

JULIA A. LAJUS

Associate Professor and Leading Researcher, Academic director of International Master Programme in Applied and Interdisciplinary History “Usable Pasts”, Head of Laboratory for Environmental and Technological History of the Center for Historical Research, Department of History, National Research University Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg campus;

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Academic positions:

since March 2011 – Senior Researcher, since Nov 2012 Associate Professor, since Sept 2016 Leading Researcher, Head of the Laboratory, Department of History, National Research University Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg;

2009 – 2010 Marie Curie Research Fellow, European Commission Incoming Fellowship, School of Geography & EES, University of Birmingham, UK, supervisor Denis J.B. Shaw;

2006 – July 2015 -Director, 2002 – 2006 - Project Coordinator, Center for Environmental and Technological History, Department of History, European University at St. Petersburg;

1995 -- 2011-- Researcher, since 2005 - Senior Researcher, St. Petersburg Branch, Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Russian Academy of Sciences.

Education and degrees:

2004 – PhD in History from the Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow.

1985 - Diploma (= M.S.), Magna cum Lauda, Biological Faculty, St. Petersburg State University.

Selected international projects & fellowships:

“Natural Resources in History of Russia: Institutions, Experts and Infrastructures”, Russian Science Foundation (2016 - 2018), project leader;

Rachel Carson Center Interdisciplinary Fellowship 2016/2017, 1 month;

“Soviet climate science and its intellectual legacies”, UK’s Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) (2017 – 2020), oversees consultant;

“New Governance for Sustainable Development of the European Arctic”, (2014-2017), The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research (MISTRA), project leader Carina Keskitalo;

European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST), Near Neighbour Country partner in the project “Ocean Past Platform” ISCH COST Action IS1403 (2014 – 2018), project leader Poul Holm;

“Between Science and Politics: How Arctic Research Survived and Thrived in the Cold War – and Beyond” (2015 – 2017), Swedish Research Council, Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden), project leader Peder Roberts;

“Assessing Arctic Future: Resources, Voices and Governance”, Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden) (2011-2013), project leaders Sverker Sorlin & Nina Wormbs;

International network project “Exploring Russia’s Environmental History” (2013 – 2016), University of York, funded by Leverhulme Trust, project leader David Moon.

“Colony, Empire, Environment: A Comparative International History of Twentieth Century Arctic Science, Programme “Boreas: Histories from the North”, ESF, EUROCORES (2006 - 2009), associated partner, project leader Ronald E. Doel;

“New Way of Writing History: Visualization of the Geography of Knowledge in Arctic Research, 1890s to 1960s”, National Science Foundation (NSF), EAGER Grant, Co-PI (with A. Nakhimovsky);

History of Marine Animal Populations programme (HMAP), Census of Marine Life, team leader and member of the Steering Committee, A. P. Sloan Foundation (2001 – 2010), project leader Poul Holm;

International Polar Year project “Large Scale Historical Industrial Exploitation of Polar Area (LASHIPA)” (2007 – 2009); Netherlands Science Academy (NWO), project leader Louwrens Hacquebord;

Membership in scientific societies, international programmes, journals:

European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) – Vice- President -- June 2011 – June 2015, Regional Representative for Russia, member of ESEH Board -- since 2007;

International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) – since 2008;

Journal “Environment and History”, member of the Editorial Board – since 2014;

Publications: more than 60 in total, among them 4 books (incl. edited), 11 papers in per-review journals (English), 12 chapters in per-reviewed edited books (English).

The European Society for Environmental History is now 18 years old. An 18th birthday is usually considered to be a 'coming of age', an 'age of maturation'. The society as a teenager grew rapidly during last 5-7 years, developing different practices and forms of work. It also became more diverse in terms of its representation of countries/ regions, sub-disciplinary fields and the activities it supports. At 18, the society has certainly matured and looks boldly and confidently towards the future. Thus, the aim of its future development, as I see it, is not so much future growth, although I hope that the steady growth of recent years will continue, but an emerging resilience. In this case, resilience not only means sustaining the best achievements and practices that are already in place, but also providing careful preparatory work for the future and the mitigation of future risks. Among the most significant risks I see for the society are the isolation, aging, and weakening of horizontal cross-regional co-operations, the decline of interdisciplinarity, and lose the impetus for experimentation and innovation.

To enhance the resilience of the Society, I propose:

- To pay more attention to training a new generation of environmental historians, that means to strengthen summer schools and to develop more innovative formats in this area, and to provide support and expert input into the establishment and organization of new teaching programmes and curricula, including on-line education;
- To facilitate a robust discussion around the value and application of environmental history, considering more precisely how environmental history might contribute to tackling future challenges, and the place of environmental history with respect to both public and applied history;
- To support further connections with other related societies and groups, especially newly emerging groups and institutions that help to develop the environmental humanities more broadly as well as strengthen connections with the fields of the history of technology and the history of science;
- To continue to encourage the growth of interest in environmental history within southern and eastern Europe and Eurasia;
- To strengthen connections with other societies focused on the environmental history of different geographical regions within the ICEHO consortium, promoting co-operations between scholars and institutions of different non-conventional geographical regions such as the BRICS, circumpolar Arctic, cross-Atlantic etc.;
- To improve informational support to members of the society: to revive the book collection of society members on the website, to support the furthering of the Arcadia project, to implement new digital formats for the presentation of the activities of members.

I am sure that all these goals are possible to achieve in the near-to-medium term with the support of a highly motivated and professional board of the Society in tandem with its members.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for being considered as a candidate for the position of ESEH President. Even the fact that this nomination became possible proves the transnational character of the discipline that has developed strongly across political borders, considering Europe more as a region bounded by common nature and joint history than as a political construct. If elected, I promise to continue to work towards European unity of that kind.