

# ICEHO Bulletin 18



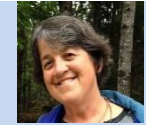
International Consortium of  
Environmental History  
Organizations



3<sup>rd</sup> WORLD  
CONGRESS OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
HISTORY

Please send  
contributions for next  
Bulletin to  
[libby.robin@anu.edu.au](mailto:libby.robin@anu.edu.au)

Bulletin Editor



Libby Robin

\*\*\* DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ICEHO BULLETIN

**1 February 2019**

## Convergences:

**The Global North and the Global South  
in the Era of the Great Acceleration**

**Conference: 22-26 July 2019**

**<https://convention2.allacademic.com/one/iceho/iceho19/>**

**World Congress Presentation Award  
Nominations due **31 December****

## From the President



Dear members of ICEHO member organisations, institutes, departments and networks,

The northern hemisphere summer has lingered into autumn, with weather extremes becoming increasingly common and the growing impression that fact-based reasoning has less and less place in political debate on either side of the Atlantic.

Our calling as scholars of environmental matters becomes more important under such circumstances, our outreach becomes more urgent and our international network becomes even more

a source of inspiration, debate and collegiality. As environmental historians, one important part of the relationships we are investigating in our research is *nature* (with or without quotation marks, with or without capital N). Nature, as migratory species, as pollution streams in air and water, as melting ice or as landslides knows no political boundaries. Yes, political boundaries are often very important for how the interaction with society is managed, but the natural dynamic is not bound by political entities. Even in the smallest of case-study regions, there are aspects such as air, climate, or underground streams, which defy looking at them as bounded. Hence, one could argue that in a sense, all environmental history is international history. We are a community that can make and should make this point, e.g. when it comes to fortress resource conservation approaches.

Secondly, in many countries, sadly, the status and esteem of scholarship is decreasing rather than increasing. More often than not, governments pay mere lip service to the humanities and social sciences, and if they think “social sciences” they think “economists” mostly. An international network to support scholars in countries that undervalue the vital contribution these fields are making is of growing importance. It is worth every effort to share experiences and keep scholarship alive and well by international comparison, discussion, debate, and co-operation across boundaries.

ICEHO’s mission is to foster international co-operation, by offering means of communication and support for scholars, particularly those who live and work under challenging circumstances.

ICEHO offers travel assistance to the World Congress because of this mission, which includes as a priority the support of young scholars. While you can donate to our account anytime (and are more than welcome to do so!), your last chance to support travel funds will be in **Columbus, Ohio at the ASEH conference**, where we will again be offering books and handicraft. Let me already now encourage you to plan ahead, donate your book(s) in signed copies, donate other paraphernalia, donate your handicraft or, just as important, plan to stop by and buy.



But there is another, and even more important way to support the young scholars from around the world who will be able to come to Florianopolis due to the travel support by the community: Presenters need an audience. They come to showcase their hard-won insights to a community of experts whose feedback is the most important scholarly gift they can be offered.

Even if you did not have the time to put together a panel or presentation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress, please come to listen, and to offer comment. In addition, our Brazilian colleagues, who have suffered from the tragic loss of their Natural History Museum and are facing tightening budgets, are undeterred and are putting together a fantastic program for the half-day that is in their capacity. They want us and need us to come, listen, comment, critique and suggest ways of improvement. But also bear in mind one of the joys of a scholarly existence: Everybody, even the most senior of the community, also come as learners – in the world of scholarship, merit does not automatically increase with age or wrinkles, and more often than not, the inspiration from young

scholars sparkles new ways of thinking in their senior colleagues. Isn't that one of the most important ways to keep the community alive? Come and experience the joy of learning, come to share your insights, come to exchange tips and tricks, come to celebrate the international scholarly community, a beacon of strength in challenging times.

With my best wishes for the coming months, until the next Bulletin.

Yours  
Verena Winiwarter  
President, ICEHO



## **EHCA Prize** *for Interdisciplinary Research in Environmental History*

On the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> WCEH, Florianopolis, Brazil

### **Aim and Scope of the Prize:**

The Environmental History Cluster Austria acknowledges conceptual and empirical approaches to environmental history, which are interdisciplinary and contribute significantly to advancing the field as an interdisciplinary endeavour. While environmental history tends to use the data of a large range of disciplines as their sources, and hence often is multi-disciplinary, some approaches are made possible because of a very intense integration of concepts, approaches, methods and data from various disciplines. Such work needs an extra effort and is often bound to teams, a form or organisation of research that the historical profession has taken up less than other disciplines.

### **Who can apply?**

If your presentation (poster, paper, roundtable contribution) has been accepted for the WCEH 2019 and you attend the congress, you can apply.

### **When do I need to apply?**

Applications close **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019**, midnight (CET).

### **How can you apply?**

Send the following documents:

- The abstract that you submitted
- An extended version of that abstract, no more than 3 manuscript pages, including references. (Figures or tables can be added as Appendices)
- Make it clear how your research contributes to Interdisciplinary Environmental History.
- The session you are speaking/presenting
- A short CV (2 Pages)

You are required to send them IN ONE ZIPPED document in ONE e-mail to [verena.winiwarter@boku.ac.at](mailto:verena.winiwarter@boku.ac.at)

#### Prize committee

Members of the EHCA present at the conference will decide upon the prize. As far as possible, your poster or oral presentation will be seen/heard by members of EHCA. Decisions, however, are based on the extended abstract.

#### What is in it for you?

A certificate will be issued for the first, second and third place. The winner will receive Euro 200 as travel subsidy or for books. Extended Abstracts of the first three will be published on the EHCA website, [www.ehca.at](http://www.ehca.at).

#### Questions?

Write to [verena.winiwarter@boku.ac.at](mailto:verena.winiwarter@boku.ac.at) with "EHCA Prize" in the subject line. Failing to do so will lead to delays, as Verena Winiwarter uses e-mail filtering rules.



### ***Irregular Ecologies: The Environmental Impact of Unconventional Warfare***

#### **A Workshop**

**Florianopolis, Brazil, 20–21 July 2019**

Conveners: **Christof Mauch**, Rachel Carson Center, LMU Munich and **Javier Puente**, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Warfare seldom affects humans alone. While inflicting devastating effects on societies, armed

conflicts also shape economic, cultural, socio-political, and ecological transformations. As violence territorializes, armed conflicts begin to affect the ecologies and livelihoods that once sustained them. Environmental transformation thus emerges as an inextricable correlate of human conflict. With the dawn of the Cold War, the environmental impacts of human conflict unfolded alongside the same geopolitical trends that engulfed the Global South. Decolonizing movements, guerrilla warfare, rural insurrections, and other forms of intrastate conflict developed from within ecologically fragile areas and eco-sensitive zones, including savannahs, valleys, watersheds, islands, mangroves, forests, plateaus, and jungles. Over the years, emerging and consolidated republics such as Ethiopia, Colombia, the DRC, Vietnam, Peru, Liberia, Mexico, Myanmar, the Philippines, Nepal, Uganda, Sri Lanka, and Nigeria, among others, have become gruesome epicenters of armed conflict in sensitive ecosystems and precarious agrarian landscapes. The Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society (RCC) and the Armed Conflict and Environment Research Network (ACERN) invite paper proposals for a two-day workshop focused on the interaction between guerilla warfare and social and environmental transformations in the Global South, with a special focus on the last three decades. We invite papers on questions that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- How has irregular warfare transformed or conserved environments?
- How has it reconditioned everyday life?
- What impact has it had on livelihoods and food access?
- How were chemical cycles changed through irregular warfare?

Paper proposals (300 words) should be submitted by **15 December 2018** to [<CarsonCenter@lmu.de>](mailto:CarsonCenter@lmu.de). Upon acceptance, full manuscripts (2000–3000 words) should be submitted by 15 June 2019 for pre-circulation. Successful applicants will receive travel support from the RCC. They will join a group of RCC alumni and ACERN members in Florianopolis, Brazil, on the eve of the Third World Congress of Environmental History (22–26 July 2019).

## Call for Participation from ICEHO Societies

### World Congress Presentation Awards

Organizers of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress would like to recognize the exciting work presented in conference posters and sessions. We request that ICEHO Societies consider proposing and sponsoring a one-time award, which representatives from the Societies can present at the closing ceremony in late July 2019. These awards would include a plaque, certificate, or object and a few words of recognition (they need not involve money or funding).

Examples of awards could include best poster, best water history paper, best forest history paper, best student paper, most innovative session, best public environmental history contribution, etc., according to what each Society, in its own history and tradition, considers to be distinguished.

If your Society is interested in proposing an award, please coordinate with your boards and executive committees to get approval and to determine how you will select the recipient during the conference. Then contact the program committee co-chairs with the following brief information:

1. Name of your society
2. Contact person and email address
3. Name of the award
4. A few sentences describing the award
5. A few sentences outlining your evaluation process for selecting a recipient/winner

In the spirit of the world congress, we encourage organizations to consider global or comparative issues and perspectives in proposing their awards. Please note that ICEHO is offering this opportunity as a way to enhance your organization's participation – and we will highlight these awards at the congress – but we are not responsible for logistics of evaluation and selection. Your organization will evaluate, select, and present the award.

**Deadline: 31 December 2018.** We will list the awards available on the world congress website in the northern spring of 2019 (and we will list recipients after the congress). Please note that these one-time awards are specific to this world congress; they are not the same as the awards that many societies present annually. Thank you for participating in this effort to recognize and encourage scholars while adding fun and whimsy to the conference.

Stefania Gallini - [sgallini@unal.edu.co](mailto:sgallini@unal.edu.co)

Lisa Mighetto – [director@aseh.net](mailto:director@aseh.net)

### Travel Grants for WCEH 2019.

If your paper for the World Congress in Florianopolis next year has been accepted, and if you are an early career scholar, or graduate student, or academic from a listed low-income country, you may be eligible for a travel grant up for USD1000. The deadline is **30 November 2019**.

Applications need to include CV, motivation, and letter of reference from your institution. To apply: see WCEH

website <https://www.3wceh2019.floripa.br/>

**Click on TRAVEL GRANTS for full details of how to apply**

([https://www.3wceh2019.floripa.br/conteudo/view?ID\\_CONTEUDO=403](https://www.3wceh2019.floripa.br/conteudo/view?ID_CONTEUDO=403))

Applications as a single PDF attachment should be labelled 'Travel grant application WCEH 2019' and sent to [wcegrants@gmail.com](mailto:wcegrants@gmail.com)

*Incomplete applications will not be considered.*

### WCEH2019 Program Committee



3<sup>rd</sup> WORLD  
CONGRESS OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
HISTORY

**Co-chairs: Lisa Mighetto and Stefania Gallini**

#### Members

**Kate Brown**, University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
**Micheline Cariño**, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur

**Peter Coates**, University of Bristol

**Stefan Dorondel**, Institutul de Antropologie "Francisc I. Rainer"

**Marianna Dudley**, University of Bristol

**Stefania Gallini**, Universidad Nacional de Colombia (co-chair)

**Simo Laakonen**, University of Helsinki

**Lisa Mighetto**, University of Washington-Tacoma (co-chair)

**Ruth Morgan**, Monash University/ Rachel Carson Center LMU

**Micah Muscolino**, Merton College, Oxford

**Mucha Musemwa**, Univ. of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

**Giacomo Parrinello**, Louisiana State University

**Ligia Pinto**, University of Minho, Guimarães, Portugal

**David Schorr**, Tel Aviv University

**Fei Sheng**, Sun Yat-Sen University

**John Soluri**, Carnegie Mellon University

**Paolo Squatriti**, University of Michigan

**Helmuth Trischler**, Deutsches Museum Munich





## Notes

Welcome to new ICEHO members!



### The Economic History Department at the University of Zimbabwe

The Economic History Department at the University of Zimbabwe aspires to be one of the most acclaimed departments dealing with economic issues in the country, the region, the continent and globally in historical perspective, and to churn out high quality graduates and post-graduates who can contribute positively to the ever-changing trajectory of the national and global economy. It seeks to do this through the provision of high quality teaching and supervision at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and by offering a wide range of courses covering diverse regions and cultures.

URL: <http://www.uz.ac.zw/index.php/economic-history>

PRO



Image: Google images

### Call for Proposals

### ICEHO Regional Workshops

ICEHO will co-finance up to three of the following kind of workshops for a maximum of USD 5,000 each.

#### Types of workshops:

-Regional meetings in places where no environmental history associations exist – with the aim of creating such an association. These meetings should not be limited to discussions about forming a new association; they should be organized around a topic (perhaps one particularly relevant for the region) or address another challenge of the field through scholarly presentations. They must have a clear academic component (e.g. a series of thematic presentations), but the fundamental aim is organizational building.

-Regional meetings where environmental history organization is as yet not fully operational (e.g. India, parts of Europe or Latin America). Latin America, for instance, has a solid organization (SOLCHA), but certain countries have had very low or no participation in it. Workshops can aim to promote environmental history in such places and to strengthen sub-regional networks (eg Balkan or Scandinavian collaborations within ESEH).

-Workshops to develop and implement teaching programs on environmental history. ICEHO can in such cases help identify and sponsor the travel expenses of experienced teachers – with expertise in both curriculum development and particular areas of interest to the workshop proposers to Higher Education Institutions interested in fomenting the environmental humanities.

*Other initiatives will also be considered, but research-focused workshops are not the core target of the funding scheme.*

#### Application:

All ICEHO-Member organizations and institutions are eligible to sponsor an application.

Any individual or university wanting to host such a workshop will need a letter of sponsorship by the regional or thematic organization or institution via which they belong to ICEHO.

Should an organization be formed from the planned activity, it is expected to join ICEHO.

**Workshops must be co-sponsored.**

**Events should happen before December 31st, 2019 and can be held anywhere in the world.**

#### Applications must include:

- Description of the proposed workshop, explaining the way in which it will contribute to form,

- strengthen or foster collaboration within environmental history, or support high teaching
- standards (max. 2 pages).
- Draft Program (1 page).
- Information on the applicant and the workshop convener group members (1 page).
- Budget (including co-funding details).
- Estimated date, place, and number of participants.
- Sponsorship letter from the parent organization within ICEHO.

All applications will also have to address how participants will be identified and selected, in particular, how potential participants will be informed of the workshop (max 1 page). Teaching workshops should include student representatives and/or graduate students.

**Deadlines:** Proposals will be considered in two deadlines: **October 31st, 2018** and **February 28th 2019**. They should be sent to Bo Poulsen, ICEHO secretary, [bpoulsen@cgs.aau.dk](mailto:bpoulsen@cgs.aau.dk).

Notification of acceptance will be issued a month afterwards.

**Evaluation committee:** Three members of the Board of Directors of ICEHO will serve as committee.

**Report:** After the workshop, grantees must send a three-page report with photographs (perhaps even a short video) for the Bulletin and for ICEHO's webpage. Tweets, Facebook posts and other social media alerts are also encouraged, before, during and after the event.

oOo

Rachel  
Carson  
Center

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY



## Turku Book Award 2019

### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) and the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society (RCC) announced the Turku Book Award at the ESEH conference in

Turku, Finland in 2011. The award is presented at the biennial conferences of the ESEH.

The purpose of the Award is to identify and encourage innovative and well-written scholarship in the field of European environmental history and carries a prize of € 3,000. The prize will be awarded at the 10th Biennial ESEH Conference in Tallinn, in August 2019.

**To be eligible, books must be:**

- single author
- published in 2017 or 2018
- environmental history
- written on a primarily European topic or written by a European author

**Closing date: 31 January 2019.**

Three copies of the work (and a PDF digital copy) must be submitted to the Rachel Carson Center in Munich to



*If the monograph is written in a language other than English, please include a one-page English summary.*

[turku2019@rcc.lmu.de](mailto:turku2019@rcc.lmu.de)

## News from Societies

### ESEH CFP DEADLINE NOW 14 NOVEMBER

Tallinn 21-25 August

<http://eseh.org/event/next-conference/2019-conference-call-for-papers/>



2019 Conference  
Call for Papers

**10th Biennial European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) Conference**

Boundaries in/of Environmental History

Tallinn, Estonia, 21 to 25 August 2019

Hosting institution: Estonian Centre for Environmental History (KAJAK), Tallinn University

### PROPOSALS NOW DUE 14 NOVEMBER

Conference Hosts:





**The Fifth Biennial Conference of East Asian Environmental History (EAEH 2019)**  
**National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan**  
**October 24-27, 2019.**

**Call for Papers and Panels - EAEH 2019.**  
**Submission system – see conference website:**  
<http://www.aeah.org/eah2019.htm>

Important Dates:

- Call for Papers and Panels (Submit Abstract on-line): CLOSES **February 28, 2019**
- Announcement of accepted proposal: **May 15, 2019**
- On-line registration for participating EAEH2019: **June 1, 2019 - September 30, 2019**
- Announcement of EAEH2019 Program on website: **August 15, 2019**
- Submission of full paper: **July 1, 2019 - September 30, 2019**

**For further information and updates, please visit EAEH2019 website.**

Contact: Hsiao-yun Liu (Miss) Academia Sinica  
 (Email: [hsyunliu@gate.sinica.edu.tw](mailto:hsyunliu@gate.sinica.edu.tw))



**SAHS: Southern African Historical Society**  
**27<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference**  
**24-26 June 2019**

Hosted by the Department of History,  
 Rhodes University, Grahamstown

**Trails, Traditions, Trajectories:**

**Rethinking Perspectives on Southern African Histories**  
**Proposals:**

Proposals can be in the following formats: papers, panels and roundtable discussions. Paper submissions should include an abstract (**max 200 words**) and bio (100 words). Panel and roundtable submissions should include a minimum of three papers (each with a 200-word abstract and short bio), a proposed moderator/chair (if possible), and a 100-word abstract. Please email these to Enocent Msindo, @ [e.msindo@ru.ac.za](mailto:e.msindo@ru.ac.za) by **15 December 2018**.

<http://www.sahs.org.za>

For more information, please email  
 Enocent Msindo: [e.msindo@ru.ac.za](mailto:e.msindo@ru.ac.za) or  
 Nomalanga Mkhize, [naledi.nomalanga@gmail.com](mailto:naledi.nomalanga@gmail.com)



is now hosting reviews! Including this one of  
 ICEHO's conference book:

**ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY IN THE MAKING** (2  
 vols. Springer: 2017)



In Bulletin 15 of May 2018 we included a brief announcement of the welcome appearance of the two Springer volumes of papers selected from the World Congress of Environmental History held in Guimaraes in 2014. Edited by Estelita Vaz, Cristina Joanaz de Melo and Ligia M. Costa Pinto, these books provide an inspiring global perspective of our discipline. A full review by Jane Carruthers has now appeared in *Global Environments* (a White Horse Press Journal) and has kindly been made available on open access at the following link: <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/whp/ge/2018/00000011/00000002/art00011>



For the latest in

**CLIMATE HISTORY NEWS**

<http://www.climatehistory.net/>



### Letter from the Founders



DAGOMAR DEGROOT

The last four months have seen many exciting new publications in the field of climate history. At long last, the *Palgrave Handbook of Climate History* came out in August, providing the first comprehensive textbook in the field! CHN member Rudolf Brázdil and colleagues have published several new studies on climate variability and extreme weather in the Czech lands, as well as new publications on the state of the field in historical drought reconstruction and impacts. *WIREs Climate Change* has recently published a series of reviews on climate history by CHN members, including articles on climate and colonialism, climate in the early modern world, climate in Russian history, and climate in US history and culture. *Climatic Change* is currently releasing articles for a special issue on "historicizing climate change."



SAM WHITE

This month also brought our first meeting of the PAGES-CRIAS working group in Bern, where we discussed current methods and innovations in historical climatology. Thanks so much to Chantal Camenisch and Christian Rohr for organizing the meeting and to PAGES and Oeschger Centre for their support! Also thanks to David Nash and others who tweeted highlights of the conference, available [here](#). Please look out for news of the next workshop, tentatively planned for Germany in fall 2019.

Meanwhile, our online efforts keep humming along. Thanks to social media editor Katrin Kleemann, we've never had more followers on Twitter (where you can find us at <https://twitter.com/ClimateHist>) and Facebook (where we're at <https://www.facebook.com/climatehistory>). We also have new feature articles at [HistoricalClimatology.com](http://HistoricalClimatology.com), on topics that range from the relationship between climate change and caribou to the IPCC's worrisome new report on warming of 1.5° C. Have a look!

Best wishes,  
Dagomar Degroot & Sam White

### Climate History Network

## Special Reports

From Wilson Picado Umaña, President SOLCHA

### **SOLCHA's 9th Symposium Liberia Costa Rica, July 2018**



The Latin American and Caribbean Society for Environmental History (SOLCHA) convened for its 9th symposium in Costa Rica on July 16-20, 2018. The symposium took place at the National University's campus in the city of Liberia, Guanacaste province, amidst a dry tropical forest. There were around 160 presentations, distributed in over 50 panels, made by scholars coming from Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia, Mexico, the United States, Peru, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Cuba, Spain, Canada, and a few other countries. The panels dealt with classic themes related to

environmental history such as theory and methods, political ecology, landscapes, rivers, and Amazonia. Participants also discussed matters related to science, indigenous communities, biodiversity, frontier expansion, urban history, social metabolism, perceptions of nature, and agricultural pests. Some topics were rather novel for SOLCHA, such as fire, industries, and the relationship between environmental history and applied history. A round table organized by Guillermo Castro examined the development of SOLCHA and the state of the field of Latin American Environmental History.

This symposium introduced something new: the Central American School of Environmental History, designed for undergraduate students. The school was organized around discussions about the relationship between environmental history and economic, agrarian, cultural, and urban history, the history of science, and political ecology. These discussions were led by long-time SOLCHA members and were attended by students from El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Brazil. Enthusiasm ran high, students from El Salvador crossed Nicaragua amidst the difficulties posed by this country's political crisis. The idea is to continue with this endeavor in other Central American countries.



Students from El Salvador (with a couple of professors in the back), who attended the Central American School of Environmental History.

In the general assembly, SOLCHA members chose Quito, Ecuador, to host our tenth symposium, in 2020, which will be organized by Nicolás Cuvi from FLACSO. SOLCHA will therefore travel from the heart of the Americas, in Costa Rica, to the center of the world, the Equator, in Ecuador.

Dr. Wilson Picado Umaña  
Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica  
President, SOLCHA





From Claudia Leal

### SOLCHA's Book Sale/Fundraiser for WCEH2019

During its 9th symposium in Costa Rica last July, SOLCHA held a book sale to gather funds for travel grants to the 2019 World Conference on Environmental History in Florianópolis, Brazil.



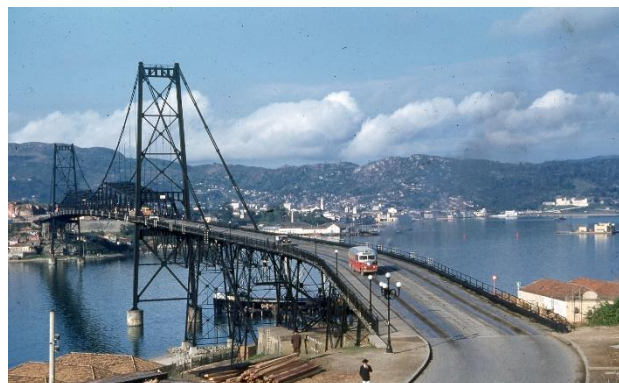
Students from the National University of Costa Rica.

This fundraiser followed those organized by ESEH (Zagreb 2017) and ASEH (Riverside 2018). Sandro Dutra e Silva (Brazil) coordinated a team composed by Micheline Cariño (México), John Soluri (United States) and Lise Sedrez (Brazil). Prior to the conference, an announcement was circulated asking attendants to bring books to sell. There was widespread collaboration; many members brought or sent new copies of their own books. A total of US\$1,200 was raised and the money was sent to ICEHO's treasurer. This money is intended to fund participants from Latin America and will be allocated by ICEHO's Travel Grant Committee. SOLCHA's symposium organizing committee greatly supported to this initiative. SOLCHA would like to thank Wilson Picado, as well as the students of the

National University of Costa Rica, for all their support.

From Stephen Bell (text and photos):

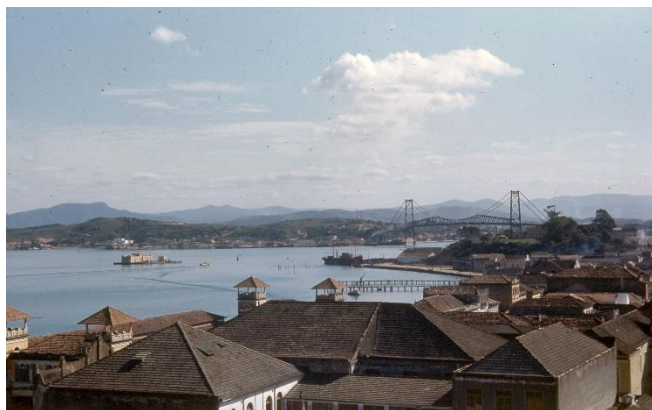
### On 3<sup>rd</sup> WCEH 2019



It delights me that the 3rd World Congress of Environmental History (WCEH) is set to take place during July 2019 in Florianópolis, Santa Catarina. My own path toward environmental history began through the study of a thoroughly English historical geography, where much emphasis was placed in scholarship on the character and evolution of landscapes. Before I ever walked a pace in Brazil, the distinctive landscapes of small-farmer colonies in southern Brazil were imprinted on my mind through the reading of classic studies, most of these drawn from German geographers. I first saw Florianópolis in 1980, when I made a survey trip from the University of Toronto through the southern Brazilian region, working to identify my doctoral research project. The research infrastructure in Florianópolis then was of a modesty hard to recapture today. Although Santa Catarina lost out to Rio Grande do Sul in my research project choice, the beauty of the coastal landscapes around Florianópolis has always stayed with me. I hold the distinct memory from decades ago of being on a flight landing here from the south during the late afternoon, the interplay of a setting sun and its shadows on the coastal ranges fronting the South Atlantic.

These are for me among the most compelling landscapes I have witnessed anywhere in Brazil. Tourists in large number from across South America appear to agree through their destination choices. Then, in 2016, I took the opportunity to present a paper at the Fourth International Symposium of Environmental History and Migrations held at the Federal University of Santa Catarina. In addition,

that moved my mind from the qualities of landscapes to those of people.



The meeting was memorably excellent in part because our hosts worked to ensure that. Many on the local organizing committee of the forthcoming WCEH are scholars known to me.

Mounting a major conference in Brazil will always bring its challenges. However, I know something of the passion that lies behind the choice of Florianópolis, a place already celebrated across South America, and increasingly beyond, for its environmental history meetings. I look forward immensely to supporting this venture, guided in part by the respect I hold for the organizers. This will be a meeting above all about the exchange of ideas but also for the enjoyment of Brazilian cordiality engaging with the world.

Viva Floripa!



Stephen Bell  
University of  
California, Los Angeles

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From Sofie Mittas

## My Poster Experience at Guimarães, Portugal 2014

Four years ago, around the time when I was finishing my master thesis, my supervisor Verena Winiwarter encouraged me to submit a poster application for the WCEH 2014 in Guimarães, Portugal. To my surprise it was accepted. This presented me with a lot of challenges: My first time writing an application abstract, figuring out the online registration process, designing a poster - all the things you have to master when you go to a

scientific conference for the first time. I have to admit, I did not know what to expect.

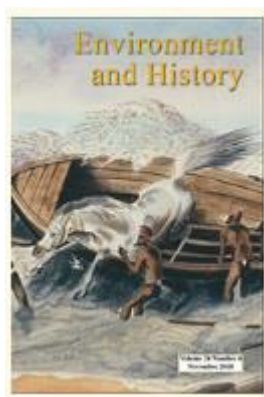
Now I can say that I experienced a lot of positive surprises. While I knew, that participating in a panel is considered more prestigious, I think Guimarães was a great place to present a poster. The posters were displayed in the area that that was used for the coffee breaks. This gave the presenters the possibility to discuss their posters not only during the official poster session, but nearly every day. These discussions gave me many important inputs that helped me in a crucial time in my writing process. Leaving the secure university bubble and being treated as a peer by scientists from all over the world was a key experience for me. I already knew through the research for my master thesis, that I loved the process of going to archives and diving deep into a topic. But this summer I discovered that the practical exchange between researchers can be incredibly rewarding and motivating.

I will also remember this conference for its mishaps. Every poster presenter was given a two-minute slot to give a short description on their poster using a 2-3 slide Power Point presentation. For technical reasons, the pictures that I had prepared could not be displayed. This taught me two important life lessons – first: always use PDF format for presentations – and second: I seem to have some hidden pantomime skills that I used to make up for my faulty presentation. This way I could turn a bug into a feature and use this experience as a starting point for many conversations.

All these experiences prepared me for decisions that were soon to come after finishing my master thesis and encouraged me to pursue a career as a researcher. Going the extra mile, participating in this conference, helped me to connect to the environmental history community in Vienna. I was given the opportunity to work in a couple of small scientific projects before starting a PhD position at the Johannes Kepler University in Linz in 2017.



Sofie Mittas  
Johannes Kepler  
University,  
Linz



## Environment and History

Vol.24 No.4, November 2018

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Seeing the Nation for the Trees: At the Frontier of Italian Nineteenth-Century Modernity.

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The International Biological Program in Eastern Europe: Science Diplomacy, Comecon and the Beginnings of Ecology in Czechoslovakia.

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### BOOK REVIEWS

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Corey Ross, *Ecology and Power in the Age of Empire: Europe and the Transformation of the Tropical World* (Iva Peša)



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