

ICEHO Bulletin 3



International Consortium of
Environmental History
Organizations

January 2015

Happy New Year from all at ICEHO!

Happy new year from all in the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations. We are a 'network of networks' for environmental history in universities, museums, publishers and other institutions. We sponsor International Congresses every 5 years (next one in 2019). Between Congresses, we want to work actively to promote environmental history in all its forms: as scholarship and research, informing public policy and education, and in promoting collaboration between environmental historians around the world. Our website is regularly updated – we are keen to publicise your conferences and events:

<http://www.iceho.org/>

Thinking through the Anthropocene: Museums, Humanities, Art

It has been a busy few months for me, traveling and learning about the Anthropocene. The Anthropocene is the proposed geological epoch where human activities are recognized as a planetary force, and it has become an important touchstone for talking about global change in environmental humanities research communities in universities and museums. November and December 2014 have seen a number of big international events in the USA, Germany and Sweden.

The Anthropocene concept, although originally developed by scientists working to understand climate change and planetary environmental

change, has strong 'interdisciplinary' applications – it offers new opportunities for Science to meet Art and Humanities – and all are working together to engage public participation and responsibility in environmental changes that are already affecting the planet, often affecting its most vulnerable people and ecosystems first. Some interesting methodologies have emerged at the various events hosted by ICEHO members, enabling the Environmental Humanities to join in new ways to Anthropocene debates.

ICEHO Partner, the Center for Culture, History and Environment (CHE) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, hosted an '**Anthropocene Slam**', 8-10 November 2014. This was based on the idea of a poetry slam, but instead of poems, the focus was 'objects of the Anthropocene'. <http://nelson.wisc.edu/che/anthroslam/> (You can catch up on Twitter #anthroslam)

Participants performed their objects, rather than presenting scholarly papers *about* them. The aim was to select objects for an Anthropocene Cabinet of Curiosities (*Wunderkammer*) to travel to the Deutsches Museum in Munich



Gregg Mitman admires the first of the objects from the Slam, environmental historian and artist Jared Farmer's 'Fossil BlackBerry', installed in a special cabinet just in time for the opening night of the Munich exhibition.

Willkommen im Anthropozän: Unsere Verantwortung für die Zukunft der Erde (in English: *Welcome to the Anthropocene: The Earth in Our Hands*) at the Deutsches Museum in Munich is the first gallery on the Anthropocene in the world, in the biggest Science and Technology Museum. It has been developed in partnership with Major ICEHO Member **Rachel Carson Center**. The gallery opening on 4 December was packed. The exhibition is planned to be running till 2016.

Although the Anthropocene is still a hypothetical geological epoch for the Earth scientists, it is a concept that is guiding joint historical and museological research projects between the Munich partners. It is also helping the 'greening' of the Deutsches Museum with its growing emphasis on environmental awareness.

Art and Science come together at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW) in Berlin, where in October the formal committee considering the stratigraphical arguments for the Anthropocene, chaired by geologist and science communicator, Jan Zalasiewicz from the University of Leicester. Less than two weeks later the Anthropocene Campus at HKW brought together teachers and students (some 150 people) who were developing a curriculum for the Anthropocene. Several ICEHO partners were prominent in this event, including the Rachel Carson Center and the KTH Environmental Humanities laboratory. It was an exciting meeting of artists, historians and earth scientists all concerned about global change and innovative adaptations to it.

The HKW Anthropocene Campus, which is part of its bigger Anthropocene Project, began with the science of the Anthropocene and complemented this with economics, big global institutions, humanities and arts. The idea of this exercise was to create a 'curriculum' for teaching the Anthropocene – in schools, universities and potentially more broadly. The Slow Media Collective – one of the nine groups

of the Campus – used museums and 'slow media' such as graphic novels as ways to think through the Anthropocene. If you are interested in more details there are some terrific websites:

http://www.hkw.de/en/programm/projekte/2014/anthropozan/anthropozan_2013_2014.php

http://www.hkw.de/en/programm/projekte/2014/anthropozan_curriculum/anthropozan_curriculum_1.php

And there is good twitter feed
#anthropocenecampus

If I were to sum up the discussions over this 'month in the Anthropocene', I would say:

- **We are not all in the Anthropocene in the same way.**
- **The 'we' of the Anthropocene is problematic** – The 'imaging group' designed a tee-shirt: Who ARE we?
- **The very present 'now' is making it hard to get into a mind frame that allows thinking in a longer now with more intergenerational and interspecies justice**
- **The future looms large – and needs more different expertise at the table. History and the humanities are needed to extend ideas about the future beyond numbers and prediction to include quality of life and ways of living**

There is no doubt we are living in rapidly changing times and this is stressful for all. Present models need creative adaptations to enable our grandchildren to have a chance of a good quality of life.

Libby Robin (ICEHO President)

From Madison, Berlin, Stockholm and Munich

November-December 2014.

GUIMARÃES

APPLICATION FOR GREEN CAPITAL OF EUROPE

From **Jane Carruthers** (Immediate Past President, ICEHO)

We are very proud to announce that ICEHO representatives have been invited by the Mayor of Guimarães, Dr Domingos Bragança, and the Rector of the University of Minho, Prof. Dr António M. Cunha, to join the Scientific and Monitoring Committee for the application of the city of Guimarães to become the European Green Capital in the next few years. This invitation is a great honour for ICEHO and cements the close relationship we developed with the City and the University over their hosting of the ICEHO World Congress in July 2014.

In 2013 Guimarães was awarded the accolade of Europe's Cultural Capital and winning the Green Capital Award would be yet another major achievement for this beautiful city. Green Capital was conceived by the European Commission in 2010 to recognise the role that cities can play in improving the environment and also to encourage urban authorities to commit themselves to further environmental action and best practice. Winners since 2010 have included Stockholm, Hamburg and Copenhagen among others, and Guimarães aims to join this prestigious group. As a city with a long history of leadership in the leather and cloth trades – as well as wine and light industry – in recent years Guimarães has taken a strong lead in rejuvenating itself as a clean, liveable environment proud of its environmental history in the Couros district as well as its local and national history and culture. The University of Minho has strong civil engineering and

architectural faculties and is well placed to assist the Green Capital bid. We are pleased that ICEHO's World Congress focussed attention on the historical aspects of environmental consequences.



(Photograph: Jane Carruthers)

The Landscape Laboratory, Guimarães. This renovated factory building alongside a restored urban river is the focal point of the National Ecological Reserve. It is an environmental outreach centre and its laboratories are used by students of the University of Minho who have an interest in environmental engineering and urban restoration. It is surrounded by a large and thriving vegetable garden.

Google 'Landscape Laboratory Guimarães' for more images and further details.

SAHS Conference

1-3 July 2015

Stellenbosch, SA



25th Biennial Conference **Unsettling Stories and Unstable Subjects**

Department of History
University of Stellenbosch

The conference in 2015 marks the 50th birthday of the Southern African Historical Society (SAHS), a foundation member of the ICEHO group, and an active African association that has particular strengths in environmental history and justice.

Keynote speaker: Jonathan Hyslop, (Colgate University).

Our “unstable subjects” – be they themes or historical agents – resist historiographical consensus. The dead rest uneasily in southern Africa, and historians are haunted by our responsibility to them. Amidst controversy, confession and accusation and amidst a multiplicity of sites of memory and meaning, those who research the past have to deal with the uncomfortable ghosts of previous centuries. We historians must offer bold analysis based on a nuanced understanding of the complexities of change over time. Our stories can disrupt complacent presentist narratives. While they have the power to unsettle, they – in turn – are unsettled by each new generation of historians. This biennial conference creates space for professional and public historians and post-graduate students to meet with archivists, documentary film-makers and heritage practitioners. As the professional body for

Southern Africa, this conference strives to reflect the broad diversity of history. We particularly seek papers on the following themes:

- Disciplining the disciplines: changes, constraints and opportunities in a globalising academic world
- Raiders of the Lost Archive: archival survival in twenty first century Southern Africa
- The geists in our machines? New ways of thinking about industrialization
- The Anthropocene and the end of anthropocentric history?
- Festivals of History: exhibitions, museums, tours, war commemorations and public history
- Whither (or wither) Political History?
- Let a thousand flowers bloom? Reflections on Southern African historiography
- Business history in Africa: corporations, consumers, culprits, casualties and cronies
- Versions of Africa: victors, victims, vitality in socio-economic history
- Lives through the lens: history, photography and film
- Thirsting for the truth: water histories and watering history

Paper submissions should include an abstract (max 200 words) and a very short CV (of a brief paragraph).

Panel submissions should include a minimum of three papers (each with a 200-word abstract and short CV), a proposed chairperson (if possible), and a 100-word panel abstract. Send by 1 March 2015 to sss@sun.ac.za.

Early-Bird Conference registration fee: R2000 (Regular fee: R2 500) Conference registration commences: 1 March 2015 and early-bird registration ends on 10 April 2015

Post-graduate fee: R1 600. There will also be a limited number of post-graduate bursaries to pay the registration fees.

For more information, please email Sandra Swart: sss@sun.ac.za

<http://www.sahs.org.za/node/10>

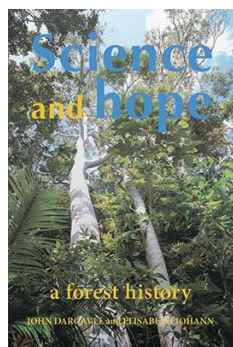
Other upcoming conferences



	<p>Turning Protest Into Policy: Environmental Values and Governance in Changing Societies March 18-22, 2015</p>
<p>http://aseh.net/conference-workshops/dc-conference-2015</p>	

	<p>International Water History Conference</p>
<p>http://www.iwha.net/conference</p>	
<p>Delft The Netherlands</p>	
<p>June 24-26 2015</p>	

<p>The ESEH biannual conference will be in Versailles France</p>	
<p>30 June-3 July 2015</p>	
<p>Registration will be available in mid-January</p>	
<p>http://eseh.org/event/upcoming-conference/</p>	



The White Horse Press is always interested in book proposals in the field of environmental history. Please contact Sarah Johnson (sarah@whpress.co.uk) if you would like to discuss proposals or ideas.

Environment and History

The White Horse Press announces the twentieth anniversary issue of *Environment and History* (Vol. 20:4), featuring short think-pieces to stimulate discussion and debate, including a round table event at the upcoming ESEH conference in Versailles in June 2015.



Global Environment



Eds: Mauro Agnoletti & Gabriella Corona

Global Environment: A Journal of History and Natural and Social Sciences is a forum for studies on the environment and world history, especially contemporary topics. Through a diversity of approaches and themes, we develop an environmental perspective on world history, including perspectives from beyond the western-centric worlds where environmental history has developed.

(2 issues per year)

"bringing together different areas of expertise in the natural and the social sciences, to facilitate a common language and a common perspective in the study of history."

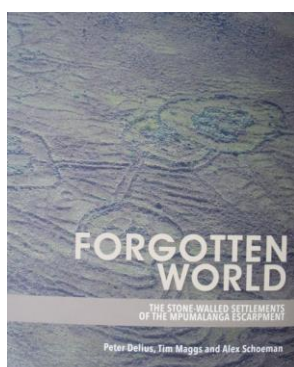
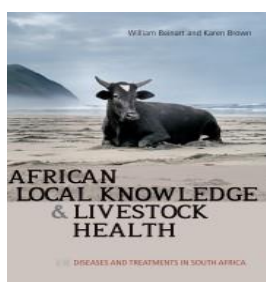
New WHP books due in early 2015, include *A Fairytale in Question: Historical Interactions between Humans and Wolves*, edited by Patrick Masius and Jana Sprenger (ISBN 978-1-874267-84-3); and *Fluid Frontiers: New Currents in Marine Environmental History*, edited by John Gillis and Franziska Torma (ISBN 978-1-874267-86-7). The next volume in our growing 'Themes in Environmental History' series will be *Trees; Bioinvaders, Landscapes, Indigenous Knowledge and Animals*.

Science and Hope: A Forest History, by John Dargavel and Elisabeth Johann, is now in paperback, £25/€32/\$40; ISBN 978-1-874267-87-4.



We are very pleased to announce that Wits University Press – the publishing arm of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg has agreed to become a member of ICEHO. Two recent WUP books will be of particular interest to environmental historians.

Based on interviews and documentary research, Beinart and Brown's *African Local Knowledge and Livestock Health* creatively integrates indigenous knowledge within the context of the growth of scientific veterinary research in South Africa.



Forgotten World is the first historical and archaeological overview

of the African stone-walled settlements in the eastern interior of South Africa. An intriguing community, strongly based on cultivation, has eluded scholarship for decades and is now brought to life.

How do we choose the books we include in ICEHO bulletins? Is your publisher a member of ICEHO? If so, we can include your book in future bulletins. Just let us know.

Do you want to join ICEHO?

From as little as \$US100/year.

Information online:

<http://www.iceho.org/membership/>

Membership form:

<http://www.iceho.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/ICEHO-Membership-Application.pdf>

Or contact treasurer, Steve Anderson

Steve.Anderson@duke.edu

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