in EH among young scholars in the region and beyond:

- through organization of an international and interdisciplinary summer school dealing with environmental histories of Dinaric karst, held in Slovenia in 2020. Discussions with lecturers, planning the programme and applications for sponsors are in progress. The school will be a combination of presentations and field work. It will provide insights into research methodologies and results and will foster networking among young scholars from the region and beyond. The idea of the school originates from Croatian colleagues who will also contribute to the programme.

- I will give a presentation at the international and interdisciplinary summer school on biodiversity in the Danubian floodplains organized in Osijek, Croatia in 2020.

- like several other ESEH members from the region I plan to continue including EH into my lectures and excursions for students of the University of Ljubljana, and during my guest lectures elsewhere in the region and beyond. In the region EH currently exists only in Zagreb as a separate course. We plan to continue exchanging our lectures within the region based on the successful 2019 experience.

- EH investigations by students will be promoted, in Slovenia based on the successful 5-months-long supervised EH research project for masters' students, followed by one-month-long research exchange of selected students to BOKU IHG (Vienna) within the frame of the CEEPUS network EcoManAqua.

(2) to contribute to state of the art environmental history researches, combining well-established and novel research approaches, methodologies and contents:

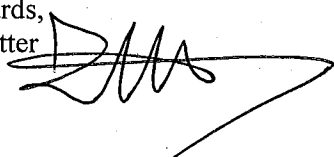
to name one example: together with colleagues from the region we have been working on a call for an edited volume in English dealing with case studies on environmental history of Dinaric karst. The call for papers will open as soon as we discuss the needed details with the publisher. Apart from this joint project our individual investigations will continue.

(3) to continue promoting EH among established scholars at disciplinary, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary events in the region, not limited to conference presentations. For instance, I plan to participate in an environmental history evening and a roundtable, both organized by the Historical Association of Slovenia in 2019/20. While international EH research methodologies and results will be discussed within the frame of the evening, the volume *Čovjek i prostor, čovjek u okolišu: Ekohistorijski ogleđi* (Man and space, man in environment: EH cases studies) by the Croatian environmental historian Drago Roksandić will be one of the books discussed at the roundtable. EH sessions will be organized at regular national symposia of historians in Croatia and Slovenia.

(4) to regularly inform scholars of various profiles and students in the region interested in environmental history about novelties on the ESEH website by sending monthly newsletters to well-established mailing lists, such as lists of historians, geographers and interdisciplinary groups working on historical environments mainly based on palaeoenvironmental investigations as well as on other existing mailing lists in the region which will show interest in these newsletters.

(5) to make existing and new EH results in the region better accessible and visible to researchers from abroad by publishing main environmental history results on the ESEH Arcadia portal through personal engagement of the planned regional representative and colleagues from the region.

Best regards,
Žiga Zwitter



Ljubljana, 12 June 2019

Curriculum vitae of the proposed regional representative of the proposed ESEH region Croatia-Serbia-Slovenia

Žiga Zwitter, born 1987, studied history and geography and was awarded the faculty award for his interdisciplinary environmental history diploma thesis researching the little ice age in Slovenian Alps in 2010. In 2015 he obtained his PhD in Late Mediaeval and Early Modern environmental history. In 2015 he was elected assistant and in 2016 assistant professor in early modern history. In 2016–2017 he was hosted by Prof. Verena Winiwarter at the Institute of Social Ecology, Vienna, six months long, as post-doctoral research fellow (call Joint Excellence in Science and Humanities by the Austrian Academy of Sciences). He works as researcher and teacher at the Department of History, Faculty of Arts (i.e. humanities), University of Ljubljana and includes also environmental history in the courses of history of SE Europe in the Early Modern Times which he teaches.

His researches have focussed on historical climatology, history of nature-induced hazards, water history, and, more recently, on the environmental history of Alpine grasslands, mainly in the Early modern times but also in a long-term perspective, from the Middle Ages to the present-day. Membership in the research programme Slovenian History at the Department of history gives him excellent opportunities for researches into Slovenian and comparative environmental history. He published or submitted 14 environmental history research papers, three of them as co-author.

He gave environmental history visiting lectures for students at the University of Bern (hosted by Prof. Christian Rohr), at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (hosted by Dr. Gertrud Haidvogel), and at the University of Zagreb (hosted by Prof. Hrvoje Petrić). In 2014 he was member of the committee organizing the international symposium *Man, Nature and Environment between the Northern Adriatic and the Eastern Alps in Pre-modern Times* and he co-edited the proceedings. In 2018 he was one of the two organizers and main lecturers of the short international summer school *Environmental History and Geography of Fresh Water Ecosystems*, organized in Slovenia, with participants from Austria and Slovenia. He has regularly participated in the ESEH conferences since he became ESEH member in 2013, presented his results in Guimarães, in Versailles and in Zagreb, and has accepted talks in Florianópolis and in Tallinn. He presented his environmental history results also at 7 other international and 5 Slovenian conferences and workshops. In 2019 he has been supervisor of two master's students carrying out water history researches as participants in an interdisciplinary research project for students.

He has been representative of users of archives in the board of the Archival association of Slovenia (since 2018), a member of the ESEH summer school committee (2018–2019) and departmental coordinator of international exchanges (since 2018) at the Department of History, where he works.

Short selection of publications in foreign languages (more publications in foreign languages are available on ResearchGate):

Zwitter, Žiga. 2020. "Eine Wissensgeschichte der Wiesen und Weiden im Südosten der Alpen im 16. und im frühen 17. Jahrhundert." *Mitteilungen des Instituts für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung* 128: accepted.

Zwitter, Žiga. 2018. "16th to early 18th century proactive coping with natural hazards in Slovenian Alps and their surroundings: with lessons for the future." In *Sustainable development of mountain areas – experiences, challenges and perspectives*, edited by Milojica Jačimović, 163–183. Podgorica: Montenegrin Academy of sciences and arts.

Zwitter, Žiga. 2015. "Subsistence, prosperity and abandonment of Alpine isolated farms in the dynamic 17th century environment: case study from the Upper Savinja Valley with special emphasis on tenants' inventories." *Economic- and Ecohistory* 11: 139–181.
https://hrcak.srce.hr/index.php?show=clanak&id_clanak_jezik=222042&lang=en.