

KNOWING NATURE:

The Changing Foundations of Environmental Knowledge

International conference convened at Renmin University of China,
25-27 May 2017

Cosponsored by the Rachel Carson Center, Munich,
the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, and
the Center for Ecological History, Renmin University, Beijing

THURSDAY, MAY 25

Multi-function Hall, 3rd Floor, Library, RUC

Opening Ceremony /3:00-3:40 pm

Moderator: XIA Mingfang

Translator: HOU Shen

Welcoming remarks by HONG, Dayong, vice president of Renmin University of China; HUANG Xingtao, Dean of the School of History, RUC; and Helmuth TRISCHLER, Co-Director of the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Ludwig-Maximilian-University, Munich, and Research Director of the Deutsches Museum, Munich

Group photograph /3:40-4:00 pm

Keynote address /4:00-5:30 pm

Dagmar SCHÄFER, Managing Director of the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, and author of *The Crafting of the 10,000 Things*:

“Politics and Scientific Change in Dynastic China”

Introduction by Donald WORSTER (Distinguished Foreign Expert, RUC)

Comment by WANG Siming (Dean of the Institute of Chinese Agricultural Civilization, Nanjing Agricultural University)

Welcoming dinner at Huixian Restaurant /6:00 pm

FRIDAY, MAY 26

(Conference Room 401, Huixian Building Tower C)

Session I: Tangled in the Web of Life /8:30am-12:00pm

Chair: Donald WORSTER

1. Sarah EHLERS, “ ‘ War Must Be Declared on All the Tsetse Flies ’ :
Environmental Sleeping Sickness Control in the Lake Victoria Region, 1900-1920 ”

Critic: CHE Qun

2. CHE Qun, “The Schistosomiasis Epidemic and Environmental Change: A
Case Study of Yuanjiang County, Hunan, in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth
Centuries ”

Critic: CAO Ling

3. Sandra SWART, “Blood, Bones and Baboons: Ways of Knowing in South
Africa ’ s Socio-Environmental History

Critic: Alan MacEACHERN

Tea and coffee break /10:00-10:30am

4. Dorothee BRANTZ, “Nature ’ s Knowledge Habitats: Animal Displays in
Nineteenth-Century Berlin ”

Critic: Sandra SWART

5. CAO Ling, “Analysis of Space-time Characteristics of the Spread and
Cultivation of Maize in the Ming and Qing Dynasties and the Republic of China
Based on Local Gazetteers ”

Critic: Dorothee BRANTZ

6. Alan MacEACHERN, “The First Lawnmower of the Season:
Knowing Weather and Climate in Canada through Phenology ”

Critic: Sarah EHLERS

Lunch at Fengshang Restaurant /12:30-2:00pm

Session II: Grasping the Restless Earth 12:00-5:30 pm

Chair: Agnes KNEITZ

1. Lino CAMPRUBI, “The Emergence of the Global Environment ”

Critic: José-Augusto PADUA

2. Katrin KLEEMANN, “Lifting the Fog of Ignorance: Europe and the Icelandic Laki Fissure Eruption of 1783”

Critic: Lino CAMPRUBI

3. SUN Mengmeng, “Co-Ching Chu's Thought on Climate Change and the Worry of A New Ice Age from the West World”

Critic: Katrin KLEEMAN

Tea and coffee break /3:30-4:00pm

4. LI Yongxiang, “The Cognitive Implication and Cultural Interpretation of Disaster Myths of Ethnic Groups in Yunnan”

Critic: WANG Zanwei

5. José-Augusto PADUA, “The Rise of a Critical Understanding of Nature and Nature Destruction in the Colonial Tropics: The Case of Brazil (1790-1825)”

Critic: LI Yongxiang

6. WANG Zanwei, “Conflict and Fusion: The Earthquake Cognition Variation of China and Japan under East Asian Order of Change”

Critic: SUN Mengmeng

Dinner at Huixian Restaurant /6:00

SATURDAY, MAY 27

(Conference Room 401, Huixian Building Tower C)

Session III: Managing the Wet and the Wild /8:30 am-12 noon

Chair: TSENG Hua-Pi

1. HUANG Yu, “Vibrant Drug Residues: Contending Knowledge on Aquatic Food Safety Control in South China”

Critic: PAN Mingtao

2. Eva JAKOBSSON, “The Water Kingdom” : Water Knowledge Through the Eyes of an 18th-Century Natural Historian”

Critic: Anna OLENENKO

3. PAN Mingtao, “The Evolution of Water Management Theories in the Capital Area (15th-19th Centuries)”

Critic: SUN Jinghao

Tea and coffee break /10:00-10:30am

4. Stefan DORONDEL, “Reclaiming Wilderness along the Lower Danube: Restoration, Spontaneous Recovery and Hybrid Nature”

Critic: Eva Jakobsson

5. Anna OLENENKO, “Steppe Wetlands: Confrontation of the Scientific Concepts and Construction of the Landscape”

Critic: Stefan DORONDEL

6. SUN Jinghao, “The Way of Water Management in Late Imperial China: Reflections on the Mechanism of the *Shuigui* Reservoirs in Western Shandong”

Critic: HUANG Yu

Lunch at Fengshang Restaurant /12:30-2:00pm

Session IV: *Developing the Country* 12:00-5:30 pm

Chair: CHEN Hao

1. Peter LAVELLE, “Knowing Natural Resources in Nineteenth-Century China”

Critic: Maria AVXENTEVSKAYA

2. James LIN, “Hunger Fighters: Missionaries, Science, and the Origins of Development in China, 1920-1949”

Critic: Ian CAMPBELL

3. Sreeja JAISWAL, “Integrating Political Economy, Ideas and Science in Interrogating the Political and Ideological Premises of Environmental Controversies in India: A Case Study of the Konkan Railways”

Critic: Peter LAVELLE

Tea and coffee break /3:15-3:45pm

4. Maria AVXENTEVSKAYA, “Environment in Translation Establishing Russian Forestry Management”

Critic: Shannon Stunden BOWER

5. Shannon Stunden BOWER, “Tools for Rational Development: The Canada Land Inventory and the Canada Geographic Information System in Mid-20th Century Canada”

Critic: Sreeja JAISWAL

6. Ian CAMPBELL, “ ‘ Breadbasket or Stockyard?’ Expertise and the Future of the Kazak Steppe, 1868-1917”

Critic: James LIN

Concluding Discussion /5:00-5:30pm

Moderator: HOU Shen

Discussants: Helmuth TRISCHLER and XIA Mingfang

Closing banquet at Fengshang Restaurant /6:00pm

SUNDAY, May 28

Post conference field trip to the Great Wall /8:00am-6:00pm

Notes

1. Registration

Registration desk opens from 8am - 2pm, May 25, in the lobby of Yanshan Hotel. At 3:30pm we will gather in the lobby of Yanshan Hotel and walk to the opening plenary session together.

2. Sessions.

Each session will consist of peer critiques of papers (about 10 mins long) followed by general discussion. The critiques should provide a brief summary of the main themes or argument of the assigned paper and then an assessment of strengths and weaknesses along with further questions for discussion.

3. Field trip

The post-conference field trip is optional for all conference participants. We will ask those who want to go to sign up during the conference. There will be ample room for everyone. A nominal fee of 150 RMB (approx. US\$ 24) per person will be collected to defray the cost of the entrance fee and the lunch. Shuttle bus is provided by Renmin University.

The field trip will leave by bus from the Yanshan Hotel at 8am. We will try to return to the hotel by 6 pm, after which participants should find dinner on their own.