

Paula Schönach, PhD

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ESEH Regional Representative for Nordic Countries: Motivation letter for candidacy

My name is Paula Schönach, I'm a postdoctoral researcher in the field of environmental history and affiliated currently at the University of Helsinki, Finland. I have been requested to stand for election as the ESEH Regional representative for the Nordic countries.

The scholars from the Nordic countries form an important and dynamic, yet in my opinion somewhat dispersed group, which definitely benefits from regionally specified information, networking and opportunities for collaboration. In my view the Regional Representatives of the ESEH are important nodes within the diverse EH community and have a key role in keeping members informed about topical events, publications and other relevant issues. I see great potential also for more intensive networking among the Nordic scholars in order to strengthen the field even more. For instance, the Nordic countries share institutional organizations, which include funding instruments and channels for the dissemination of research outcomes. Benefitting from such opportunities and the respective positive impact on environmental history scholarship could be enhanced through deeper regional networking and cooperation, promoted by the RR for the Nordic countries.

At this stage of my career I'm motivated to widen the scope of my participation in the scholarly community, and ESEH being the key community for European environmental historians, see it as a natural place to endeavor it. I believe I would be able to contribute positively to the Nordic community, while at the same time naturally eager to learn myself more about the workings of scholarly societies. On a personal level I would be looking forward to knowing the European EH community better and anticipate inspirational new contacts and scholarly activities within European environmental historians.

Curriculum Vitae

Paula Schönach

1. Full name and date

- Schönach, Paula M.
- CV date: December 2016

2. Year and place of birth, nationality

- 1978, Vantaa, Finland
- Finnish and Austrian

3. Education and degrees awarded

- PhD, University of Helsinki, Dpt of Social Sciences, Environmental Policy, Helsinki 3 Dec, 2008.
- M. of Agriculture and Forestry Science, University of Helsinki, Dpt of Environmental Science, Major: Environmental Studies, Minor: Sociology, Helsinki 24 March 2003.

4. Other education and training

- Project management training, University of Helsinki, October 2015
- University pedagogy, University of Helsinki, September 2014 – (15 cu)
- Science Communication, University of Helsinki, 2004-2005 (10 cu)
- Interdisziplinäre Ergänzungsstudien Umweltwissenschaften, Universität Heidelberg, 2000.

5. Linguistic skills

- Mother tongue: Finnish
- Other languages: German (bilingual proficiency), English (excellent), Swedish (fair), Spanish (basics), Russian (elementary)

6. Current position

- Post-doctoral researcher, Univ. of Helsinki, Dpt. of Environmental Sciences, January 2013 –

7. Previous work experience and career breaks

- Visiting scholar, University of British Columbia, Canada, Dpt of Geography, Jan-May 2016
- Working group coordinator (part-time) at Finnish Water Forum, May 2014 – January 2016
- Maternity leave April 2011-Dec 2012
- Researcher, Finnish Institute for International Affairs, ProBalt-project, Dec 2010 - April 2011
- Post-doctoral researcher, Univ. of Helsinki, Dpt of Env. Sciences, Aug 2010 – Nov 2010
- Maternity leave, Dec 2008- Jul 2010
- Doctoral candidate, University of Helsinki, Dpt of Social Sciences, Jan 2004 – August 2008
- Project researcher, University of Helsinki, Dpt of Atmospheric Sciences, Aug 2003-Dec 2003
- Trainee, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), Jan 2003-Feb 2003

8. Research funding

- Academy of Finland, post-doctoral researcher: White infrastructures: an environmental history of ice (1.9.2015-31.8.2018, Grant Number: 286676)
- Academy of Finland, AQUADIGM- The function and management of aquatic ecosystems in the changing environment: the effects of paradigm shifts (2013-2016, Grant Number: 263468)
- Helsinki University Centre for Environment (HENVI), MULTIDOM (2013)
- Academy of Finland, Urban Environmental Governance (2007-2010, Grant number 115527)
- Maj and Tor Nessling Foundation: Grant for three years of doctoral research, 2004-2006

9. Merits in teaching and pedagogical competence

- Teaching experience, complete courses
- Global environmental politics, graduate level course in Environmental Policy, UH (together with Pekka Haavisto), 2006, 2007, 2008 (8 ECTS)
- [Current state and future of the Baltic Sea in an interdisciplinary perspective, graduate level course open for all students, UH, 2013, \(3 ECTS\)](#)
- Introduction to Environmental Studies, graduate level course in Environmental Studies Open University (together with Vilja Varho), 2006, 2007, (5 ECTS)
- Elementary literature in environmental studies, graduate level course in Environmental Change and Policy, UH, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, (5 ECTS)
- Individual lectures, e.g. The History of Ice Economies, Environmental Politics of the Baltic Sea, Introduction to Environmental History, Introduction to Environmental Policy, Methodological Approaches in Environmental History, Integrative Methods in Social Sciences: Environmental History

- Bachelor Seminar (together with Martin Lodenius) (environmental change and policy, 2010-2011)
- Supervision/examination of Master's thesis work of following students:
- Suvi-Anne Kinnunen (primary supervisor): 2015
- Johanna Hirvikallio (primary supervisor): 2015
- Milja Heikkinen (primary supervisor): 2015 (Awarded with City of Helsinki thesis price)
- Riina Pelkonen (secondary supervision), 2008
- Examiner of Master's thesis of Eeva Huttunen (Environmental Change and Policy), University of Helsinki, 2014.

10. Other academic merits

- Peer-referee for scientific journal Environment & History
- Univ. of Helsinki Ethical review board in humanities and social and behavioural sciences, March 2014-
- Membership in scholarly societies: Yhteiskuntatieteellisen ympäristötutkimuksen seura (YHYS), European Association for Urban History (EAUH), European Society for Environmental History (ESEH)

11. Scientific and societal impact of research

- Interview in the National Broadcasting Company (YLE), Radio Suomi, 28.9.2012 on air pollution history.
- Invited speeches at the Helsinki Adult Education Centre 2010 and 2012.
- Other scientific and popular professional activities, see:

<https://tuhat.halvi.helsinki.fi/portal/en/persons/paula-schoenach%284afc64d1-dbe4-45bc-a036-30abea40099b%29/activities.html>

12. Publication list

A comprehensive publication list can be found in the University of Helsinki research data base:

[https://tuhat.halvi.helsinki.fi/portal/en/persons/paula-schoenach\(4afc64d1-dbe4-45bc-a036-30abea40099b\)/publications.html](https://tuhat.halvi.helsinki.fi/portal/en/persons/paula-schoenach(4afc64d1-dbe4-45bc-a036-30abea40099b)/publications.html)