



## Men and Nature: Gender, Power, and Environmental Change

**Time** 26–28 February 2016

**Venue** LMU Main Building (M 210) and Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Munich, Germany

**Conveners** Sherilyn MacGregor (Manchester University) & Nicole Seymour (California State University, Fullerton)

**Abstract** “Gender,” in the environmental humanities and social sciences, has long been synonymous with “women.” What remains under-addressed are the myriad ways in which masculinities and masculinized roles, identities, and practices shape human relationships with the more-than-human world. Indeed, the few available scholarly articles that do interrogate masculinity and environment begin with the recognition (and a lament) that there is so little research available. It is the purpose of this RCC workshop to shine light on, and perhaps start to redress, this curious lacuna in the environmental humanities and social sciences literature. The workshop aims to bring together academics, professionals, artists, writers, and activists who have an interest in exploring the connections between masculinities and environmental change in the past, in contemporary societies, and in visions of the future.

Rachel  
Carson  
Center

## Friday, 26 February 2016

Venue: MKE (room M 210, LMU main building), Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1, 80539 Munich

**5.00 pm–7.30 pm**      **Opening Event**, see separate program

## Saturday, 27 February 2016

Venue: Rachel Carson Center, Leopoldstr. 11a, 80802 Munich

**8.30 am–9.00 am**      **Coffee & Set Up**

**9.00 am–9.30 am**      **Introductions & Overview**

**9.30 am–10.45 am**      **Session 1: Theorizing Men and Nature**

Jim Fleming (Colby College)

"Climate Engineering: Barking Mad, WEIRD, and Male-Dominated"

Martin Hultman (Linköping University)

"Green Men? Exploring Industrial-, Ecological-, and Ecomodern Masculinity"

Naoki Kambe (Rikkyo University)

"Nature and *Mujo* (Impermanence): The Ecological *Nihonjinron* After the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011"

**10.45 am–11.00 am**      **Break**

**11.00 am–12.15 pm**      **Session 2: Histories of Men and Nature**

Kathryn de Luna (Georgetown University)

"Marksmen and the Bush: Masculinities and Techno-Environments in South Central Africa, c. 750–1350"

Stefan Hübner (Bundeswehr University Munich)

"No Women, No Liquor: Offshore Oil Drilling, the Oceanic Environment, and Concepts of Manliness"

Erik Loomis (University of Rhode Island)

"Masculinity, Work, and the Industrial Forest in the U.S. Pacific Northwest"

**12.15 pm–1.15 pm**      **Lunch**

**1.15 pm–2.15 pm**      **Session 3: Politicizing Men and Nature**

Joe Curnow and Jody Chan (University of Toronto and Columbia University)

"Doing Expertise: Racialized and Gendered Participation in an Environmental Campaign"

Noémi Gonda (Central European University)

"Men and Climate Change: Bad Men Deforest, Good Men Convert to Cocoa Producer: A Study from Rural Nicaragua"

**2.15 pm–2.30 pm**      **Break**

- 2.30 pm–3.30 pm**      **Session 4: Reading Men and Nature**  
 Will Abberley (University of Sussex)  
 “The Love of the Chase is an Inherent Delight in Man’: Hunting, Nature and Masculine Emotions in the Victorian Natural History Memoir”  
 Susanne Leikam (University of Regensburg)  
 “Extreme Weather and Masculinity/ies in Contemporary American Popular Cultures”
- 3.30 pm–3.45 pm**      **Break**
- 3.45 pm–4.30 pm**      **Commentary:** Paula Villa (Ludwig Maximilians University Munich)
- 4.30 pm–7.00 pm**      **Break** (return to hotel or sightseeing, etc.)
- 7.00 pm**                      **Group dinner** at Georgenhof, Friedrichstraße 1, 80801 Munich

## **Sunday, 28 Feb. 2016**

Venue: Rachel Carson Center, Leopoldstr. 11a, 80802 Munich

- 10.00 am–12.00 pm**      Wrap-up Discussion over Coffee and Pastries
- 1.00 pm–3.00 pm**      Optional Field Trip to the Deutsches Museum  
 (leave from the RCC at 12.15)

## **Bios of the participants**

**Will Abberley** is a lecturer at the University of Sussex in the School of English. His first monograph, *English Fiction and the Evolution of Language, 1850–1914*, is published by Cambridge University Press and explores how evolutionary theory reshaped visions of language change in the Victorian popular imagination. He is currently completing a postdoc, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, which considers how Victorians imagined mimicry and deception as biological phenomena, from insect replicas to animal camouflage. He also recently organized the conference Underwater Worlds: Aquatic Visions in Art Science and Literature at the University of Oxford.

**Jody Chan** is a first-year MA student at Teachers College, Columbia University. She is a student organizer with Columbia Divest for Climate Justice and the Divestment Student Network’s People of Color Caucus. Jody’s research interests center on identity development and sociopolitical learning for student activists. In particular, she is interested in the ways that students learn about race, gender, and class through their involvement in the fossil fuel divestment movement.

**Joe Curnow** is a PhD candidate at the University of Toronto. Her research examines learning about race, gender, and colonialism within social movements. Recent work looks at student-led social movements like Fair Trade and the Fossil Fuel Divestment campaign, problematizing their NGOization and the pedagogical and political implications. Her work has been published in *Gender and Education*, *Antipode*, and *Interface: A Journal For and About Social Movements*.

**Kathryn de Luna** is an assistant professor in the Department of History at Georgetown University. An historian of precolonial Africa, Kathryn writes histories of food, emotions, and technology and publishes in the fields of history, linguistics, and archaeology. Her first book, *Collecting Food, Cultivating People: Subsistence and Society in Central Africa* is forthcoming in the Agrarian Studies Series at Yale. She is now working on a 3,000-year cultural history of mobility in central Africa and a history of sparkle and other percussive sensory phenomena in early Bantu societies.

**Jim Fleming** (PhD Princeton University) is Professor of Science, Technology, and Society at Colby College, a research scholar at Columbia University, a research associate at the Smithsonian Institution, and series editor of Palgrave Studies in the History of Science and Technology. His books include *Meteorology in America* (1990), *Historical Perspectives on Climate Change* (1998), *The Callendar Effect* (2007), *Fixing the Sky* (2010), and *Inventing Atmospheric Science* (2016). He is deeply invested in connecting the history of science, technology, and environment with the arts and public policy.

**Noémi Gonda** is a PhD candidate at the Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy of Central European University, Budapest. Her doctoral research is a feminist ethnography focused on the connections between gender and climate change adaptation in rural Nicaragua. She has extensive professional experience (2002–2010) in rural development and natural resources management, mainly in Central America, where she has been working with smallholder farmers, indigenous groups and international organizations.

**Stefan Hübner** is a postdoctoral research associate at Bundeswehr University, Munich. Between 2009 and 2013 he was a research associate at Jacobs University Bremen, a doctoral fellow at the German Historical Institute Washington, and a doctoral fellow at the German Institute for Japanese Studies, Tokyo. In 2013 and 2014, he was a fellow of the SIAS Summer Institute “Cultural Encounters: Global Perspectives and Local Exchanges, 1750–1940.” His second book project is a global history of offshore oil drilling, in which he combines regionalism studies, environmental history, and the history of development policy, to analyze the rapidly changing interaction between humans and their oceanic environment during the Anthropocene.

**Martin Hultman** is an associate professor, working as a lecturer at Linköping University. As a scholar and citizen he is involved in local environmental politics in the form of ecotourism, ridesharing, and public seminars, and he is also coordinator of the *Environmental PostHumanities* and *SweMineTech* research networks. His publications include “The Making of an Environmental Hero: A History of Ecomodern Masculinity, Fuel Cells and Arnold Schwarzenegger” and *Discourses of Global Climate Change*. Currently he is editing a special issue on Gender and Environment for *TGV*, the Swedish journal of gender studies.

**Naoki Kambe**, after receiving his BA in Japan, went to the United States to work on his graduate degrees in Communication Studies. He received his MA from the University of Northern Iowa and his PhD from Wayne State University. He is currently an assistant professor in the College of Intercultural Communication at Rikkyo University where he teaches courses related to communication, culture, and

gender. His scholarly interests include representations of Japanese culture, gendered nonverbal communication/bodies, and communication pedagogy.

**Susanne Leikam** is assistant professor of American studies in the American Studies Department at the University of Regensburg. Her research focuses on visualizations of nature and disasters in American cultures, ecocriticism and environmental justice, memory studies, and transnational American studies. Her publications include *Framing Spaces in Motion: Tracing Visualizations of Earthquakes into Twentieth-Century San Francisco* (2015) and *Iconographies of the Calamitous in American Visual Culture* (2013) as well as several other articles in her core research areas.

**Erik Loomis** is an assistant professor of history at the University of Rhode Island. He is the author of *Empire of Timber: Labor Unions and the Pacific Northwest Forests*, published by Cambridge University Press (2016) and *Out of Sight: The Long and Disturbing Story of Corporations Outsourcing Catastrophe*, published by The New Press (2015). He writes online for the blog *Lawyers, Guns, and Money* and his work has appeared in publications such as *Dissent*, *Boston Review*, *Salon*, and *In These Times*.

**Sherilyn MacGregor** is Reader in Environmental Politics, jointly appointed to the Politics Department and Sustainable Consumption Institute at the University of Manchester. Her research explores themes of environmental (un)sustainability, gender (in)equality, and theories and practices of citizenship. She is author of *Beyond Mothering Earth: Ecological Citizenship and the Politics of Care* (UBC 2006); more recent publications include journal articles on gender and the politics of climate change (published in, e.g., *Hypatia* and *Sociological Review*). She is currently editing the *Routledge International Handbook on Gender and Environment* and is joint editor of *Environmental Politics* journal. She held a Rachel Carson Center Fellowship in 2014.

**Nicole Seymour** is an assistant professor of English at California State University, Fullerton, where she teaches courses in American literature, environmental literature, and queer theory. Her first book, *Strange Natures: Futurity, Empathy, and the Queer Ecological Imagination* (University of Illinois Press, 2013), won the 2015 Book Award from the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment. She is currently finishing her second book, *Bad Environmentalism: Affective Dissent in the Ecological Age*, which she developed during her 2013–2014 fellowship at the Rachel Carson Center.

**Paula Villa** earned her PhD in Sociology at the University of Bochum (published as *Sexy Bodies*, 4th edition 2011) and did her Habilitation at the University of Hannover in 2007. She has held academic positions at the Universities of Bochum, Hannover, Fribourg, and Innsbruck. Since 2008 she has been full professor and Chair for Sociology and Gender Studies at LMU Munich. Her research focuses on social and gender theories, including post-structural, post-colonial and deconstructionist approaches. She has served as an elected member of the board of the German Sociological Association (2013–2015; 2015–2017) and was co-founder and elected member of the board of the German Association for Gender Studies.

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