

## The Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society

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# 1 The RCC at a Glance

Carson fellows showed great geographical diversity, hailing from Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Sweden, the UK, and the USA.

Carson fellows worked in all six research clusters and across the disciplines of history, anthropology, sociology, religious studies, cultural studies, literary studies, political science, geology, geography, and ecology.

Five monographs, edited volumes, and special journal issues based on the work of Carson fellows and staff were supported by the RCC.

The Environment in History: International Perspectives (series with Berghahn Books) released its first volume, and the center's German-language series Umwelt & Gesellschaft (with Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht) published two monographs.

RCC Perspectives published ten issues on topics ranging from neurohistory to the legacy of Silent Spring to salmon aquacultures.

The RCC website received over 54,000 unique visits from nearly all over the globe.

The Environment & Society Portal launched in January 2012. In its first year, almost 20,000 unique users from 154 countries visited the Portal.

The RCC library officially became part of the LMU Munich library system; its 800+ volume collection is now searchable in the library's online catalog.

The RCC sponsored 14 conferences and workshops, as well as panels at conferences in Germany, Switzerland, Colombia, and the USA.

The RCC-sponsored lecture series on sustainability received an award from the German UNESCO Commission for its efforts to inspire people to pursue a sustainable and just future; attendance at these public lectures regularly tops 400.

## 2 Executive Summary

The Rachel Carson Center is now three years into its six-year first phase. Looking back, these initial years have been primarily about putting down our own institutional and geographical roots, so that we could reach out and engage with partner institutions, academics, and thinkers around the world. At this juncture, halfway through our journey, our focus is shifting away from the dynamics of creation to the dynamics of sustainability. “Sustainability” is a buzzword that has been present from the very earliest moments of our center, as a loaded term in debates about ecologies and societies; but for us, it has since come to refer not just to the interactions between humans and the natural world that are the driving force behind our research at the RCC, but also to describe the kinds of networks, projects, and structures that will carry the center into its next three years and beyond.

Sustainability does not, indeed cannot, mean stasis. Rather, it is a kind of self-sustaining dynamism, providing channels that tap our resident energy and expertise. The *RCC Perspectives* journal series is a good illustration of a structure that has become sustainable. The year 2012 has been a big year for the *Perspectives*, with nine issues published and one in production at the time of going to press. *Perspectives* reflects the richness of academic life at the RCC and showcases our projects and collaborations; it is neither a book series nor an academic journal, but provides a new format for the presentation and discussion of ideas and approaches, incorporating shorter essays and opinion pieces arising from the work of our center. The increasing inquiries and responses from across the globe, as scholars incorporate the center’s perspectives into their research and teaching, are evidence of an equally sustainable readership.

Our contribution on the subject of sustainability has been recognized by the UN in the shape of an award designating the sustainability lecture series, which is organized in cooperation with BenE München (*Bildung für nachhaltige Entwicklung*) and the *Verein für Nachhaltigkeit e.V.* The series was named an official project of the UN “World Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.” The RCC was also an official partner in the *Zukunftsprojekt ERDE—Wissenschaftsjahr für nachhaltige Entwicklung* 2012 (Future Project EARTH—Year of Research into Sustainable Development) organized by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

In 2012 the RCC also entered into collaborative relationships with key organizations that are long-term and self-supporting stakeholders in the environmental humanities: *La Sociedad Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Historia Ambiental* (The Latin American and Caribbean Society for Environmental History, SOLCHA)—currently co-chaired by two Carson alumni—, the American Society for Environmental History (ASEH), and the Global Risk Forum are three such groups. Furthermore, the RCC was asked to participate in a UNESCO event celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of Rachel Carson’s groundbreaking book, *Silent Spring*, indicating the global regard in which our center is held.

The trajectory from initial creativity and growth to sustainable dynamism is also mirrored in the staffing structure of the RCC. This has been changed to reflect the new needs that have arisen out of the manifold initiatives managed by the RCC—while the fellowship program remains the central pillar of our center, our growing portfolio of publications, conferences, cultural events, and digital expertise have called for a clearer and more durable distribution of responsibilities. Besides the managing director responsible for the financial and general administration of the RCC, the center employs a communications director, a managing editor for publications, a curator, and a director of the Environment & Society Portal. As of January 2013, we will add a director of academic programs. These six positions reflect the way that the center has developed with regard both to the needs of its core project—its fellows and their work—and its position in Munich, in Germany, and in international academia and intellectual debate.

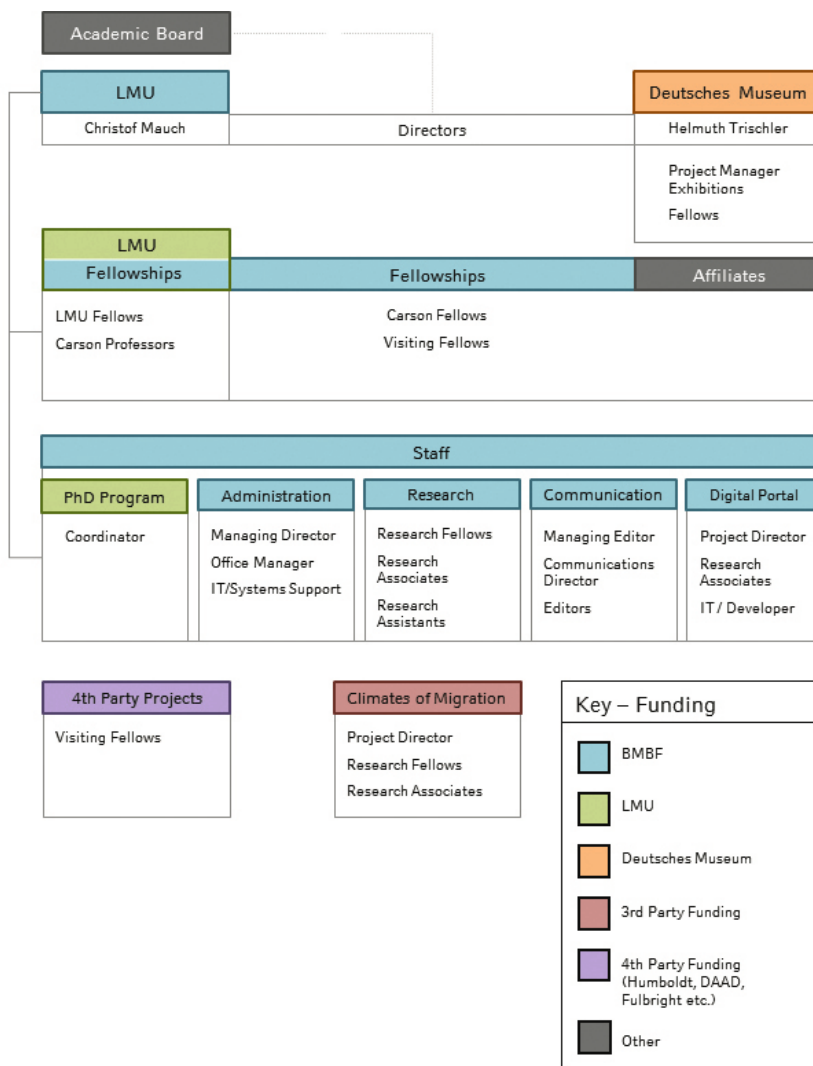
The same process of structural consolidation has seen a change in the RCC advisory board, with half of the board members handing over responsibility in August 2012 to a new cohort of leading academics in the environmental humanities. Those members of the advisory board who remain, including chair Jane Carruthers, ensure continuity in the valuable and influential role played by the board as a whole. The board changeover has bequeathed a partnership of mutual benefit, with new members from China and Australia ensuring global representation.



The RCC has been both active in working towards sustainability in its relationship with its parent institutions, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (LMU) Munich and the Deutsches Museum, but also has been recognized by third parties for its long-term impact on the academic landscape. LMU Munich was once again selected for funding as part of the second phase of the DFG (German Research Foundation) “Excellence Initiative,” and the RCC played a special role, with environment and society identified as a high potential area for the continuing development of LMU Munich as a leading light among German research institutions. The Environment and Society doctoral program, set up by the RCC and funded for two years by the LMU, has secured funding into the future, allowing it to continue attracting excellent international graduates to Munich and furthering both the environmental humanities and the German university system worldwide.

One final example of the sustainable RCC structures and relationships is the development of the RCC Alumni Association. As the number of RCC alumni continues to grow, this association has taken on a momentum of its own, with two co-chairs in North America and China representing the interests of a global body of scholars whose research brought them, and still links them, to the RCC. This network will continue to expand; the fellows passing each other in the corridors of the RCC today will tomorrow be moving back out into the world, taking not just their ideas, their words, and their insights with them, but also their participation in a community of scholars that is becoming an enduring and influential part of the worldwide academic landscape.

### 3 Organigram



## 4 The RCC Academic Advisory Board

The RCC Academic Advisory Board is made up of leading scholars in the environmental humanities from around the world. Members convene once a year in Munich to evaluate and give feedback to the RCC; they also promote RCC programs and collaborations in their individual regions and disciplines.

August 2012 marked a point of transition for the advisory board as four members completed their three-year terms of service. The RCC would like to thank Ulrich Beck, Georgina Endfield, Bernd Herrmann, and Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud for the thoughtful guidance and service that helped transition the RCC from a proposal to a fully fledged and operational research institute.

At the same time, the RCC welcomes four new members: Eveline Dürr, Libby Robin, Hou Shen, and Verena Winiwarter. They have joined Greg Bankoff, Jane Carruthers, Wolfram Mauser, John McNeill, and Renate Schubert in advising the RCC on its programs and research throughout the next three years. The board now has members from most continents (Africa, Asia, North America, Australia, Europe) and from many different disciplines (history, anthropology, human ecology, geography, and economics).

**Prof. Dr. Greg Bankoff**, University of Hull, UK

**Prof. Dr. Jane Carruthers**, University of South Africa, Pretoria (Chair)

**Prof. Dr. Eveline Dürr**, LMU Munich

**Prof. Dr. Wolfram Mauser**, LMU Munich

**Prof. Dr. John R. McNeill**, Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA

**Prof. Dr. Libby Robin**, Australian National University, Canberra

**Prof. Dr. Renate Schubert**, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

**Prof. Dr. Hou Shen**, Renmin University, Beijing, China



## 5 Research and New Approaches

At the Rachel Carson Center, our research activity is organized thematically in six clusters: **ecological imperialism**; **environmental ethics, politics, and movements**; **environmental knowledge and knowledge societies**; **natural disasters and cultures of risk**; **resource use and conservation**; and **transformation of landscapes**. These thematic foci provide direction and structure to the center, yet also allow for significant breadth in project topics while encouraging interdisciplinarity and collaboration both between fellows and with other institutions.

In 2012, we highlighted each of these foci with at least one conference or workshop. For example, we hosted two German-language workshops around the topic of **environmental ethics, politics, and movements**; one workshop looked at the history and current situation of environmental ethics while the other aimed to stimulate “New Histories of Environmental Movements.” For **transformations of landscapes**, the RCC organized a comparative workshop on the Alps and the Carpathians which also furthered our cooperation with the Collegium Carolinum research institute. The workshop “Energy Resources: Europe and Its Former Colonies” highlighted some of our work in the research cluster **resource use and conservation** while also facilitating a new collaboration with the Center for Public History at the University of Houston (Texas, USA).

For our thematic focus on **natural disasters and cultures of risk**, the RCC sponsored two panels at the Fourth International Disaster and Risk Conference in Davos, Switzerland; we also convened an in-house workshop on small islands and natural hazards. With presenters from disaster studies, archaeology, and history, this workshop represents a multidisciplinary approach that the RCC aims to continue and strengthen in the coming years. The conference “Trading Environments: Commercial Knowledge and Environmental Transformations” characterized the depth and diversity of the cluster on **environmental knowledge and knowledge societies**, as it considered the historical and modern-day consequences that both environmental and economic knowledge have had on commodity markets and the environment. Finally, even though **ecological imperialism** is our “newest” topic, having been featured in only one Call for Fellows, we hosted a workshop in this cluster entitled “Imperialism, Narrative,

and the Environment,” in which participants critically examined points of overlap and divergence in the narrative forms of imperial history and ecocriticism.

While our research clusters help attract fellows and organize programs at the center, we are also committed to fulfilling a second strand of our mission as a Käte Hamburger Institutes—identifying and developing new concepts and methodologies in the field of environmental humanities. Several of our publications from 2012 reflect our transdisciplinary approach to creating space for new dialogues and methods of research. “Sickness, Hunger, War, and Religion: Multidisciplinary Perspectives” presents exciting syntheses between research in the fields of archaeology, anthropology, and history; moving from prehistory to the medieval period, six chapters look at humanity’s struggles with subsistence, religious belief, ill-health, death, and warfare in a variety of global landscapes. Another issue, “Environment, Culture, and the Brain: New Explorations in Neurohistory,” considers the role of biology and the brain in the development of human culture. Finally, “Why Do We Value Diversity? Biocultural Diversity in Global Context” explores the implications of biocultural diversity. With these volumes, the center is developing new approaches for scholarship and sparking new conversations within the environmental humanities and also between the humanities and the natural sciences.







## 6 Projects

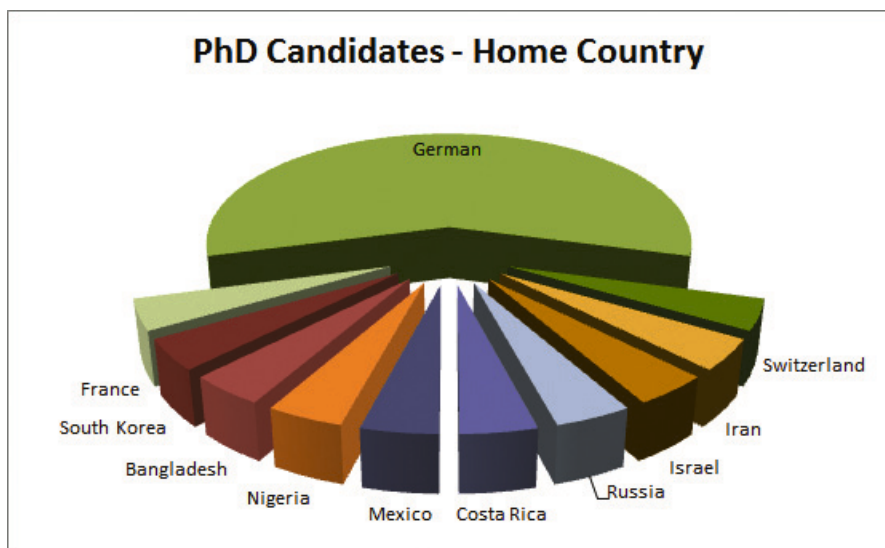
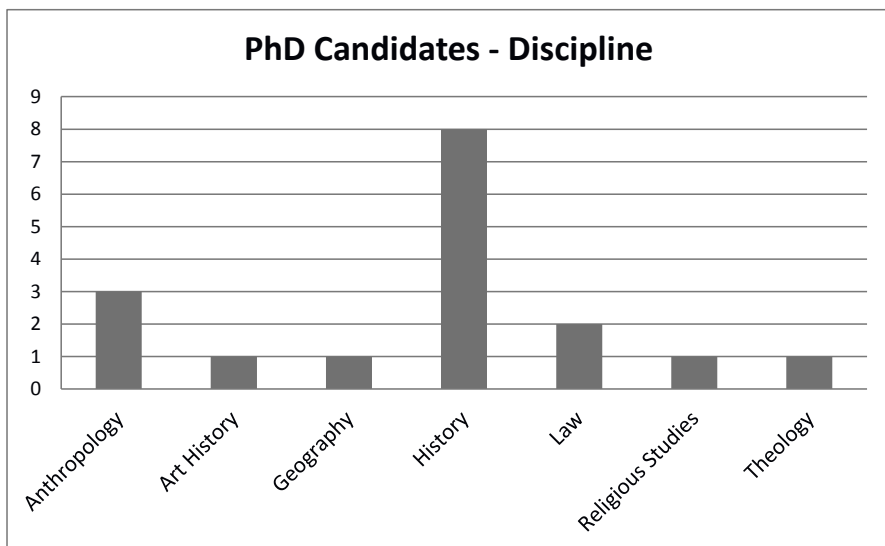
### **Climates of Migration**

The three-year research project “Climates of Migration” is a joint project of the Rachel Carson Center and the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities in Essen (KWI), generously funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

The project looks at the historical intersections between environmental change and migration, and is particularly interested in climate-induced movements of people in the past. Six individual projects (four doctoral and two post-doctoral) shed light on how, where, and why people migrated as a result of droughts, cold periods, floods, hurricanes, and other extreme natural events. The project is organized around three thematic foci: climates of famine, climates of colonization, and disaster migration. In 2012 the project invited seven speakers, organized a panel at the Davos Risk Forum, and convened a workshop in Munich on the topic of “Small Islands and Natural Hazards in Historical and Current Perspectives.”

### **Environment and Memory: Towards an Archaeology of Environmentalism**

“Environment and Memory” examines the historical memories that resonate in our environmental thinking, thus bringing environmental history into a dialogue with the burgeoning field of memory studies. Environmental memories are both omnipresent and strangely hidden from sight, making the project something of an “archaeology” of environmentalism: there is much more history in our environmental thinking than usually meets the eye. Unlike many other memory projects, this project combines several forms of publication: a website, a volume of essays, an interview project, a book series, articles, and presentations.

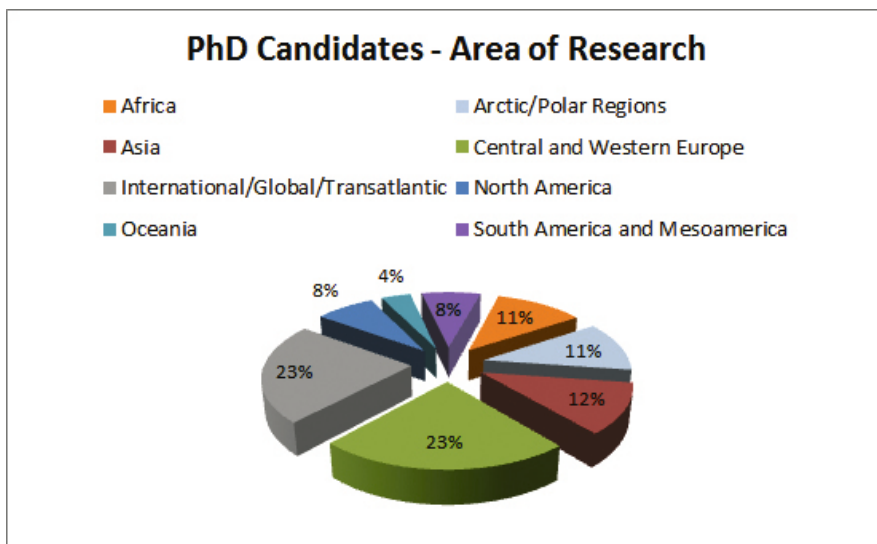




## 7 Graduate Programs and Internships

### Doctoral Program “Environment and Society”

The doctoral program “Environment and Society” entered its third year in 2012 as LMU renewed its support for the program, including continued funding for the coordinator position, academic activities, and research-related travel. The program added three new students in winter semester 2012–13, bringing the total number to 24 participants from twelve different countries. Professor Bernhard Gill of the sociology department also joined the board, which now has faculty members from 10 disciplines (American cultural history/transatlantic studies, biology, anthropology, geography, geology, history/history of science, art history, law, sociology, and theology/ethics).



In addition, the program has started a new cooperation with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), allowing it to offer full scholarships to two international students in the program each year. In addition, the establishment of a regular colloquium in 2012 offered students and advisors more opportunities to interact through reading groups, formal project presentations, writing workshops, and informational sessions on funding opportunities. Furthermore, in the summer, students and advisors spent a weekend in the Bavarian Alps, during which each student received intensive feedback on his/her project. Finally, the application period for the fourth group of students closed on 1 December 2012; this promises to be the largest and most diverse applicant pool to date.



Doctoral students at their annual workshop am Kochel am See, accompanied by Christof Mauch (fifth from left) and PhD program coordinator Elisabeth Zellmer (far right).

## Internships at the RCC

In 2012, the RCC continued its internship program with students (ranging from undergraduate to doctoral) from Germany, Canada, the USA, and Colombia. The Center normally has two interns at a time, and most interns stay for a period of two or three months. The internship program aims first and foremost to introduce these students to the research of the Carson Center and leave them with a lasting understanding of the environmental humanities. The interns, by receiving visitors and providing operational support at the entrance desk, have the opportunity for daily interactions with staff and fellows. Interns are also encouraged to attend RCC events, from lunchtime colloquia to conferences, from Works in Progress sessions to our film screenings. Past interns have also undertaken projects, for example: researching and writing articles for the Environment & Society Portal; developing and executing small events, such as a photo exhibition; organizing and cataloguing primary sources for a digital archive; researching relevant literature for the RCC library; and designing large posters about the work of the Center for a local academic fair.



RCC intern Michael del Vecchio.

## Global Environments Summer Academy (GESA)

The Global Environments Summer Academy (GESA) convened for the second consecutive year in Munich in August 2012; GESA is offered as part of the Munich International Summer University and is jointly sponsored by the RCC and the Global Diversity Foundation (GDF). GESA is designed to broaden and deepen the knowledge, networking, and communication skills of postgraduate students and professionals who are concerned about the human dimensions of environmental challenges. Nineteen post-graduate and PhD students and professionals, speaking twenty-two different languages and representing a wide variety of academic disciplines, were selected from around the world for GESA 2012. During their three-week stay in Munich, participants benefited from mini-lectures by Carson fellows on topics ranging from ecofeminism to pesticide use and from the role of rainforest conservation in Colombia to environmental justice movements in Nigeria.



GESA participants Paramesh Mallegowda (left) and Girma Kelboro Mensuro.



## European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) Summer Schools

Once again in 2012, the RCC co-sponsored two ESEH summer schools: one in Flaran, France entitled “Rural History vs. Environmental History” and another in St. Petersburg, Russia on “Natural Resources: Historical Ideas, Exploration, and Exploitation.” Carson fellows served as mentors for both events; they included Carmel Finley, Andrea Kiss and Maya Peterson (in St. Petersburg), and Anya Zilberstein (in Flaran).



GESA participants together with fellows and staff members, on a bike tour of Munich.





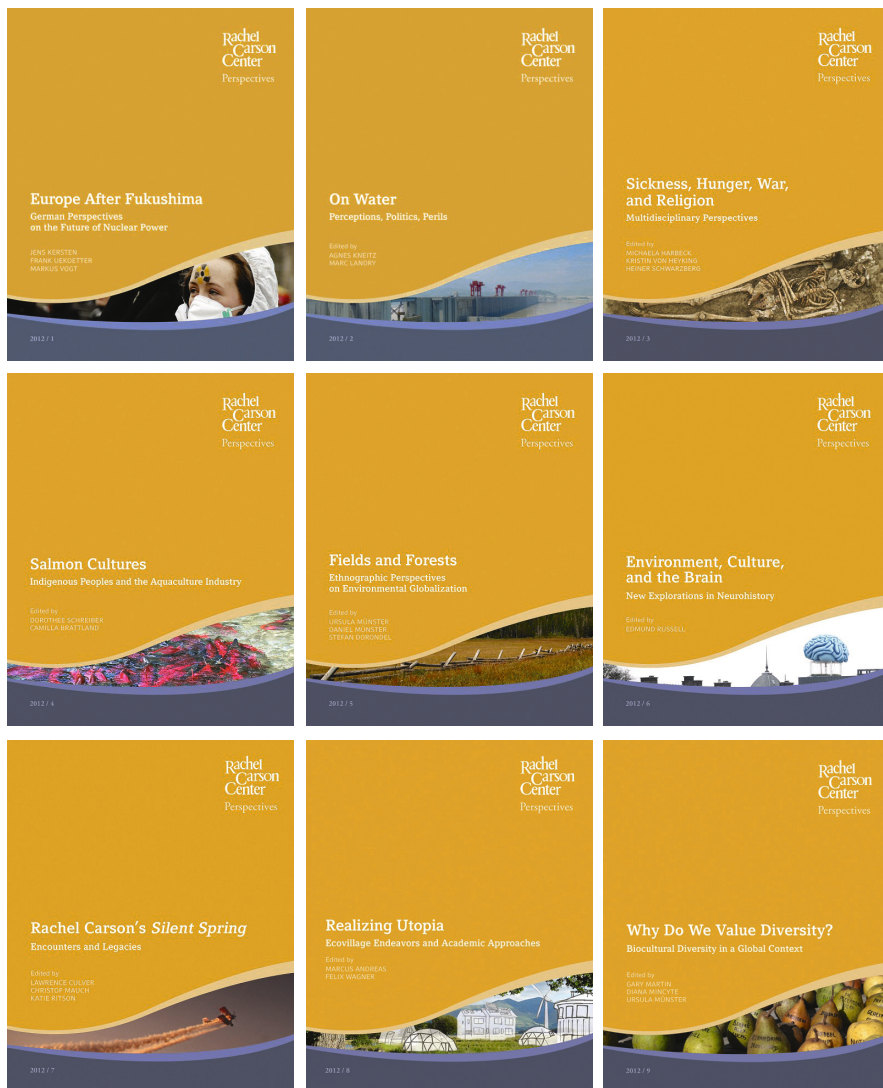
## 8 Library and Film Archive

Immediately after opening its doors in 2009, the Rachel Carson Center began to collect the most relevant literature in the environmental humanities for its staff and fellows. In 2012, the RCC library was officially integrated into LMU Munich's university library system. This has meant a period of great transition for the library, including cataloguing the entire collection in the *Bayerisches Verbundsystem* (Bavarian library network catalogue); but it has also opened up the library, and by extension the center, to the greater university community. The RCC collection is now searchable in the university's online catalogue, OPAC, and LMU staff and students are able to use the RCC library. The library holds approximately 800 volumes, including the entire print sets of *Environmental History*, *Environment and History*, and *Global Environment*. The RCC additionally sponsors online access to these journals, and to *The Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature & Culture*, for the whole LMU Munich community (approximately 60,000 users).

The collection continues to grow steadily. In 2012 the RCC was the recipient of a grant from the *Carl-Friedrich-von-Siemens Stiftung* (Siemens Foundation): the center will receive 5,000 Euros per year for the next three years in order to add relevant literature to its shelves. The RCC library also received a large donation of historical forestry books from the David Lubin Memorial Library at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome. These books, dating primarily from the 1940s to 1970s, provide researchers in Munich with a unique collection of sources.

The RCC library is not only interested in print media, but multimedia items as well. Together with the Environment & Society Portal, the library is expanding its collection of films, primarily environmental documentaries. All films screened in the Green Visions Film Series are integrated into the RCC collection. In addition, Research Fellow Franziska Torma and Multimedia Library Coordinator Ben Tendler have worked with ECOMOVE International to create a collection of environmental films that we expect to grow into one of the largest in the world. These films will not only be available in the RCC library, but will also be stored on the Environment & Society Portal, (<http://www.environmentandsociety.org/collections/ecomove>).

The RCC library continues to grow.



RCC Perspectives 2012, issues 1 to 9.

## 9 Publications

### RCC Perspectives

- **Issue 1:** “Europe after Fukushima: German Perspectives on the Future of Nuclear Power.” By Jens Kersten, Frank Uekoetter, and Markus Vogt
- **Issue 2:** “On Water: Perceptions, Politics, Perils.” Edited by Agnes Kneitz and Marc Landry
- **Issue 3:** “Sickness, Hunger, War, and Religion: Multidisciplinary Perspectives.” Edited by Michaela Harbeck, Kristin von Heyking, and Heiner Schwarzberg
- **Issue 4:** “Salmon Cultures: Indigenous Peoples and the Aquaculture Industry.” Edited by Dorothee Schreiber and Camilla Brattland
- **Issue 5:** “Fields and Forests: Ethnographic Perspectives on Environmental Globalization.” Edited by Ursula Münster, Daniel Münster and Stefan Dorondel
- **Issue 6:** “Environment, Culture, and the Brain: New Explorations in Neurohistory.” Edited by Edmund Russell
- **Issue 7:** “Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring: Encounters and Legacies.” Edited by Lawrence Culver, Christof Mauch, and Katie Ritson
- **Issue 8:** “Realizing Utopia: Ecovillage Endeavors and Academic Approaches.” Edited by Marcus Andreas and Felix Wagner
- **Issue 9:** “Why Do We Value Diversity? Biocultural Diversity in Global Context.” Edited by Gary Martin, Diana Mincyte, and Ursula Münster
- **Issue 10:** “Mining in Central Europe: Perspectives from Environmental History.” Edited by Frank Uekoetter

### Umwelt & Gesellschaft (Environment and Society) – Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht

- **Volume 4:** Mathias Mutz, *Umwelt als Ressource. Die sächsische Papierindustrie 1850–1930* (The Environment as a Resource: The Saxon Paper Industry 1850–1930)

- **Volume 5:** Martin Bemann, *Beschädigte Vegetation und sterbender Wald. Zur Entstehung eines Umweltproblems in Deutschland 1893–1970* (Damaged Vegetation and Dying Forest: The Development of an Environmental Problem in Germany 1893-1970)

## The Environment in History: International Perspectives

- **Volume 1:** *Civilizing Nature: National Parks in Global Historical Perspective*. Edited by Bernhard Gissibl, Sabine Höhler, and Patrick Kupper

## Publications Sponsored by the RCC

- Bankoff, Greg, Uwe Lübken, and Jordan Sand, eds. *Flammable Cities: Urban Conflagration and the Making of the Modern World*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2012.
- Dudley, Marianna. *Environmental History of the UK Defence Estate, 1945 to the Present*. London: Continuum, 2012.
- Mauch, Christof, and Sylvia Mayer, eds. *American Environments: Climates—Cultures—Catastrophes*. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2012.
- “Special Issue: Climate Change and Religion.” *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture*, Volume 6, Issue 3. Guest edited by Robin Globus Veldman, Andrew Szasz, and Randolph Haluza-Delay. September 2012.
- “Special Issue: Climate and Migration in History.” *Global Environment: A Journal of History and Natural and Social Sciences*, Volume 10 (2012). Guest edited by Uwe Lübken.

The RCC continues its commitment to state-of-the-art research in environmental humanities by supporting fellows and staff in the publication of their work, bridging disciplinary gaps and making scholarship available to a wide audience. Photo by Savannah Van der Niet/ flickr.









## WILDERNESS BABEL

If one wishes to save wilderness, or sets out to recreate or rewild it, what does this mean in places where people predominantly speak Dutch or Finnish or Greek or Nez Percé, and where wilderness does not exist—cannot exist—at least by the same name? What does it mean to protect or bring back any of the following ... *Wildernis, erämaa, ερημία or titoqanót wétes?*



This exhibit collects wilderness-equivalent terms and describes them in a few short paragraphs, discussing how they may be similar to or different from the wilderness that native English speakers know and admire. The subtleties of meanings encompassed by the above terms, say, between human presence or absence, or between love and fear for the wild regions, is what we hope to explore. Our focus in these webpages is less the history of wilderness than the linguistics of wilderness, even though word meanings have their own histories. Even across the English-speaking countries, a reference to "wilderness" may evoke different feelings, images, and sounds.

You may use the map to steer to your favorite language and see how it portrays wilderness, or offer your own comments and contributions there. We hope to expand our Wilderness Babel into a large and useful collection of ideas for land managers, policy makers, environmental theorists, outdoor recreators, and nature enthusiasts.

[Aims and methods](#)

## WILDERNESS BABEL

- [Exhibition overview](#)
- [Aims and methods](#)
- [Mapping wilderness, mapping languages](#)
- [Credits](#)
- [Comment and contribute](#)

### Recent Comments

**T. Davies** Similar to the Irish, the word 'wilderness' in Welsh translates as 'anialwch' or 'diffeithwch'....

[Contribute](#) 3 days ago

**Denis fásach** That's the Irish word. Meaning 'Waste' - suggesting a meaning that predates Romantic and...

[Contribute](#) 3 days ago

**Lise Sedrez** Great job, Marcus. For all it is worth, I use the word "sertão" for wilderness, in Portuguese....

[Contribute](#) 3 days ago

**Marcus Hall** To see another attempt to map global 'wildlands' see E.C. Ellis, et al (2010) on p. 594-95....

[Contribute](#) 1 week ago

**Marcus Hall** Incidentally, if you are looking for more images of wilderness, Google has recently announced its...

[Contribute](#) 1 month ago

## 10 Media and Outreach

### The Environment & Society Portal

The Environment & Society Portal ([www.environmentandsociety.org](http://www.environmentandsociety.org)) is the RCC's digital platform for the publication and exhibition of open-access resources related to the center's themes. The Portal invites users to traverse the globe, travel through time, and trace connections with three custom-designed navigation tools (map viewer, timeline, and keyword explorer). By cultivating a playful browsing experience, we hope that users will find unexpected inspiration.

Whether born-digital, digitized, or aggregated from external sites, all Portal content is free and openly accessible. The Portal's most frequently viewed projects are its born-digital exhibitions, curated collections with contextualizing hypertexts written by experts in environmental humanities fields. Arcardia, a collaboration with the European Society for Environmental History, provides an online venue for shorter illustrated peer-reviewed publications. The Portal's Multimedia Library presents previously published items, many appearing in digital form for the first time. In addition to offering access to a growing collection of academic journals and books, the Multimedia Library profiles films, graphics, podcasts, and artistic works showcasing humanities engagement with the natural environment. Environmentally significant places and events fill the map and timeline, rounding out the Portal's offerings with bite-size content designed to appeal to students and the general public.

After two years in development, the Portal went live online in January 2012. Since then we have more than tripled its content and have received some 15,000 unique visits from 150 different countries. Highlights from 2012 include an exhibition on the reception of Silent Spring; 40 new environmental film profiles with trailers; social media networking; and full text of past issues of the journal *Environment and History*. We are working on new partnerships with publishers, expanding links to related resources, eight new exhibitions, and the development of a "pathways" feature to encourage user engagement and sharing. As the Portal grows, we hope it will inspire curiosity and awareness—and even new approaches to environmental humanities.

One of the Portal's highlights of 2012 was the launch of the interactive online exhibition *Wilderness Babel*.



## **The RCC Online: Website, Social Media, and Film Projects**

In 2012, the RCC website received over 54,000 unique visits from all over the world; users were most interested in checking out our events calendar, downloading *Perspectives* issues, and reading fellows' profiles. The RCC newsletter updates a worldwide group of over 1,500 followers with bimonthly issues. And, the RCC made major strides with its social media presence; our Facebook page now has over 550 'likes' (users who follow our news) and on Twitter, we have over 150 followers. On Twitter, we are a prominent poster in the group '#EnvHist,' thus linking us to a global network of researchers in environmental history. And, in fall 2012, the RCC launched its newest virtual endeavor—the blog, "Seeing the Woods," which profiles new research in the environmental humanities and provides thought pieces and reactions to environmental issues around the world.

In 2012, we also expanded access to our documentary shorts on Carson fellows. We added over 20 short films to our online collection and have now developed a YouTube channel, where our videos have received over 4,000 views. In addition, the fellows' profiles are now available on a Rachel Carson Center channel as part of LMU Munich's iTunes U—the educational platform on iTunes. Finally, the film projects are being added to the online searchable national archive in the Competence Centre for Multimedia Objects at the German National Library of Science and Technology.

## **The RCC in Munich: Green Visions and Sustainability Lecture Series**

Our film series, "Green Visions," screened environmental documentary films on two themes in 2012: "water" and "food." The series, hosted at Munich's cultural center, Gasteig, regularly attracted crowds of over 100 visitors with the films even being "sold out" on several occasions. The question and answer sessions following the films proved to be just as popular as the films themselves, with discussants including local experts on subjects like peak oil, sea fisheries, and food politics, as well as the directors of the films in many cases.

The RCC collaborates with 15 other institutes for higher education in the Munich area on the “Nachhaltigkeits Vorlesungsreihe” (sustainability lecture series), which features 4-5 lectures per semester with local and international experts on topics in sustainability such as sustainable land use, climate change, and urban planning. Dennis Meadows, one of the co-authors of the international best-seller *The Limits to Growth* kicked off the fall lecture series and drew a crowd of more than 600 people, with many having to stand to listen to him speak. In summer, the series was named an official project of the UN “World Decade of Education for Sustainable Development” in a special awards ceremony held in Munich.

### **The RCC in the News: Press Coverage**

The RCC continues to be featured in more traditional media sources. The Environment & Society Portal received several large profiles in 2012, including a feature in *Diacronie*, an Italian journal. Munich’s major newspaper, *Die Süddeutsche Zeitung*, profiled the Green Visions film series as well as Dennis Meadow’s visit to Munich. *Kultur und Technik*, the research magazine of the Deutsches Museum, also devoted an entire special issue to the research and projects of the Center. Staff and fellows were profiled in newspapers and journals around the world, including several interviews with RCC Director Christof Mauch in major German dailies, Carson Alumna Sherry Johnson in the *Jamaica Observer*, and Project Director Uwe Lübken in *Atlantic Cities*. Finally, RCC events were featured in a national databank as part of the *Zukunftsprojekt ERDE—Wissenschaftsjahr für nachhaltige Entwicklung 2012* (Future Project EARTH—Year of Research into Sustainable Development) organized by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.



## 11 Fifty Years of *Silent Spring* at the RCC

The RCC sponsored a range of initiatives sponsored to mark the anniversary of the publication of *Silent Spring* in 1962:

### **Hazardous Chemicals: Agents of Risk and Change (1800 - 2000) – Conference**

As a continuation of Rachel Carson's work on pesticides, the RCC, the Research Institute of the Deutsches Museum, and the Department of History of Maastricht University convened a workshop dealing with the history of hazardous chemicals. The workshop included presentations by over 25 scholars from more than 10 countries, and focused on the interaction between the growing presence of hazardous substances in the economy and the environment on the one hand, and the cultural, scientific, and legal responses by modern society to these hazards on the other.

### **Plenary Session on Rachel Carson's Global Legacy – American Society for Environmental History (ASEH) Annual Meeting, Madison, Wisconsin, USA**

The RCC sponsored the plenary session at the annual ASEH meeting in March 2012. The session featured a keynote lecture entitled "Stop Saving the Planet, Already! And Other Tips from Rachel Carson for Twenty-First Century Environmentalists," delivered by Jenny Price, an environmental historian, author, and environmental advocate. Price addressed Carson as a historical figure and also placed her legacy within the context of current environmental movements. Price's talk was followed by a panel discussion including Carson fellow alumna Lisa Sideris, RCC Director Christof Mauch, and Nancy Langston; the discussion was chaired by another Carson Fellow alumnus, Lawrence Culver.

## Silent Spring Essay Contest

Co-sponsored by the RCC, the British Council, the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations, and the Consulate General of the United States, Munich, this contest was organized to commemorate the legacy and impact of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*. Two prizes were on offer to authors who wrote on a topic related to Carson's *Silent Spring* in an approachable and provocative style, in the spirit of Carson's own writing. The contest demonstrated how Carson's book has resonated across the globe, with more than 50 entries from almost 20 countries spread across both hemispheres. The jury awarded the senior prize to Joan Maloof from the USA for her essay "Rachel Carson's Daughter." The junior prize was awarded to Akrish Adhikari from Nepal for his essay "Carson Survives through the Silent Spring." Both of these essays were included in a special anniversary edition of the *RCC Perspectives*, published in autumn 2012.

***RCC Perspectives*, Issue 7 (2012): "Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*: Encounters and Legacies," edited by Lawrence Culver, Christof Mauch, and Katie Ritson**

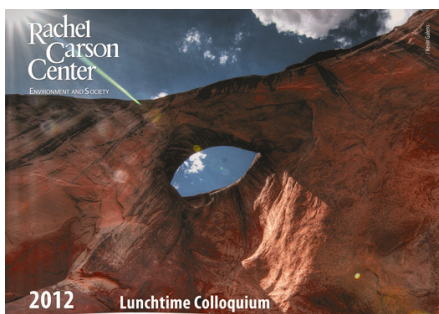
As a culmination of both the essay contest and the plenary session in Madison, the RCC published a special issue of *RCC Perspectives* on the legacies and global impact of *Silent Spring*. This issue takes a critical look at the ways in which Rachel Carson's ecological worldview equips humanity to understand and confront current and future challenges to the planet. The issue features the contributions of Jenny Price, Lawrence Culver, Nancy Langston, Christof Mauch, and Lisa Sideris from the Madison plenary; in addition, it also includes the *Silent Spring* essay contest winners and a reflection on Rachel Carson scholarship by scholar and writer Maril Hazlett.

**“The Legacy of Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*: Special Event on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Its Publication,” UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France**

Together with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, the RCC sponsored a day-long workshop on the fiftieth anniversary of *Silent Spring* at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Featuring an audience of university students, environmental NGOs, members of UNESCO permanent delegations, colleagues of UNESCO, and local policymakers, the event concentrated on the continued legacy of Carson, with a special focus on her international impact. Carson staff and fellows Amy Hay, Arielle Helmick, Matthew Kelly, and Michelle Mart gave presentations that ranged from Carson herself and the work of the RCC to pesticide use, chemical warfare, and the role of female activists as environmental campaigners.

**Environmental  
Spring  
Rachel  
change  
Carson  
Relevance  
Essay  
Reflecting  
Writing  
Contest**





Collection of posters from the lunchtime colloquias 2012.

## 12 Events

### Lunchtime Colloquium

**Melanie Arndt** (RCC/Centre for Contemporary History, Potsdam) on “Chernobyl is Everywhere: The Transnational Process of a Disaster”

**Sigurd Bergmann** (RCC/Norwegian University of Science and Technology) on “Are We Cursed? Religion and Climate Change”

**Claudia Binder** (LMU Munich) on “Methodological Challenges in Interdisciplinary Research: The Example of Pesticide Management”

**Sarah Cameron** (RCC/University of Maryland) on “The Hungry Steppe: Famine, Violence, and the Making of Soviet Kazakhstan”

**Anthony Carrigan** (RCC/Keele University) on “Representing Colonial Disaster: Conflict, Consumption, and Reconstruction”

**Jane Carruthers** (University of South Africa, Johannesburg) on “Towards an Environmental History of the Emerging World?”

**Chiara Certomà** (RCC/Sant’ Anna School of Advanced Studies) on “Critical Gardening and Environmental Justice in Rome”

**Donatella de Rita** (RCC/Universita degli Studi Roma, Italy) on “The Importance of Geology on Urban Sites”

**Carmel Finley** (RCC/Oregon State University) on “The Biological Assumptions and Political Calculations of Post-War Fisheries”

**Eagle Glassheim** (RCC/University of British Columbia) on “Unsettled Landscapes: Postwar Discourse on the Czechoslovakian Borderlands”

**Amy Hay** (RCC/University of Texas-Pan-American) on “Fighting the Deadly Fog: Agent Orange Herbicides and Citizen Activism”

**Peter Höppe** (Munich RE) on “The Risks of Climate Change: Innovative Projects of Munich RE”

**Grace Karskens** (RCC/University of New South Wales) on “The Penrith Lakes Scheme, Australia, and the Lost World of Castlereagh”

**Luke Keogh** (RCC/University of Queensland) on “The Storied Landscape: A Journey to the Australian Desert Country”

**Andrea Kiss** (RCC/University of Szeged) on “Flooding in Eighteenth-Century Budapest: Causes, Courses, Consequences”

**Siddharta Krishnan** (RCC/Ashoka Trust, Bangalore) on “Pastoral Land, Lives, and Livestock: Environmental Change in South India”

**Claudia Leal** (RCC/Universidad de los Andes, Colombia) on “Landscapes of Freedom: The Pacific Lowlands of Colombia, 1850-1930”

**Bridget Love** (RCC/University of Oklahoma) on “Places at Their Limits: The Problem of Sustainability in Rural Japan”

**Michelle Mart** (RCC/Pennsylvania State University) on “Learning to Love Pesticides: A Look at Popular American Attitudes”

**Christopher Pastore** (RCC/University of Montana) on “Clams, Dams, and Cow Pies: The Environmental History of an Early Modern Estuary”

**Giacomo Parrinello** (RCC/University of Siena) on “Disaster Urbanism? Earthquakes and the Making of Modern Urban Environments in Italy”

**Maya Peterson** (RCC/Harvard University) on “Technologies of Rule: Empire, Water,

and the Modernization of Central Asia, 1867-1941”

**Andreas Rechkemmer** (Global Risk Forum) on “The Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change”

**James Rice** (RCC/State University of New York) on “Writing Native American Environmental History”

**Harriet Ritvo** (MIT) on “Going Forth and Multiplying: Animal Migration and Assimilation in the Nineteenth Century”

**Shiho Satsuka** (RCC/University of Toronto) on “Charisma of a Wild Mushroom: Knowledge Translation in Japan”

**Fei Sheng** (RCC/Sun Yat-Sen University) on “Modern Cantonese Perceptions of the Environment: History and Significance”

**Bron Taylor** (RCC/University of Florida) on “Radical Environmentalism in the Age of Terrorism”

**Samuel Temple** (RCC/University of Oklahoma) on “Changes in the Air: The Politics of Climate in Imperial France”

**Shawn van Ausdal** (RCC/Universidad de los Andes) on “Pasture and Power: The Historic Ranching Landscapes of Northern Colombia”

**Louis Warren** (RCC/University of California, Davis) on “‘To Make the Earth Anew’: Environment and Spirit in the Ghost Dance of 1890”

**Peter Weingart** (University of Bielefeld) on “Climate Change in Science, Politics, and the Media”

**Anya Zilberstein** (RCC/Concordia University, Montreal) on “Colonization and Climate Change in Early America”

## Conferences, Workshops, and Seminars

16.02.2012 – 18.02.2012

Frost, Ice, and Snow: Cold Climate in Russian History  
Conference

23.02.2012 – 25.02.2012

Wo steht die Umweltethik? (Where do Environmental Ethics Stand?)  
Workshop

01.03.2012 – 03.03.2012

In Bewegung. Neue Geschichten der Umweltbewegungen (In Motion: New Histories of  
Environmental Movements)  
Workshop

18.04.2012 – 19.04.2012

Eco-images: Altering Environmental Discussions and Political Landscapes  
Workshop



Anna-Katharina Wöbse and Frank Uekötter at the Workshop "In Bewegung. Neue Geschichten der Umweltbewegungen".

27.04.2012 – 29.04.2012

Hazardous Chemicals: Agents of Risk and Change (1800 – 2000)

Conference

18.05.2012 – 19.05.2012

21. Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Technikgeschichte

(Twenty-First Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology)

17.07.2012 – 18.07.2012

Science, Space, and the Environment

Conference

01.08.2012 – 03.08.2012

Trading Environments: Commercial Knowledge and Environmental Transformations

Conference

03.10.2012 – 04.10.2012

Energy Resources: Europe and Its Former Colonies

Workshop



Marc Elie at the Conference "Frost, Ice, and Snow: Cold Climate in Russian History".



10.10.2012 – 11.10.2012

The Alps and the Carpathians: Balancing Use and Protection in the Development of Two European Mountain Regions

Workshop

11.10.2012 – 13.10.2012

Imperialism, Narrative, and the Environment

Workshop

31.10.2012

Environmental History in Estonia: The First Year of KAJAK

Workshop in Tallinn, Estonia

22.11.2012 – 24.11.2012

Shrinking, Sinking, Resurfacing: Small Islands and Natural Hazards in Historical and Current Perspectives

Workshop

30.11.2012 – 02.12.2012

Asian Environments: Governing Nature, Negotiating Knowledge, Constructing Subjectivities

Workshop

## **Panels at Conferences**

28.03.2012

Nature by Numbers: Natural Hazard Insurance in Historical Perspective

Panel – American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting

29.03.2012

Rachel Carson's Global Legacy

Plenary Session – American Society for Environmental History Annual Meeting

06.06.2012 – 08.06.2012

*Mesa sobre historia de la conservación* (History of Latin American Conservation)  
Special Panel at VI Symposium of the Latin American and Caribbean Society for  
Environmental History, SOLCHA

08.08.2012 – 11.09.2012

Eden and Apocalypse: The Strange and Contradictory Nature of Nature in Malibu, and  
The Greening of Religion Hypothesis  
RCC-sponsored panels at “Nature & the Popular Imagination” – Meeting of the  
International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture (ISSRNC)

26.08.2012 – 30.08.2012

Risk, Society, and Culture” & “Climates of Migration  
Special Sessions - Fourth International Disaster and Risk Conference

25.09.2012 – 28.09.2012

‘What’s the matter?’ *Die Provokation der Stoffgeschichte* (The Provocation of Material  
History), *Lebensraum Meer. Umwelt- und entwicklungspolitische Ressourcenfragen in  
den 1960er und 1970er Jahren* (The Ocean: Environmental and Political Development  
Questions in the 1960s and 1970s), *Zwischen Knappheit und Überfluss: Abfall als  
Problem und Ressource in der Geschichte* (Between Shortage and Abundance: Waste  
as a Problem and Resource in History), and Social Conflicts and Internationalism in the  
Twentieth Century: Towards a Transnational History of Social Movements  
Panels at 49th Historikertag (49th Biennial Meeting of the German Association of  
Historians), Mainz, Germany

## Summer Schools and Academies

27.06.2012 – 30.06.2012

Rural History vs. Environmental History?

ESEH Summer School, Flaran, France

06.08.2012 – 24.08.2012

Global Environments Summer Academy 2012

Socio-ecological Interactions in a Dynamic World, Munich International Summer University

28.08.2012 – 31.08.2012

Natural Resources: Historical Ideas, Exploration, and Exploitation

ESEH Summer School, St. Petersburg, Russia



John Agbonifo and Gary Martin at the Global Environments Summer Academy 2012.

## Climate Discussion Group

07.02.2012

Presentations by Fiona Cameron, Johannes Schubert, and Sherry Johnson

06.03.2012

Climate and Migration: Anya Zilberstein and Eleonora Rohland

03.04.2012 at 14:00

James Rice on “Climate, Kinship, and Power: Susquehannocks, Piscataways, and the ‘Little Ice Age’”

24.04.2012

Eagle Glassheim on “Teaching Climate Change”

05.06.2012

Thomas Hajduk on “And the Responsibility of Business Is...? Multinational Enterprises, Codes of Conduct and Norms for Globalization”

10.07.2012

Andrea Kiss on “The Millennium EU Project and Climate Reconstructions”

## Lectures, Panel Discussions, and Roundtables

28.02.2012

Jeffrey H. Jackson (Rhodes College, USA) on “Photographic Narratives of Destruction and Recovery in the 1910 Paris Flood”

11.04.2012

Rio+20 Earth Debate on Food Security

Panel Discussion with Hanna Schösler (RCC/Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Christian Suchomel (ÖBZ Munich), Bron Taylor (RCC/University of Florida, USA)

23.04.2012

Joachim Radkau (Bielefeld University, Germany) on “Was there an Era of Ecology?”

22.05.2012

Bron Taylor (RCC/University of Florida, USA) on “Spirituality after Darwin: ‘Dark Green’ Nature Religion as a New, Global Religious Movement”

01.06.2012

Roundtable Discussion with Agricultural Experts  
Jena, Germany

11.10.2012

David Arnold (University of Warwick, UK) on “The Empire of Nature: Travel, Self, and Transformation”

Keynote Lecture, Imperialism, Narrative, and the Environment Workshop

17.10.2012

*Natur, Technik und Kultur im Menschenzeitalter: Wie leben wir im Anthropozän?*

Podium Discussion on the Anthropocene Exhibition

Reinhold Leinfelder (RCC/Freie Universität Berlin); Nina Möllers (RCC/Deutsches Museum), Christian Schwägerl (Spiegel Deutschland)

08.11.2012

America after the Elections: What Will Change?

Lecture and Discussion with Policy Expert Gerald Robert Livingston

## **Sustainability Lecture Series**

10.01.2012

*Nachhaltige Landnutzung und Ernährung* (Sustainable Land Use and Food Production)

Karl von Koerber (Technische Universität München)

Thomas Knoke (Technische Universität München)



24.01.2012

*Klimawandel: Prüfstein für nachhaltiges Handeln* (Climate Change: The Touchstone for Sustainable Behavior)

Gesine Schwan (Humboldt-Viadrina Berlin)

Johannes Wallacher (Hochschule für Philosophie München)

07.02.2012

*Erneuerbare Energien: Technische Wunder und Akzeptanzkonflikte* (Renewable Energy: Technical Miracles and the Challenge of Market Acceptance)

Frank Ulmer (Hochschule für Gestaltung Schwäbisch Gmünd)

Stefan Wittkopf (Fachhochschule Weihenstephan)

14.02.2012

*Kultur der Nachhaltigkeit: Wohlstand oder Wachstum?* (The Culture of Sustainability: Prosperity or Growth?)

Meinhard Miegel (Denkwerk Zukunft)

Julian Nida-Rümelin (LMU Munich)

02.05.2012

*Biodiversität: Von Roten Listen und Green Deals* (Biodiversity: From the Red List to Green Deals)

Manfred Niekisch (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt)

Josef Reichholf (Technische Universität München)

08.05.2012

*Soziale Nachhaltigkeit: Eine Gerechte und Wachstumsneutrale Gesellschaft?* (Social Sustainability: A Just and Growth-Neutral Society?)

Felix Ekardt (Universität Rostock)

Irmi Seidl (ETH Zurich)

05.06.2012

*Bildung und Wissenschaft für eine Nachhaltige Entwicklung* (Education and Research for Sustainable Development)

Gerhard de Haan (Freie Universität Berlin)

Ingrid Hemmer (Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)

26.06.2012

*Stadtplanung vor neuen Herausforderung* (Urban Planning in Light of New Challenges)

Albert Speer (Architect, Frankfurt am Main)

Gebhard Wulfhorst (Technische Universität München)

03.07.2012

*Nachhaltiges Wirtschaften und Innovation: PR oder Führungsthema?* (Sustainable Economies and Innovation: PR or Management Issue?)

Peter Dürr (Hochschule München)

Bolko von Oetinger (Senior Vice President BCG)

04.12.2012

Dennis Meadows on "The Limits to Growth and the Future of Humanity"



Dennis Meadows (right) and Donald Worster in discussion with a group from the RCC.

## Exhibitions

13.01.2012 – 15.04.2012

*Kabelsalat – Energiekonsum im Haushalt* (Cable Tangle – Energy Consumption in the Home), Deutsches Museum

20.10.2012-23.10.2012

*Natur als kulturelle Herausforderung* (Nature as a Cultural Challenge)  
RCC Booth at *Münchner Wissenschaftstage* (Academic Fair)



Elisabeth Zellmer with visitors at the *Münchner Wissenschaftstage*.

**Film Screenings**  
**(including moderated discussions with invited guests)**

11.01.2012

*A Crude Awakening: The Oil Crash*

Green Visions Film Series

08.02.2012

*Die 4. Revolution*

Green Visions Film Series

14.03.2012

*Flow*

Green Visions Film Series

18.04.2012

*Über Wasser*

Green Visions Film Series

06.05.2012 / 08.05.2012

*Cuates de Australia*

DOK.Fest – 27th Munich International Documentary Filmfest

06.05.2012 / 09.05.2012

*No Man's Zone*

DOK.Fest – 27th Munich International Documentary Filmfest

16.05.2012

*Gasland*

Green Visions Film Series

13.06.2012

*Water Makes Money*

Green Visions Film Series

11.07.2012

*The End of the Line*

Green Visions Film Series

11.10.2012 / 18.10.2012

*Food, Inc.*

Green Visions Film Series

08.11.2012

*Raising Resistance*

Green Visions Film Series

13.12.2012

*We Feed the World*

Green Visions Film Series

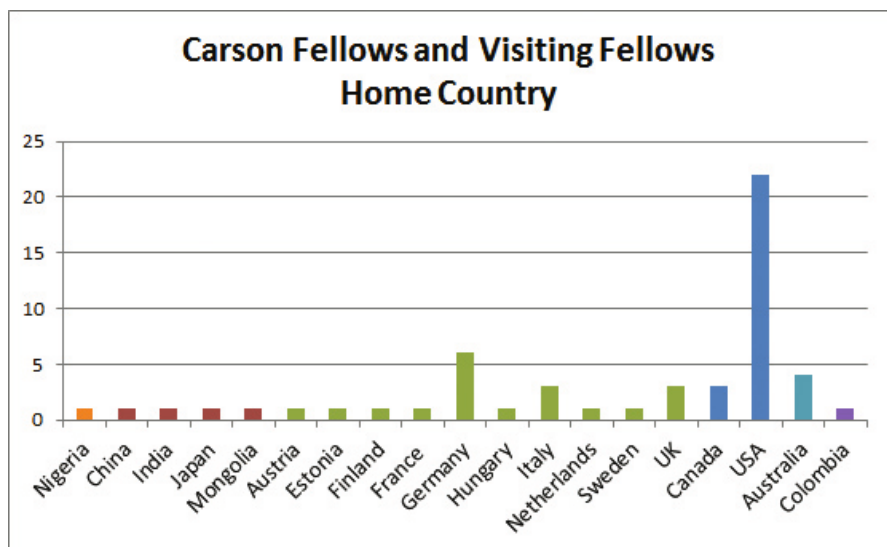
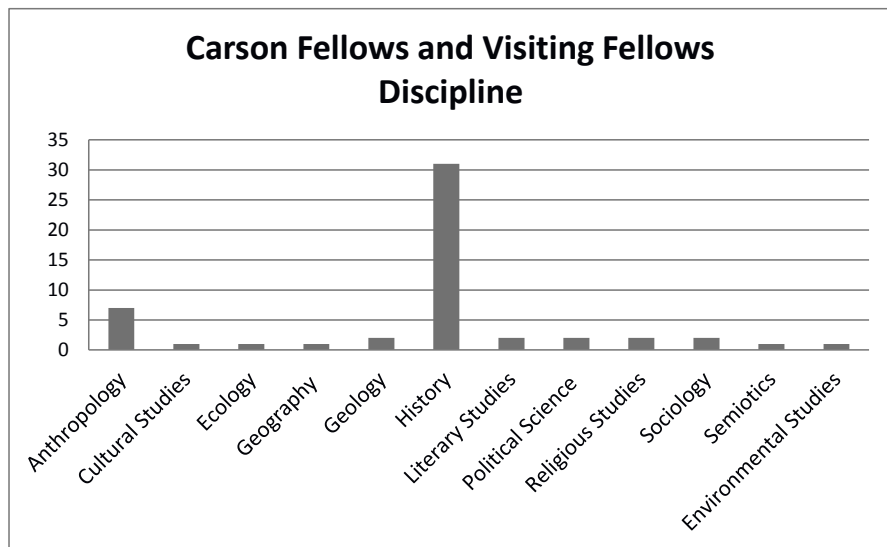




## 13 Collaborations

The RCC would not be what it is without its collaborative partners in Germany, Europe, and around the globe. In 2012, we collaborated with more than 100 institutions and academic societies. Some of these partners added expertise for a specific conference, such as the Collegium Carolinum, a research institute on Bohemian history, and the Alpine Museum, who co-sponsored the workshop “The Alps and the Carpathians: Balancing Use and Protection in the Development of Two European Mountain Regions.” Other relationships connect the center with a large pool of interested scholars, such as the online project “Arcadia: Explorations in European Environmental History,” which is jointly run with the European Society for Environmental History.

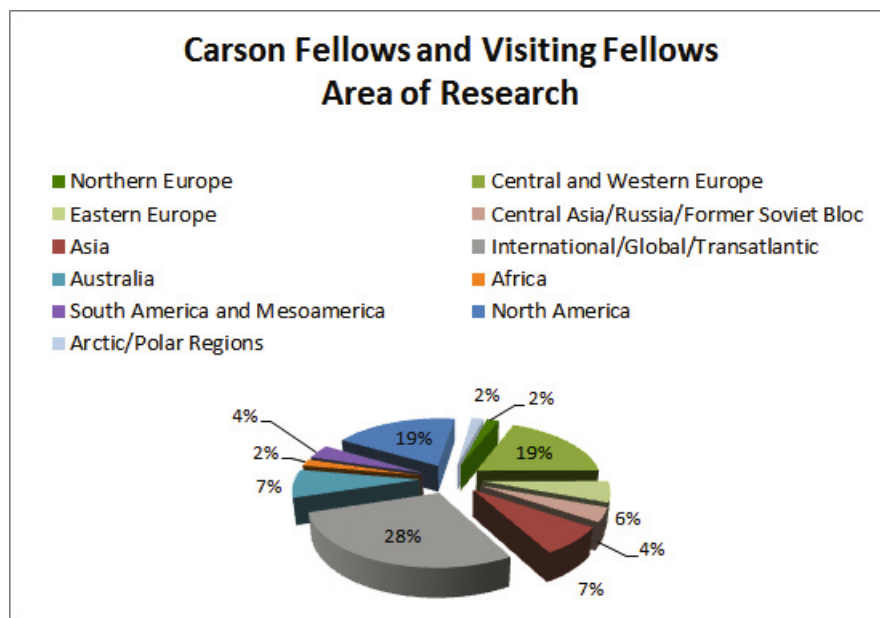
We also expanded our network of institutions in the environmental humanities; staff and fellows traveled to or organized events with organizations such as the Estonian Centre for Environmental History (Keskkonnaajaloo Keskus, KAJAK), the Center for Ecological History at Renmin University, Beijing, China, and the Center for Environmental Research in Umeå, Sweden. In addition, we co-sponsored events at several large conferences around the world: the American Society for Environmental History in Madison, Wisconsin; the Sixth Symposium of the Latin American and Caribbean Society for Environmental History (SOLCHA) in Villa de Leyva, Colombia; and the Fourth International Disaster and Risk Conference in Davos, Switzerland. The center also collaborates locally with fourteen institutes for higher education from the Munich region on the sustainability lecture series. And finally, the RCC partnered with various cultural organizations like the British Council, the Consul General of the United States, and UNESCO on workshops and programs.





## 14 Fellows

The Carson fellowship program provides funding for both highly regarded, established researchers and promising postdoctoral scholars who are looking to complete books or articles that correspond to one of our research themes. In addition to the Carson fellows, the RCC also supports Carson professors, visiting fellows, and LMU fellows. Carson professors are LMU Munich professors who work on environmental topics; they receive funding in order to pursue their own research in environmental studies and also to be part of the academic life at the RCC. Visiting fellows are researchers from outside of Germany who receive external funding and who are invited to do work at the RCC for varying lengths of time. LMU fellows are members of the LMU Munich faculty who take an active role in RCC programs.



## Carson Fellows



**John Agbonifo**

August – September 2012

Green Movements and Environmental Governance in Nigeria

John Agbonifo is an assistant professor of sociology at Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria. His research and publications focus on topics related to environmental movements, environmental governance, and development. Agbonifo was a recipient of the Global South Scholar Fellowship from the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies in 2011, and the Garnet Junior Mobility Fellowship from Warwick University in 2009.

Agbonifo's research project explores the contribution of the green movement to environmental governance in Nigeria. It engages with questions concerning the prospects and challenges the movement must contend with, and what political space it maneuvers in. Agbonifo argues that, while there is little political space for the movement to instigate and shape official environmental policy, it has played a significant role in awareness creation, education, conflict prevention and resolution, local leadership building and campaign strategy development, enhancement of local environmental consciousness, and so forth. He determines that these activities have inspired a cultural shift in Nigeria.



**Melanie Arndt**

June – November 2012

“Chernobyl is Everywhere”: The Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster as a Transnational Process



Melanie Arndt is a twentieth-century historian interested in disasters as transnational processes and their social impacts. She was the director of the international research project “Politics and Society after Chernobyl: Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, Lithuania, and Germany,” funded by the German Volkswagen Foundation at the Center for Contemporary History Potsdam (Germany). Arndt has taught at the Humboldt University Berlin, Potsdam University, and the European Humanities University Vilnius/Minsk (Lithuania).

Arndt’s project examines the transnational process of the 1986 nuclear disaster in Chernobyl. The legacies of Chernobyl are manifold, and they are closely intertwined with the Cold War. The perception of the disaster, and the ways in which states and communities dealt with it, were clearly bifurcated by Cold War divisions; but like many things, they also transcended them geographically and temporally, reaching far into contemporary discourses. In her project, Arndt analyzed the interconnection of these transnational processes as exemplified by the so-called Chernobyl children—children from Belarus who traveled to Germany for weeks or even months to recuperate in the early 1990s. Through these processes, the Chernobyl children and their German host parents became important carriers of (post-) Cold-War knowledge.



### **Sigurd Bergmann**

December 2011 – February 2012

Sacred Geography: Religion in the Lived Space of Climatic Change

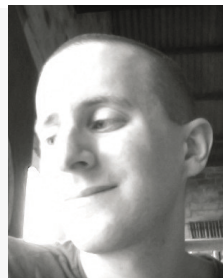
Sigurd Bergmann, a professor of religious studies in the Department of Archaeology and Religious Studies at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, has conducted field work in the Sámi Arctic, Peruvian Andes, Aboriginal Australia, and Mayan Yucatan, among others. He has published more than 250 books and articles since 1985, including an extensive monograph on Sámi visual arts.

Bergmann's RCC project critically considers methodologies of space and place in relation to religious understandings of climate change. Bergmann returns the vulnerability of people to the center of global climate change research. His work explores the implications of climate change in the frame of the environmental humanities while focusing on the study of religion as a microcosm of the human and cultural dimension of climate change. The role of religion in climatic change is not analyzed as an isolated phenomenon but explored with regards to its intersection with the environment, climate impact science, environmental anthropology, and human geography.

**Josh Berson**

October 2012 – June 2013

Carnivory: The First 1.8 Million Years



Josh Berson is an anthropologist and historian whose work is concerned with the role of social and cognitive science in shaping our understanding of what it means to be human. His approach combines cognitive anthropology and science and technology studies. Prior to his stay at the RCC, Berson was a postdoctoral researcher at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science.

At the RCC, Berson started a new project that aspires to a deep history of animal-human relations coupled with a history of the science of behavioral ecology. His project looks at contemporary shifts in the nature of human efforts to shape animal metabolism. Berson uses the history of the introduction of livestock into the Western Desert of Australia and the assimilation of the Indigenous population into the livestock station economy as a lens for understanding the contemporary global transition to a diet based on intensive livestock production. With this work he hopes to trace out the epochal transformation of metabolic life at every level of self-organization.



### **Peter Boomgaard**

September 2012 – May 2013

The Transformation of Landscapes, Humans, and Animals:  
A Systems Approach

Peter Boomgaard is Senior Researcher at the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV), Leiden, and Professor (Emeritus) of Economic and Environmental History of Southeast Asia at the University of Amsterdam. He was trained as an economic and social historian and obtained his PhD from the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam in 1987.

In his RCC project Boomgaard takes on an unprecedented task, venturing to offer the first-ever sweeping, panoramic view of the global environmental history of landscape transformation across five millennia. Arguing that environmental historians have previously focused too narrowly on paired contrasts and causal links, his project will investigate more thoroughly the interdependence of landscapes, humans, livestock, and game in one “system.” In his research, Boomgaard will illustrate how the presence of commensal animals deeply influenced human civilization, while they were also responsible for the creation of certain landscapes.

**Franz-Josef Brüggemeier**

October 2012 – September 2013

History of the Environment, 1750–2010: Germany in an International Perspective



Franz-Josef Brüggemeier is chair in Economic, Social, and Environmental History at the University of Freiburg. In addition, he has acted as director of several major historical exhibitions. During the 2012 summer term he was a visiting professor in the History Department at Harvard University. Brüggemeier's research ranges from social, economic, and environmental history to the history of modern sports.

For most of the nineteenth and twentieth century Germany probably was—and still is—the most industrialized country in Europe, with far-reaching consequences for the environment. In his project, Brüggemeier looks at these consequences, starting at around 1800, the onset of industrialization. Drawing on a wide range of existing literature, Brüggemeier pays special attention both to the major and controversial and to the less established concepts in the field of German environmental history. The project is an attempt to understand which problems contemporaries perceived, and why and how they reacted to them.



**Sandra Brunnegger**

July – December 2012

Between Rights and Laws: Environment, Livelihood and Belonging

Sandra Brunnegger is a legal anthropologist working at the University of Cambridge. Her research in Latin America focuses on violence, human rights, and social movements.

Brunnegger's project explores linkages between people's livelihoods, their environments, and discourses and social practices connected to rights and laws. Different legal case studies will shed light on how rights and laws construct belonging, exploring the practice of law as it is enacted and rights as they are experienced or asserted by communities and political groups. In this respect, the research will ask what kinds of rights can be articulated through existing laws, including environmental laws, and whether such laws carve out new categories of belonging from which individuals and groups or communities may be excluded. Does the law help subjects to attest their rights to specific resources and to a certain quality of their natural environment, or does the law affirm their ties to their communities or groups?

**Fiona Cameron**

August 2011 – March 2012

Governing a Complex Climate Change: Liquid  
Governmentalities and the Climate Crisis



Fiona Cameron is a senior research fellow at the Centre for Cultural Research at the University of Western Sydney. She researches the intersections between museums, public culture, and digital technologies, as well as the role that institutions play in relation to current events and issues. Cameron has been a recipient and lead investigator of seven Australian Research Council grants.

Reworking governmentality concepts, Cameron's RCC project examines climate change governance with regards to the agency (current and potential) of cultural institutions (i.e. museums and science centers) that operate within governance processes; it draws on empirical research on energy and climate justice in Australia and surrounding islands. Subsequent to developing her RCC project into a monograph, Cameron also worked on an edited collection, *Climate Change, Museum Futures* (Taylor and Francis, forthcoming 2014).



**Sarah Cameron**

July – December 2012

The Hungry Steppe: Famine, Mass Violence, and the Making of Soviet Kazakhstan

Sarah Cameron is an assistant professor of Soviet history at the University of Maryland–College Park. Her research interests include the study of mass violence, the relationship between agrarian and non-agrarian peoples, and comparative approaches to empire. Cameron has held post-doctoral fellowships at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Yale University's MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies.

Cameron's project, a book manuscript, investigates the causes and consequences of a little-known episode in the history of Stalinist mass violence, the Kazakh famine in 1930–1933. The famine, which violently transformed the Kazakh steppe—once populated by nomads and their animal herds—into a Soviet industrial and agrarian landscape, radically altered the demographic and environmental profile of Kazakhstan. Her research reveals that changes to the Kazakhs' pastoral nomadic economy, first begun in the 1870s when the steppe was under Russian imperial rule and then dramatically intensified in the late 1920s under the leadership of Joseph Stalin, led to the Kazakh famine.

**Anthony Carrigan**

January – June 2012

Representing Postcolonial Disaster: Conflict, Consumption,  
Reconstruction

Anthony Carrigan is a lecturer in English at Keele University. His research focuses on postcolonial literatures and cultures, looking especially at issues such as globalization, economic development, and environmental change. His first book, *Postcolonial Tourism: Literature, Culture, and Environment* (Routledge, 2011), examines writings from islands in the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the Indian Ocean in relation to interdisciplinary tourism studies.

Carrigan's research project on postcolonial literature and disaster addresses the social and environmental dimensions of a number of post-World War II crises, exploring how literary representations of compound crises can enhance disaster management and sustainability planning in states still wrestling with Western colonization. Carrigan also examines how disasters demand formal and generic innovations by postcolonial writers, and assesses the constitutive role such narratives can play in relation to processes of social and environmental reconstruction or recovery. He is working towards a second monograph, which will build on his previous research by synthesizing a wide range of disciplinary perspectives and contributing to the exciting work taking place at the intersection between postcolonialism and ecocriticism.

**Chiara Certomà**

June – August 2012

Living Space: Post-Environmental Politics in Local Places

Chiara Certomà is a post-doctoral research fellow at the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies (SSSUP), Pisa. Her research focuses on the contemporary evolution of political ecology and critical geography. Along with her academic work, she has both consulted for and collaborated with some of the largest environmental NGOs in Italy, and carried out research on environmental sustainability in deteriorated urban areas for various administrative bodies in Rome.

Certomà's research project focuses on the material semiotic transformation of socio-environmental relationships in global cities, investigating the spatial practices aimed at readdressing social inequalities in marginalized urban areas. Her project intends to investigate the emerging phenomenon of critical gardening in urban contexts in relation to environmental justice issues. Certomà questions whether—and how—critical gardening may be an appropriate means to contrast environmental inequalities in specific contexts and may, in the long run, suggest an effective strategy for addressing spatial injustice in the urban planning process.

**Donatella de Rita**

April – June 2012

The Role of Geology in Urban Sites and Development:  
The Case of Rome and Naples



Donatella de Rita is an associate professor of volcanology and geology of volcanic areas at Roma Tre University. Her research and publications focus on volcanology, geology, stratigraphy, and volcano-tectonic evolution of volcanic areas. The Italian version of her book *The Seven Hills of Rome*, written in cooperation with colleagues, won the *Premio Biblioteche di Roma* in 2007.

In her RCC project, de Rita uses the examples of Rome and Naples to analyze the role of geology in urban site and development, and to determine at what point urban expansion compromises a city's harmony with nature and ultimately forces its decline. Her research is motivated by the fact that general understanding of the way in which complex geological variables converge in the development of an urban environment is still lacking. To fill this void, de Rita will summarize and describe the rise and fall of Rome and Naples. The history of these cities illustrates that when urban agglomerations over-expand, they usually reach dimensions at which a process of decline starts. De Rita argues that the decline of both cities occurred when the necessity of expansion produced a disconnection with the path of "sustainable development," giving rise to natural and anthropogenic hazards.



**Marianna Dudley**

October 2011 – March 2012

Environmental Movement: Towards Walking as a  
Methodology

Marianna Dudley received her doctorate at Bristol University, where she worked on the Arts and Humanities Research Council funded project “Militarized Landscapes in the Twentieth Century: Britain, France, and the USA.” Her dissertation explored the seemingly paradoxical role of the military as conservationist at five key training sites in Southwest England and Wales.

Dudley’s RCC project explores the possibilities of movement for landscape research. Based on personal experiences of walking as part of her research in militarized landscapes in England, she analyzes the ways in which walking can open up new research routes in familiar places, as it tests, challenges, and affirms boundaries, and presents multiple journeys through space and history to the environmental (and other) historian. Her project considers ideas for a methodology of walking that goes beyond fieldwork to consider the implications and research benefits of moving through a historic landscape.

**Fei Sheng**

October – December 2012

The Australian Victorian Gold Rushes: Research from the  
Perspective of Environmental History (1851–1880)



Fei Sheng is an environmental historian and an assistant professor at the School of Asian-Pacific Studies, Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou, China. He received his PhD in world history from Peking University (Bei Da). In 2012, Sheng helped establish the first National Center for Oceanian Studies in China.

Fei's RCC project is a revision of his dissertation, *The Australian Victorian Gold Rushes: A Research from the Perspective of Environmental History (1851–1880)*, which illustrated how the natural landscape and the built environment were both dramatically reshaped by miners, including the Chinese. Furthering this research, Fei will conduct a comparative study of the spread of Chinese indigenous environmental experiences onto the Victorian and Californian goldfields. His project will show how the traditional Chinese experiences were transferred to the new continents and their local impact.

**Carmel Finley**

June – November 2012

All the Boats on the Ocean: The Politics of Fishery Subsidies

Carmel Finley, a former newspaper reporter, completed her PhD in the history of science at the University of California, San Diego in 2007. She is interested in the role of oceans as an intersection between science and politics. Finley's book *All the Fish in the Sea: Maximum Sustained Yield and the Failure of Fisheries Management* (University of Chicago Press, 2011) deals with the influence of the US State Department in the development of fisheries science between 1945 and 1958.

Finley's newest book and RCC project, *All the Boats on the Ocean: Subsidies and the Growth of Post-War Fisheries*, is an examination of the domestic and foreign policy pressures that drove fisheries expansion after World War II. Her research explores the reasons for the creation of government subsidies, and their persistence long after fish stocks have been severely reduced or even eradicated. By examining the assumptions behind government actions during this period, Finley hopes to offer an explanation of how overfishing happened. With this explanation, perhaps a new understanding of the human relationship with the sea can be charted based on principles of conservation of fish stocks, rather than on estimations of the maximum harvest.

**Eagle Glassheim**

February – April 2012

Cleansing Czechoslovakia's Borderlands, 1940s–1990s



Eagle Glassheim is an associate professor of history at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. He teaches central European history and a survey on global environmental history. His first book, *Noble Nationalists: The Transformation of the Bohemian Aristocracy* (Harvard University Press, 2005), examines the conflicted and ultimately unsuccessful efforts of nobles to navigate the nationalization of the political and social order in the Bohemian lands from the 1880s to the 1940s.

Glassheim's RCC project, a section in his book project titled *Cleansing the Czechoslovak Borderlands, 1940s to the 1990s*, studies the political, social, and environmental legacy of the expulsion of Czechoslovakia's three million Germans in 1945 and 1946. Though this project focuses most broadly on the aftermath of forced migration, his RCC research revolves around some central environmental historical components. Among other things, Glassheim looks at discourses relating the health of natural and social environments, connections between forced migration and environmental decline, and ecological metaphors in debates surrounding the post-war Czechoslovak borderlands.

**Amy Hay**

January – December 2012

The Defoliation of America: Agent Orange Herbicides and the American Public

Amy Hay is an assistant professor of history at the University of Texas–Pan American. Her research examines the intersections of health, the environment, and public policy. Hay's manuscript, *Recipe for Disaster: Chemical Wastes, Community Activism, and Public Health at Love Canal, 1945–2000*, won the 2006 Dixon Ryan Fox Manuscript Prize from the New York Historical Association.

Hay's RCC research project furthers her analysis of the interface between experts and laypeople in contesting the safety of chemicals and their effects on human beings and the environment. Focusing on the development, use, and protests against Agent Orange—the herbicide compound used to defoliate jungle growth in the Vietnam War—her research project explores ideas of citizenship, expertise, and environmental policy. Hay argues that the various protests against Agent Orange reveal problems in democratic decision-making, and the resulting policies in both domestic and international arenas, due to a discourse of rationality and expertise that privileged scientific actors. Her project sheds light on the process by which policy decisions are influenced by scientific expertise.

**Andrew Isenberg**

December 2009 – August 2010; June – August 2012

An Empire of Remedy: Indians, Smallpox, and Vaccination in the Antebellum American West



Andrew Isenberg is an environmental historian with an interest in the North American West and the encounter between Native Americans and European Americans. He is a professor of history at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Isenberg is the author of *The Destruction of the Bison: An Environmental History, 1750–1920* (2000) and *Mining California: An Ecological History* (2005), and the editor of *The Nature of Cities: Culture, Landscape, and Urban Space* (2006).

Isenberg's RCC research project centers on smallpox. Smallpox was the scourge of late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century North America, and the vast majority of the victims of the disease in North America were Indians. His research examines the motivations behind the inoculation programs of the 1830s, and in particular the Indian Vaccination Program of 1832, looking at contemporary attitudes towards medical intervention and public health and also at implications for America's image of itself as a country and a colonizing power.





### **Grace Karskens**

October – December 2012

Lost Country: An Environmental History of the Penrith Lakes Scheme and Castlereagh, New South Wales

Grace Karskens is an associate professor of history in the School of Humanities at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia and a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. Her research interests include urban/environmental humanities, Australian colonial history, and cross-cultural history. Karskens is interested in promoting historical understandings and awareness to wide audiences and is currently a trustee of the Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales and the online Dictionary of Sydney project.

Karskens's RCC project is an environmental history of extraordinary landscape destruction and reconstruction: the Penrith Lakes Scheme and the lost colonial landscape of Castlereagh in Western Sydney. Her research offers a deep time bioregional history, explore the environmental experience of Australia's urban and peri-urban people, and critically review the ideas, legislation, practice, and policies that reshape the urban environment so dramatically. Karskens's resulting book will demonstrate that a cross-disciplinary approach merging the humanities and sciences provides a much-needed, more accurate analysis of current thinking and practice in areas such as environmental impact assessment, landscape rehabilitation, water management, and sustainability.

**Matthew Kelly**

September 2012 – February 2013

Quartz and Feldspar: A History of Modern Dartmoor



Matthew Kelly is a senior lecturer in the History Department of the University of Southampton in the United Kingdom. A historian of Ireland by training and with considerable interest in the history of Poland, he has developed his interest in the history of landscape during the past few years. He completed his PhD at the University of Oxford, where he was also a British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

While at the RCC, Kelly worked on an intertextual history of the discursive frameworks that shaped how the Dartmoor landscape—the largest enclosed rural landscape in the south of England—has been encountered over the past two hundred years. He approaches this project with a determination to keep in view the material Dartmoor—the barely perishable Dartmoor of granite—that lies beyond the “Dartmoor” of text and representation. In taking the historical perspective, Kelly has three goals: First, to offer a historical account of how the present physical state of the National Park came to be; second, to delineate the ways in which attempts to protect this and other landscapes generated problems of local, regional, and national governance; and, third, to identify the roots of present thinking, including “sustainability,” the panacea of our times.

**Luke Keogh**

August 2012 – January 2013

The Storied Landscape: A Queensland Collection

Luke Keogh is an environmental historian whose research interests include storied landscapes, creative approaches to resource histories, and museum collections. He received his doctorate from the University of Queensland, Australia, and worked on a number of online projects including the *Queensland Historical Atlas* ([www.qhatlas.com.au](http://www.qhatlas.com.au)) in his time there. Before arriving in Munich he was a fellow of the National Library of Australia. While in Munich, Keogh will also be working on the RCC special exhibition project on the Anthropocene, which is scheduled to open at the Deutsches Museum in fall 2014.

Keogh refers to his project as “an environmental history with a creative logic”; a collection of stories and landscapes of resources in Queensland from different moments in time, the project engages with recent anthropological works of “ethnographic natural history.” He looks at the roots that stories take in the landscape through material connections, such as a map, road signs for tourists, a colonial novel, and so forth. The Queensland storied landscape is a lens for critically understanding and seeing how landscapes are transformed by resource extraction.

**Andrea Kiss**

May – October 2012

Causes and Consequences of Major Eighteenth-Century  
Danube Floods at Pest-Buda



Before taking up her fellowship, Andrea Kiss was a research fellow at the Habsburg Historical Institute in Budapest and Szeged University. In November 2012 she joined the Vienna University of Technology. Her research and publications mainly focus on long-term changes in the historical environment of Hungary and the Carpathian Basin, with special emphasis on climate variabilities and weather-related natural extremes from the High Middle Ages up to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

In her research project, Kiss analyzes the major eighteenth-century Danube floods in the area around today's Budapest from three different perspectives. First, Kiss focuses on the natural-scientific, hydrology-based elements, such as main causes and course of events, but also frequency, seasonality, magnitude, and maximum discharge. Second, she concentrates on the impacts—especially emphasizing the damage and the short- and long-term social response of local society and local, regional, and supra-regional government. Finally, in a case study, Kiss investigates the causes, history, and consequences of the ice flood of 1775, the greatest eighteenth-century flood event that occurred in this area.

# Fellow's Diary

*A Week at the RCC  
with Carson Fellow Andrea Kiss*

Monday 16 April	Finish my paper for Works-in-Progress (WIP)!
Tuesday 17 April	
Wednesday 18 April	Weekly WIP (informal fellow's group) — Green Visions Film Series screening
Thursday 19 April	RCC Lunchtime Colloquium: Amy Hay on "Agent Orange Herbicides and Citizen Activism"
Friday 20 April	Fellows' Friday night dinner out – trying out Bavarian food this week!
SA	
SU	Munich's Pinakothek art galleries are free on Sundays – might check one out!



## Next Week:

Roundtable  
discussion with  
Joachim Radkau,  
our climate  
discussion group,  
and a conference!





Workshop!  
"Eco-Images:  
Altering  
Environmental  
Discussions and  
Political  
Landscapes"



RCC Staff and Fellows



## POST CARD

We had fantastic  
weather on our trip  
to the mountains!

Glad I didn't forget  
my camera!



Rachel Carson Center

Leopoldstr. 11a

80802 München



**Siddhartha Krishnan**

September – December 2012

Nilgiri Pastoral

Siddhartha Krishnan is a sociologist by training. His conceptual interests are in the material and cultural aspects implicated in interfaces between the sociocultural and biophysical realms. His methodological interests lie in combining field with archival work. After completing his PhD in 2004 at the University of Madras, he joined the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Bangalore, on a post-doctoral fellowship.

Krishnan's project is concerned with the change of the landscape in colonial and postcolonial Nilgiris, South India—changes he will discuss in his book, *Nilgiri Pastoral*. During fieldwork, Krishnan discovered a correlation between the decline in buffalos and the decline in grassland caused by colonial and postcolonial land use policies, and he intends to engage with this phenomenon through the lens of environmental history. He will examine the complex interactions of war and peace, capitalism, sedentarization schemes, along with questions of labor, amelioration, conservation, post-independence socialist economy mandates, and so forth, and their effects on Nilgiri landscapes.

**Claudia Leal**

January – June; September – December 2012

Landscapes of Freedom: The Pacific Lowlands of Colombia,  
1850–1930



Claudia Leal is an associate professor in the Department of History at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogota, Colombia. Her research has focused on both the formation and the present state of peasant societies in rainforest environments, and on the role of racial categorization in shaping Latin American societies in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Leal is a founding member and currently the president of SOLCHA, the Latin American and Caribbean Society for Environmental History.

Bringing together environmental history and racial studies, Leal's RCC project is a book manuscript about the formation of a black peasant society after the end of slavery in the Pacific lowlands of Colombia. Her book will help to explain why and how extractive economies are a prevailing form of resource use in jungle environments. Her research focuses on the humanized landscape that emerged as a result of the emancipated slaves' definition of freedom: to control the extraction processes—over their time and lives—and to manage their territory according to their own knowledge and worldview. Leal illustrates how post-emancipation societies are deeply influenced by the functioning of their economies, which in turn is shaped by the natural setting and the way people relate to it.

**Timothy LeCain**

September 2011 – May 2012

Hybridity, Techno-Symmetry, and Bio-Indicators: A  
Comparative History of Landscape, Culture, and Technology  
in Japanese and American High-Modernist Copper Mining

Timothy LeCain is an associate professor of history at Montana State University. His research and publications focus on the environmental and technological history of twentieth-century mining and related topics. His book *Mass Destruction: The Men and Giant Mines that Wired America and Scarred the Planet* (Rutgers University Press, 2009) won the 2010 George Perkins Marsh Prize, conferred by the American Society for Environmental History for the best book in environmental history published each year.

LeCain's RCC project is the culmination of a three-year, National Science Foundation-funded collaborative research effort with Professor Brett L. Walker—a comparative international research project into the environmental history of large-scale copper mining and smelting, which examines the Ashio site in Japan and the Anaconda site in the United States. In a sense, this project is a sort of controlled historical experiment that permits close comparison of two very similar technological complexes, in order to highlight and explain the culturally and socially determined constructions of—and reactions to—engineered landscapes, industrial technology, and their environmental and social consequences.

**Reinhold Leinfelder**

June – October 2011; October – December 2012

Affiliated Carson Professor from 1 June 2012

Technology, Nature, and Culture in the Anthropocene:

Learning from the Future



Reinhold Leinfelder is based at the Freie Universität Berlin, where he teaches and researches historical geology, sedimentary geology, invertebrate palaeontology, exobiology, and science communication, with two special foci: one on the evolution, ecology, threats, and protection of coral reefs and oceans, the other on science communication and the interaction of culture and nature. Leinfelder is a corresponding member of the Bavarian Academy of Science and a member of the German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU).

Leinfelder's RCC project focuses on the concept of the Anthropocene, which combines the human, natural, social, and cultural sciences to study the present state and future development of Earth. As this new conception assigns humanity the ultimate responsibility for defining how our future should look without crossing the planetary boundaries of Earth, the Anthropocene provides a good approach for combining protective measures with mitigation and adaptation strategies to address global and regional change. Leinfelder's project aims to develop the outlines of a science-based participation and exhibition concept to help promote and support a knowledge-driven transformation towards a sustainable Anthropocene society.



### **Bridget Love**

January – December 2012

Places at Their Limits: The Problem of Sustainability in Rural Japan

Bridget Love is a cultural anthropologist and lecturer in expository writing at the University of Oklahoma. Her research focuses on rural depopulation, aging, and sustainability, and has been funded by grants from Fulbright, the Social Science Research Council, the National Science Foundation, and the Japan Foundation. Love received her PhD in anthropology from the University of Michigan.

At the RCC, she worked on the book manuscript *Places at Their Limits: The Problem of Sustainability in Rural Japan*. The culmination of long-term ethnographic fieldwork in a depopulating and aging region of rural northeastern Japan, her manuscript explores anxieties over environmental and demographic sustainability in recessionary Japan. Love argues that the optimism and longing for future renewal that animate diverse projects—such as agro-tourism and heritage food industries—also echo the new ethic of responsibility and self-sufficiency promoted by decentralization and other neoliberal reforms. In highlighting tensions between decline and renewal in an era of devolving state responsibility, she also suggests the limits of sustainability as an orientation that promises to generate future viability.

**Michelle Mart**

August 2012 – January 2013

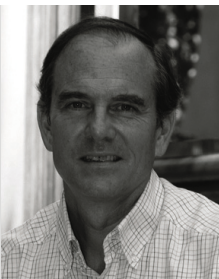
Pesticides, A Love Story



Michelle Mart is an associate professor of history at Pennsylvania State University, Berks campus, where she teaches a variety of courses in American history, including environmental and foreign policy and twentieth-century topics. Her book, *Eye on Israel: How the United States Came to View Israel as an Ally* (State of NY University Press, 2006), is a work in the then-relatively new subfield of cultural diplomacy, looking at the intersections between culture and foreign policy.

At the RCC, Mart worked on a cultural history of synthetic pesticides in the United States from 1945 to the present. Her project focuses primarily on environmental history and builds on some of the themes explored in her earlier research with its interdisciplinary approach to American culture in the late twentieth century. Mart reasons that material motivations and constraints are essential for understanding pesticide use in the post-World War II United States, but that a complete explanation requires a cultural examination of how people viewed pesticides, when they debated their use, and when they did not. To answer these questions she looks at the intersection of popular and political attitudes toward a broad cross section of American life, including the environment, technology, consumption, and foreign policy.



**Gary J. Martin**

March – April 2011; August – September 2011; June – October 2012

Adaptation of Local Knowledge Societies and Systems to Global Change

Gary Martin is an ethno-ecologist who focuses on the inextricable links between biological and cultural diversity and the role of communities in maintaining socio-ecological resilience. In 2000, he founded the Global Diversity Foundation (GDF), which helps indigenous peoples and local communities maintain their agricultural, biological, and cultural heritage through long-term projects encompassing research, training, and social action. Martin is also a research fellow at the School of Anthropology and Conservation at the University of Kent in Canterbury.

Martin's project studies the adaptation of local knowledge societies and systems to global change, drawing on case studies that he has developed through the GDF over the last decade. He argues that indigenous peoples and local communities are on the front line of the struggle against ecological imperialism and environmental injustice, and that they constitute a decentralized, democratic, and dynamic knowledge society which is optimally located to adapt to local changes. In addition to this, Martin also organized the Global Environments Summer Academy in 2011 and 2012.

**John M. Meyer**

November 2012 – July 2013

Environmentalism as Social Criticism: Engaging Material Practices in the Pursuit of Sustainability



John M. Meyer is a professor in the Department of Politics at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California. At Humboldt he is also affiliated with interdisciplinary programs in environmental studies and “Environment and Community,” for which he served as founding coordinator. Meyer is the author of *Political Nature: Environmentalism and the Interpretation of Western Thought* (MIT Press, 2001), co-editor of *The Environmental Politics of Sacrifice* (MIT Press, 2010), and has published in numerous journals.

Meyer believes that while environmental challenges, including climate change, threaten the very fabric of our lives to the degree that the present course of our societies appears literally unsustainable, ambitious efforts to address these rarely seem to resonate with the concerns and ideas most pressing to citizens. At the RCC he addressed this dilemma in a book manuscript which explores ways in which large-scale material practices in society—including use of land, reliance upon automobiles, and dwelling in homes—can create opportunities as well as constraints for arguments regarding sustainability.



### **Timo Myllyntaus**

January – June 2012

Harvest Failures and Famines in Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century Finland, Iceland, and Ireland: Cross-Country Comparison of Socio-Economic and Environmental Margins

Timo Myllyntaus is a professor of Finnish history at the University of Turku. The emphasis of his research is the economic, environmental, and technological history of the energy sector. However, his most recent edited volume, *Thinking through the Environment: Green Approaches to Global History* (White Horse Press, 2011) focuses on methodologies in environmental history.

Using the experiences of Finland, Iceland, and Ireland during the Little Ice Age (1350–1870), Myllyntaus illustrates in his research project that fairly moderate disturbances in the climate can lead to a nationwide calamity. While searching for the causes of these countries' vulnerability, he focuses on the economic, social, and environmental margins as well as spaces for maneuvering. Myllyntaus is interested in assessing whether political and socioeconomic development led to such serious structural rigidities in the countries under study that they lacked the material, organizational, and mental resources to overcome the consequences of natural disasters.

**Karen Oslund**

September 2012 – May 2013

Survival and Adaptation: Modern and Traditional Whaling in the Arctic, 1850–1920



Karen Oslund is a historian interested in whaling, indigenous hunting, and international environmental regulation. Her book, *Iceland Imagined: Nature, Culture, and Storytelling in the North Atlantic* (University of Washington Press, 2011), deals with the European exploration and writing about Iceland from the middle of the eighteenth century, and ends with a discussion of contemporary Icelandic whaling practices and the controversy surrounding them.

While at the RCC, Oslund worked on a transnational history of whaling. Looking at the connections between traditional and modern whaling, her research analyzes a period of about 70 years during which industrial whalers from Western nations extended their catch by wintering over in the Arctic, and hired native inhabitants for their knowledge of the climate, territory, and sustenance in the winter. Oslund will examine how this resulted in a “hybrid” culture of whaling—a hunt which combined both modern and traditional whaling practices—and what the environmental impact of this practice was for the bowhead and right whale populations in the Arctic. Studying whaling, one of the major forms of resource use of the Arctic, can also help us understand the Arctic as a region for environmental history.

**Giacomo Parrinello**

September 2012 – February 2013

Urbanization and Disasters: The 1908 Messina Earthquake  
and the 1968 Belice Valley Earthquake

Giacomo Parrinello is a historian with an interest in the relationships between humans and the environment through time. His research deals with disasters and society, urbanization processes, and resources use and conservation, with a specific focus on Europe over the last two centuries. Parrinello has been awarded grants and scholarships from the European Society for Environmental History, the American Society for Environmental History, the European Association for Urban History, and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Parrinello's research applies the rich literature on the interplay between social, cultural, and economic processes with bio-geophysical dynamics in natural disasters to the study of urban modernization. Such an angle raises the issue of the role of non-human forces and features in urban settings; it encourages the conceptualization of the relationship between humans and the environment as interplay, even in urban areas. As revealed by some recent studies, natural disasters can be a relevant player in the making of modern urban environments: from the physical destruction they may cause to the strategies developed to prevent or cope with them. At the center, Parrinello—aiming to complete his manuscript—focused on the impact of earthquakes on urbanization processes.

**Christopher Pastore**

September 2012 – May 2013

*Between Land and Sea: The Atlantic Coast and the Transformation of New England*



Christopher Pastore, an assistant professor of history at the University of Montana, is a social and cultural historian of early America and the Atlantic world with interests in the human dimensions of environmental change, the history of science, and law.

At the RCC, Pastore worked on his book manuscript, *Between Land and Sea: The Atlantic Coast and the Transformation of New England*, which examines the environmental history of Narragansett Bay (Rhode Island) from first European settlement in 1636 through industrialization during the first third of the nineteenth century. To what extent, this work asks, does the liminal nature of coasts, and estuaries in particular, blur legalities and shape local economies, and how did that in turn lead to environmental change? His study shows that a closer look at the boundary between land and sea provides new insights into the ways early modern people envisioned the boundary between humans and nature.





**Maya Peterson**

June – August 2012

Technologies of Rule: Empire, Water, and Modernization of  
Central Asia, 1867–1941

Prior to her stay at the RCC, Maya Peterson was a College Fellow in Harvard's Department of the History of Science. In September 2012, she became an assistant professor of history at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Peterson's research emphasis is on Russian and Soviet history, European history, and environmental history.

Peterson's project is based on her dissertation, which is to be published as a monograph. Utilizing an extensive range of sources from nine archives in the former Soviet Union, this work examines tsarist and Bolshevik efforts to irrigate the Central Asian borderlands. It discusses how such hydraulic engineering projects reflected Russian imperial and Soviet notions of civilization and progress, as well as Russia's quest to be a European empire in the heart of Asia.

**Daniel J. Philippon**

September 2011 – February 2012

Ideal Meals: Ecology, Morality, and Pleasure in the Sustainable Food Movement



Daniel J. Philippon is currently an associate professor of English at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. He teaches courses in the environmental humanities, literary nonfiction writing, and sustainability studies. Philippon served as the president of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) in 2009. After his time at the RCC, he was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Turin and the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Italy.

Philippon's RCC project examines how the discourses of ecological science, human and animal welfare, and gastronomic pleasure are manifest in the sustainable food movement, how those discourses overlap and compete with one another, and how their US variants affect and have been affected by similar concerns in other countries. His main focus is on the tradition of popular writing practiced by Rachel Carson—personal nonfiction that engages scientific and ethical issues with the intent to move an audience—but he is also concerned with how sustainable food discourse appears in other cultural forms, such as films, images, and websites.



### **Michel Pimbert**

November 2012 – April 2013

Towards Food Sovereignty: Reclaiming Autonomous Food Systems / Transforming Environmental Knowledge for Diversity and Democracy

Michel Pimbert is an director of the Centre for Agroecology and Food Security at the University of Coventry. He researches food sovereignty and agroecology, the political ecology of natural resource and biodiversity management, as well as citizenship and deliberative democracy. Pimbert previously worked at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in the United Kingdom, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in India, the World Wide Fund for Nature in Switzerland, and the University François Rabelais de Tours in France.

While at the RCC, he worked on two books that draw on case studies he has developed with local partners and IIED over the last 13 years. The first is a multimedia e-book entitled *Towards Food Sovereignty: Reclaiming Autonomous Food Systems*, a critically reflective contribution to the debate on the concept of food sovereignty. The second is provisionally titled *Transforming Environmental Knowledge for Diversity and Democracy*, and addresses the topic of the democratization of knowledge and power. Pimbert hopes to offer new insights and evidence that can help debunk the disempowering myths of human-environment interaction by exposing their origins, history, inequities, and enduring consequences on people and the land. He will also explore reforms in organizations, research, and professional practice that could help reframe the knowledge-policy nexus in ways more consistent with democratic pluralism, the history of places, and cultural diversity.

**James Rice**

February – July 2012

Native America: An Environmental History



James Rice, a professor of history at the State University of New York, Plattsburgh, teaches courses on First Nations/Native Americans, colonial America, and historical methodology. His publications focus primarily on eastern North America in the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries. His book *Nature and History in the Potomac Country: From Hunter-Gatherers to the Age of Jefferson* (John Hopkins University Press, 2009) argued that pre-colonial trends amongst native peoples in America profoundly shaped cultural and political formations in the colonial period and beyond.

Rice's RCC research project is a synthesis of Native American environmental history since the first human occupation of North America. Presented in the form of a braided narrative with four main strands—natural history, knowledge and narrative, landscape and culture, and nature and power—the resulting book will explore the interplay between cultural, material, and political forces; balance diverse perspectives and approaches to the subject; incorporate the latest work in the relevant sciences; and share the fruits of fieldwork in several indigenous communities in Canada and the United States.

**Edmund Russell**

October 2010 – June 2011; July – August 2012

Neurohistory

Edmund Russell's research focuses on environmental history and the history of technology. His work has won prizes from the American Society for Environmental History, the Society for the History of Technology, and the Forum for the History of Science in America. Russell was professor at the University of Virginia subsequently moved to take up the position of Joyce and Elizabeth Hall Distinguished Professor of United States History at the University of Kansas

Russell's RCC project on neurohistory tests the hypothesis that neuroscience can help researchers understand the relationship between people and environments. The brain lies at the center of this relationship because it processes sensory information about the environment and it guides responses to this information: brain imaging has the potential to illuminate the cognitive, emotional, and physiological bases for human ideas and actions in a way previously unattainable. It can also show the impact of the environment on brain anatomy.

**John Sandlos**

September 2012 – May 2013

In the Shadow of the Gold Mines: Arsenic and Native Communities in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories



John Sandlos is an environmental historian in the Department of History at the Memorial University of Newfoundland. He writes about northern Canada, mining, wildlife conservation, and parks and protected areas. Since 2009, he has been the Principal Investigator of the Abandoned Mines in Northern Canada project.

Sandlos' RCC project is a book co-written with Arn Keeling, *In the Shadow of the Gold Mines: Arsenic and Native Communities in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories*, an account of the acute and chronic poisoning of Yellowknives Dene communities due to arsenic pollution from gold mines in the region. He is also editing a book with Dr. Keeling, *Mining and Communities in Northern Canada: History, Politics, and Memory*, to be submitted to the University of Calgary Press's Canadian History and the Environment series. His work on mining has been funded primarily through research grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and ArcticNet.



### **Shiho Satsuka**

January – December 2012

Towards a New Form of Environmental Ethics: Satoyama  
Landscape Revitalization and the Cultural Politics of  
Knowledge Translation

Shiho Satsuka is an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Toronto in Canada. Among her current projects, she is preparing to publish her book, tentatively titled *Nature in Translation*, which examines how Japanese tour guides mediate various notions of nature in their work of interpreting Canadian nature to tourists from Japan, and how their practices of nature translation reflect the social transformations in the post-Cold War, post-industrial Japan.

While at the Center, Satsuka worked on a project that traces one especially vigorous wing of the grassroots citizens' *satoyama* movement in Japan, which aims to recreate the forests that produce a highly valued wild mushroom called *matsutake*. Through an ethnographic examination of this movement, the project explores how modern expert science and traditional knowledge are translated, and how *matsutake* became simultaneously an icon of nostalgic agrarian lifestyles and a cosmopolitan, forward-looking biodiversity conservation project.



**Bron Taylor**

January – June 2012

Radical Environmentalism: From an Ethnographic and Historical Study to an Assessment of its Political, Ecological, and Moral Claims



Bron Taylor is a professor of religion and environmental ethics at the University of Florida, where in 2002 he was recruited to develop a graduate program in Religion and Nature and was appointed as the Samuel S. Hill Ethics Professor. His research focuses on the affective and spiritual dimensions and political impacts of grassroots environmental movements around the world, as well as on the complex relationships between human beings, their religions, and the environments they inhabit.

For over twenty years Taylor has researched the radical, environmental “Earth First!” movement and its continuities and discontinuities with militant environmental and environment-related social movements globally. In his RCC project, he seeks to pull together this research in a wide-ranging ethnographic and historical study, focusing on radical environmentalism in North America, and especially on its political, ecological, and moral claims, as well as on its influence and prospects.

**Erdenetuya Urtnast**

September 2012 – August 2013

“Folk” Knowledge and Experiences for Environmental  
Conservation of the Mongols

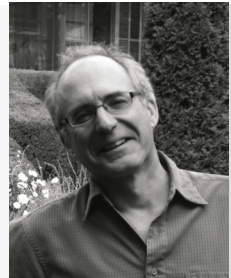
Erdenetuya Urtnast is a lecturer of ethnology, anthropology, Manchu written language, and classic Mongolian script in the Department of Mongolian History at the Mongolian State University of Education in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Her research interests include ethnic history; translation and transliteration of Manchu and Classic Mongolian handwritten texts; environmental anthropology, with a special focus on “traditional” approaches to environmental conservation of the Mongols; and urban ecology and issues related to climate change and its impacts on Mongolian history.

The main goal of Urtnast’s project is to conduct exploratory research on the applicability of “folk” knowledge and experiences for environmental conservation among the Mongols, with specific emphasis on traditional ecological knowledge, environmental ethics, eco-friendly technology, sustainable use of rangelands, and community-based environmental conservation. Furthermore, it will examine the possibility of applying such folk knowledge, experiences, and methods for environmental conservation and rational use of natural resources in practical life. In an attempt to be as inclusive and accurate as possible, the research will draw on a large variety of materials, such as fieldwork data, handwritten and block-print books, folkloric sources, relevant academic literature, and fundamental theoretical and methodological books.

**Louis Warren**

June – August 2012

A Hole in the Dream: The 1890 Ghost Dance and the Making of Modern America



Louis Warren is W. Turrentine Jackson Professor of Western US History at the University of California, Davis, where he teaches environmental history, the history of the American West, and Californian history. He has won numerous awards for his writing, including the Albert J. Beveridge Award of the American Historical Association, the Caughey Western History Association Prize, and the Great Plains Distinguished Book Prize.

While at the RCC, Warren worked on a book that explores the environmental context and meanings of the Ghost Dance, a pan-Indian religious movement that swept reservations of the West. The central premise of his research is that the Ghost Dance is better understood as the dawn of the twentieth century. By exploring the Ghost Dance as a modern movement that sought to reconcile the faithful to wage work and as one of a number of American efforts to renew and restore the earth, his book will re-write the supposed end of the frontier and the dawn of the twentieth century in ways that give these long-ago events new relevance and meaning for our own era.

**Frank Zelko**

October 2012 – June 2013

Holism, Nature, and the (Non-Ironic) Enchantment of  
Modernity

Frank Zelko teaches environmental history at the University of Vermont. His research focuses on the history of environmentalism, and he is the author of a book on the history of Greenpeace (Oxford University Press, 2013). Previously, Zelko was a postdoctoral fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC and an assistant professor at the University of Queensland for three years.

Zelko's research looks at Max Weber's pronouncement that modernity was responsible for the disenchantment of the world. While many prominent scholars have shared Weber's pessimism, his project will look at a new body of scholarship that argues that modernity is full of enchantments, albeit ones that are reflexive and ironic. Zelko argues that both these schools of thought neglect how holistic thought—and particularly its ecological variety—has served as a form of modern enchantment that speaks in the register of science, supposedly the prime force of disenchantment. He will highlight how this type of ecological holism has inspired a form of modern enchantment, which is free of irony and fully grounded in a scientific worldview.

**Thomas Zeller**

September 2012 – May 2013

Creating a Safer Environment? Death, Mutilation, and  
Automobility in the United States and Germany, 1930–2000



Thomas Zeller is an associate professor at the University of Maryland-College Park, where he teaches environmental history, the history of technology, and science and technology studies. His professional interests include the environmental history of large infrastructures, such as roadways and river systems. Zeller's book *Driving Germany: The Landscape of the German Autobahn, 1930–1970* (Berghahn Books, 2007) is a history of the German motorway system.

Further contributing to the growing field of environmental history of mobility, Zeller's project aims to analyze the public debates and environmental changes associated with traffic fatalities and injuries in the United States and Germany from 1920 to 2000. During these years, hundreds of thousands of US and German residents were killed or injured while on the road. Simultaneously, the two countries were leading producers and consumers of automobiles. With varying degrees of intensity, the problem was highlighted, ignored, or normalized in both countries. Zeller aims to show that the debate over traffic safety led to a conceptual and physical reordering of public spaces and of the individuals using these spaces.

**Anya Zilberstein**

February–July 2012

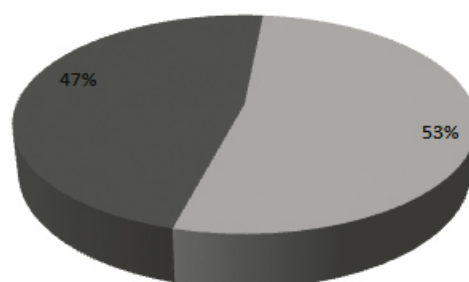
*A Temperate Empire: Climate Change and Settler Colonialism in Early North America*

Anya Zilberstein is an assistant professor of history at Concordia University in Montreal, where she teaches classes in environmental history, early North America, and the history of science and empire. While in Munich, she also pursued a project on prison gardens, especially on the work of Count Rumford (Benjamin Thompson), who also designed the city's English Garden in the late eighteenth century.

At the RCC, Zilberstein mainly worked on a book titled *A Temperate Empire: Climate Change and Settler Colonialism in Early North America*. Her book is a transatlantic environmental and cultural history of climate and colonization in Nova Scotia and New England in the seventeenth through early nineteenth centuries. It examines how scientific and British imperial ideas about the regional climate—especially its relatively long, cold winters—were reshaped by settlement, agricultural development, and commercial expansion. Zilberstein explores the natural history of the northern hemisphere, Enlightenment ideas about temperate and extreme weather, and debates about anthropogenic climate change, especially schemes for “improving” or “tempering” regional environments and the people inhabiting them.

### Carson Fellows and Visiting Fellows 2012 Accepted / Gender

■ female ■ male



### Carson Fellows and Visiting Fellows 2012 Applications / Gender

■ female ■ male





## Carson Professors



**Jens Kersten**

Carson Professor 2012

Jens Kersten studied law at the universities of Heidelberg, Leeds, and Bonn. He worked as a postgraduate at Humboldt University, Berlin, and was professor of planning and environmental law at Technical University of Dortmund and of public and economic law at the University of Bayreuth. Since 2008 he has held a chair in public law and governance at the LMU Munich. His research focuses on planning and environmental law, bioethics and law, and the legal challenges of demographic change.

Jens Kersten was invited to take up a Carson Professorship at the RCC for 2012. In his first year as Carson Professor, Kersten represented the center through multiple publications, presentations, and collaborations. An article appeared in March 2012 on “Leviathan and Hive: Swarm Intelligence and Legal Order” (*Rechtswissenschaft*), which extended ideas first presented as a talk, “Whales and Swarms: Metaphors of Nature in Constitutional Theory and Law” given at the RCC. An English book version is forthcoming, published by Nomos. Kersten has also been involved with the PhD Program „Environment and Society,” attending its annual spring retreat, and was actively involved in 2012 in planning an LMU Center for Advanced Study research initiative on waste. Kersten’s contributions in public discussions of changing German energy politics after Fukushima led to articles in *LMU-Einsichten* (2/2012), *insightLMU* (4/2012), and *RCC Perspectives* (2012/1) that highlighted his research at the RCC. In addition, Kersten gave an inaugural Carson Professor lecture on the topic “A New Political Anthropology for the Anthropocene?” at the center’s annual

retreat in November 2012. The lecture is part of a book project on “Governance in the Anthropocene,” a joint venture by Jens Kersten and Gunnar Folke Schuppert (Social Science Research Center, Berlin). During his time at the RCC, Kersten has continued to serve as a member of the Commission on Public Goods launched by the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (Heinrich Böll Foundation).

### **Reinhold Leinfelder**

Affiliated Carson Professor 2012

For a full biography see page 81.



Fellows and staff at the RCC retreat 2012.

## Visiting Fellows

**Riin Magnus**, University of Tartu, Estonia, August 2011 – January 2012

**Hanna Schösler**, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, January 2012 – December 2013

**Dorothee Schreiber**, September 2011 – February 2012

**Michael Schüring**, Deutsches Museum, September 2011 – May 2012

**Samuel Temple**, University of Oklahoma, USA, January – December 2012

**Shawn van Ausdal**, Universidad de los Andes, Bogota, Colombia, January – December 2012

## LMU Fellows

**Martin Schulze Wessel**

**Frank Uekoetter**

**Gordon Winder**

## 15 Staff

### Directors

#### Christof Mauch

RCC Director



Christof Mauch has been at the helm of the Rachel Carson Center since its founding and has established numerous RCC working relationships and programs with colleagues and institutions worldwide. Together with his co-director, Helmuth Trischler, he runs the fellowship program of the RCC. Christof Mauch is co-editor of all three of the RCC's publication series (*Umwelt und Gesellschaft*, *International Environmental History*, and *Perspectives*) and he has served as convener of the weekly lunchtime colloquium and of several workshops and conference panels in Germany and the United States. Since 2010, Christof Mauch has been director (*Sprecher*) of the PhD program "Environment and Society" at LMU Munich, and since 2011 he has been president of the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH); currently he also serves as chair of the Local Organizing Committee for the 2013 ESEH conference in Munich.

In 2012 Mauch was invited to be a Visiting Professor in Environmental History and European History at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India. He gave a keynote lecture at the inauguration of the new Center for Ecological History at Renmin University in Beijing and he served as an advisor to President Santos' response and reconstruction fund *Colombia Humanitaria*, in Bogotá, Columbia. Above and beyond that, Mauch gave lectures and took part in political and academic panel discussions in Europe, as well as North and South America.

Mauch is a member of more than a dozen international academic advisory boards and numerous editorial boards on five continents. In 2012 he was elected to the newly created editorial board of the *Environmental Humanities Journal*, Australia, and to the academic advisory board of Eesti Keskkonnaajaloo Keskus, KAJAK, Estonia.

Besides his obligations at the Carson Center, Mauch is a member of the Directorate of the Department of English and American Studies, Director of the Lasky Center for Transatlantic Studies at LMU, and the head of a research focus at LMU's Center for Advanced Studies (CAS).

**Helmuth Trischler**

RCC Director



In addition to his role as Director of the Rachel Carson Center, which he took up in 2009 together with Christof Mauch, Trischler is also the head of research at the Deutsches Museum, Munich, and a professor of modern history and the history of technology at LMU Munich. In conjunction with his co-director, Trischler serves as a co-editor for all RCC publications and coordinates the Carson Fellowship program. He frequently serves as moderator of the Lunchtime Colloquium series of the RCC. He is also a member of the academic board for the PhD Program, “Environment and Society.”

Helmuth Trischler’s main research interests are knowledge societies and innovation cultures in international comparison, science, technology and European integration, mobility history, and environmental history. Trischler is the author of 28 books and edited volumes, as well as approximately 100 articles. In 2012 he finished the book project “The Politics of European Expertise. Creating, Organizing, Sharing Knowledge” which will be published with Palgrave Macmillan.

In 2012, Trischler organized the 21st Annual Meeting of the German Society for the History of Technology, which dealt with the topic ‘disasters,’ and which was also a joint conference of the Carson Center and the Deutsches Museum. Trischler also organized two major RCC conferences (in July and October 2012) and began the planning phase of the exhibit “Anthropocene—Nature and Technology in the Age of Humans” which is scheduled for October 2014.

Helmuth Trischler is involved in a multitude of national and international research programs, serving on the advisory boards of the Landesmuseum für Technik und Arbeit in Mannheim, the Georg-Agricola-Gesellschaft, the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, the Deutsches Schiffahrtsmuseum Bremerhaven, and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Science and Research. He is Vice-President of the Society for the History of Medicine, Natural Sciences, and Technology and a member of the history panel of the German Research Foundation. In addition, Trischler serves on the editorial board of diverse academic journals, including *NTM: Zeitschrift für Geschichte der Wissenschaften, Technik, und Medizin*, the *Journal of Transport History*, and the *Notes and Records of the Royal Society*.



## Project Directors

### Kimberly Coulter

Environment & Society Portal  
(on leave March-November 2012)



Kimberly Coulter leads the Environment & Society Portal, the RCC's platform for digital environmental humanities, which launched in January 2012. Coulter presented a paper entitled "Designing Navigation Tools for an Environmental Humanities Portal: Considerations and Critical Assessments" at the conference "Digital Humanities 2012" in Hamburg, together with Wilko Graf von Hardenberg. Coulter (co-)authored two research articles on the environment in digital humanities that appeared in the leading European journals *Diacronie: Studi di Storia Contemporanea* and *Kultur & Technik* in 2012.

Before coming to the RCC, Coulter worked as an architectural draftsman, cartographer, international research program manager, geography lecturer, and manuscripts editor for *The History of Cartography*. Coulter studied architecture and philosophy and earned a PhD in geography in 2007 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Arielle Helmick**

Director for Communications

As the communications director, Helmick oversees all media and outreach at the RCC, including the website and the newsletter. Together with managing editor Katie Ritson, she is responsible for the annual report. In addition, she coordinates the Green Visions film series with RCC Affiliate Alexa Weik von Mossner and supervises the fellows' film portraits, which have profiled over forty fellows and which can be viewed on iTunes, YouTube, and in the Competence Centre for Multimedia Objects of the German National Library of Science and Technology. Helmick also manages the RCC library, which in 2012 added over 500 volumes and was integrated into the LMU Munich library system, and coordinates the RCC internship program.

Helmick is serving on both the local organizing and academic program committees for the 2013 ESEH conference, "Circulating Natures: Water—Food—Energy." In 2012, she co-convened the workshop "Eco-Images: Altering Political Environmental Discussions and Political Landscapes" and was involved as managing editor on the preliminary work for an RCC Perspectives issue from the workshop that will be published in 2013. Helmick also presented a poster about her dissertation research at the 2012 ASEH conference in Madison, Wisconsin.

Before joining the RCC, Arielle Helmick studied music, gender studies, and American studies at both Vanderbilt University, Tennessee and LMU Munich. In 2011, she completed her doctorate with the defense of her dissertation, entitled "The Greening of American Music: Environmentalism in Song."

## Wilko Graf von Hardenberg

Acting Portal Director

March – October 2012



During his term as acting director of the Environment & Society Portal, Wilko Graf von Hardenberg represented the Portal on three continents, giving papers at the ASEH annual meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, in March, at the Sociedad Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Historia Ambiental (SoLCHA) meeting in Villa de Leyva in Colombia, and at the KAJAK Centre of Environmental History in Tallinn, Estonia. He also gave papers at conferences in Munich and Hamburg (the latter together with Kimberly Coulter). He was co-author (also with Kimberly Coulter) of the article “Navigare la storia: considerazioni sulla creazione di un portale di storia ambientale,” *Diacronie. Studi di Storia Contemporanea*, 10 (2012).

Besides this, Hardenberg served as webmaster for the European Society for Environmental History and as a member of the editorial board on the blog *Ant, Spider, Bee: Exploring the Digital Environmental Humanities*, (<http://antspiderbee.net>).

Wilko Graf von Hardenberg holds a Laurea in History from the University of Torino, Italy and a PhD in Geography from the University of Cambridge. He was a postgraduate fellow at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, Italy and held a postdoctoral position, funded by the Autonomous Province of Trento, at the University of Trento, Italy. In 2012 he also lectured on digital tools for historical research at the University of Trento.

**Uwe Lübken**

Project Director, Climates of Migration

Uwe Lübken serves as Project Director for “Climates of Migration”, a joint project between the RCC and the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut, KWI), Essen. With his co-director at the KWI, Franz Mauelshagen, Lübken supervises seven doctoral research projects which all examine historical intersections between environmental change and migration and which are particularly interested in climate-induced movements of people in the past.

Lübken edited a special issue of the journal *Global Environment*, entitled “Environmental Change and Migration in History,” (*Global Environment* 9 (2012)). He co-organized three panels at the Global Risk Forum in Davos, organized and chaired a panel at the ASEH in Madison, Wisconsin, and hosted a conference at the RCC on small islands and natural hazards with research associate Rebecca Hofmann. During 2012, Lübken presented his work in Glasgow, Innsbruck, Salzburg, and Bielefeld, amongst others.

Before joining the RCC in 2009, Uwe Lübken studied history and economics at the University of Cologne, receiving his PhD in 2002. He completed his habilitation thesis on the history of flooding on the Ohio River in 2010.

## Kate Ritson

Managing Editor



Katie Ritson is responsible for RCC publications in English, encompassing the journal *RCC Perspectives* and collaborative books and volumes, including the new cooperation with the journal *Global Environment*. She manages a team of four editors; besides their work on publications, editors work on web and outreach texts, and assist fellows—mainly those whose native language is not English—with proofreading and revising their own work for publication in English. In 2012, Katie Ritson coedited (with Christof Mauch and Lawrence Culver) an issue of *RCC Perspectives* entitled “Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*: Encounters and Legacies” (2012/7). She is also active as a translator, and has been instrumental in making German-language texts from fellows and associates at the RCC accessible to an English-language readership. Examples of her 2012 translations can be found in *RCC Perspectives* 2012/1 (Jens Kersten: “A Farewell to Residual Risk? A Legal Perspective on the Risks of Nuclear Power after Fukushima,” 51-64), and *RCC Perspectives* 2012/3 (Birgit Großkopf, Achim Rost, and Susanne Wilbers-Rost, “The Ancient Battlefield at Kalkriese,” 91-111).

Ritson studied modern and medieval languages at the University of Cambridge in England and comparative and Nordic literature at LMU Munich, gaining her second MA in 2009. She continues to work on selected projects as a freelance editor and translator.

## Research Fellows



**Paul Erker**

Research Fellow

As a research fellow at the RCC, Paul Erker is primarily involved with the Environment & Society Portal and worked with the team to prepare the launch in January 2012. Erker works mainly on content and the collection of source material; he has also designed a virtual exhibition on hazardous substances. In 2012, Erker was awarded the title of “apl. Professor” (adjunct professor) by the LMU Munich history faculty, where he teaches environmental and economic history.

In addition to his Portal responsibilities, Erker has continued his research into his RCC Project, “Asbestos: An International Study of Risk and Society.” Erker’s project examines the global development of asbestos with regard to its role as a catalyst in the transformation of environmental knowledge forms and bases; the various triggers and environmental and political developments of the “asbestos crisis” internationally; the reactions of various organizations and institutions to the dwindling resources and hazardous substances; and finally, diverse global perceptions of asbestos as an environmental problem. In 2012, Erker organized an international conference on hazardous chemicals as part of the fiftieth anniversary year of Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* at the RCC.

Paul Erker studied modern history, receiving his PhD in 1987 and his habilitation in 2001 from LMU Munich. Since 2004, he has worked on several projects in the history of science and technology at the research department of the Deutsches Museum.

## Julia Herzberg

Research Fellow



During her third year as research fellow at the RCC, Julia Herzberg worked on developing a new honors degree in environmental studies at LMU Munich. She was also involved in organizing two conferences, one with the Collegium Carolinum that looked comparatively at the Alps and the Carpathians, and the other entitled “Frost, Ice, and Snow: Cold Climate in Russian History,” in cooperation with the German Historical Institute in Moscow, where the conference also took place. Herzberg was a member of the steering committee for the project “Agriculture between Idyll and Dystopia: Green Gene Technology as a Projection Screen for Visions of Nature” at LMU Munich’s Center for Advanced Study.

Besides teaching at LMU Munich, she also worked on a number of publications in 2012, including her doctoral dissertation, due to appear in 2013, and a collected volume on Central Eastern European environmental history, which she edited together with Horst Förster and Martin Zückert. She took leave from the RCC at the end of 2012 to undertake archival research in Russia.

Herzberg studied history, Russian, and German in Cologne, Volgograd, Moscow, and Bielefeld, receiving her *Staatsexamen* in 2005. In 2011, she completed her PhD (Bielefeld University), which focused on autobiographical texts of peasants in Tsarist Russia for which she has received a DFG Doctoral Grant, a DAAD Research Grant, and a grant from the FAZIT Foundation.



**Ursula Münster**

(Affiliated Research Fellow)

Ursula Münster studied social and cultural anthropology at LMU Munich and the National School of Anthropology and History in México City. She received her PhD in 2006 from LMU Munich. Besides her interest in political ecology and the anthropology of nature and conservation, she specializes in issues concerning gender, social and environmental movements, post-colonialism, globalization, and subaltern studies. She has completed several anthropological field studies in South India (Tamil Nadu and Kerala). She is a senior researcher at the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology at LMU Munich and has been a research fellow at the Rachel Carson Center since 2010. Münster's project is funded by the German Research Foundation.

## Franziska Torma

Research Fellow



Before embarking on a period of leave from the RCC in September to take up a prestigious John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellowship at Harvard University, Franziska continued to work on her research into the influence of the oceans on human environments in the period 1850-2000. She organized a panel at the “Historikertag” in Mainz together with RCC alumnus Christian Kehrt entitled “Lebensraum Meer. Umwelt- und entwicklungspolitische Ressourcenfragen in den 1960er und 1970er Jahren” (Ocean Territories: Environmental and Political Question on Resource Use in Development in the 1960s and 1970s) and delivered a research paper on the West German fishing experts in the Gulf of Thailand from 1959 to 1974. Torma was the recipient of a Gerald D. Feldman Travel Grant (DFK Paris, March 2012) and her article on tropicality was published in *Revue d’anthropologie des connaissances* 2012/3 (Vol. 6, no.3).

Before joining the RCC in 2009, Torma studied history and theater studies in Munich and Bochum. In 2009 she completed her PhD, which focused on German scientific expeditions that described and mapped Central Asia between 1890 and 1930. Franziska has published on the history of mountaineering, animal protection issues in Africa, and colonialism with special reference to Germany’s colonial culture and ideology.

## Administration

**Claudia Reusch** – Managing Director

**Andrea Cooke** – Office Manager

**Janosch Kilian** – IT / Systems Manager (January – May 2012)

**Pierre Lipperheide** – IT / Systems Manager (July 2012 – )

**Daniel Pettet** – IT Developer Digital Project

**Elisabeth Zellmer** – Doctoral Program Coordinator

## Research Associates

Research associates are working towards a PhD in environmental humanities or are interested in pursuing a career in a research institution. Research associates work part-time (up to 19 hours per week) and manage a variety of different projects at the RCC, including the internship program, Portal exhibitions, the Arcadia project, event coordination, publicity design work, and research support. The flexibility of these positions has been a great advantage for those who have been able to focus on writing their dissertations or archival research in 2012 (Marcus Andreas, Andreas Grieger, Rebecca Hofmann, Agnes Kneitz, Felix Mauch, Angelika Möller). For others, the position at the RCC has provided excellent experience for further career steps: Julia Staudinger is now social media consultant for the firm Roland Berger; Ben Tendler will start as Managing Editor at *Eurozine* in Vienna from 2013; Ina Richter continues at the RCC but has an additional position in Berlin as Associate at the *Stiftung Neue Verantwortung*, where she brings her expertise on climate and society to a multi-sector project on disaster management in urban infrastructure.

**Marcus Andreas**

**Suzanne Bruins**

**Andreas Grieger**

**Rebecca Hofmann**

**Agnes Kneitz**

**Felix Mauch**

**Angelika Möller** (January – February 2012; September 2012 – February 2013)

**Ina Richter**

**Julia Staudinger** (January – May 2012)

**Ben Tendler**

**Sonja Weinbuch**

## **Editors**

All RCC editors are native speakers of English (English/Scottish/US American) and bring expertise in a range of humanities disciplines (German studies, English literature, Soviet history, environmental studies, and political science), as well as experience and competence in writing and editing academic texts, and in most cases advanced skills in other languages, including French, German, Spanish, and Russian. RCC editors work part-time on a similar basis to the research associates, leaving them with free time to pursue research projects or further employment.

**Brenda Black**

**Dominic Kotas**

**Kirsty McCluskey** (January – April 2012)

**Jenny Seifert**

**Rachel Shindelar**

## **Research Assistants**

Research assistants are undergraduates in any humanities subject with a fluent command of English, and their job is to support RCC fellows and staff in a variety of different roles. The Library Service is one of these, and is very much appreciated by the fellowship: research assistants provide each new fellow with a tour of the library facilities available at LMU Munich and the Bavarian State Library, assist them with registering for a library card, and support them by collecting and returning books, managing inter-library loans, and photocopying. Many of the research associates have (or have developed) an interest in the environmental humanities and have chosen to write papers or MA dissertations on an environmental theme; their interactions with staff, fellows, and visitors to the RCC have served to strengthen relations between the LMU student body and the international research landscape.

**Carmen Dines**

**Rebecca Friedman** (January – September 2012)

**Freya Grünberg**

**Ann-Kathrin Liepold**

**Pierre Lipperheide** (January – June 2012)

**Julian Neckermann** (January – November 2012)

**Marie-Theres Recifo** (January – October 2012)

**Stephanie Rinck**

**Constanze Sabathil**

**Martin Spenger** (January – September 2012)

**Lisa Spindler**



Editor Jenny Seifert and Carson Fellow Claudia Leal enjoying Bavarian culture at the famous Oktoberfest.







## 15 Outlook

As always at the RCC, there is plenty to look forward to, but two events in particular dominate the horizon as we look towards the future. The first, in 2013, is the annual meeting of the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) that we are hosting from 21-24 August 2013. The theme of the conference is “Circulating Natures: Water—Food—Energy:” These “big three” have been central to many of the fellows’ research projects, and have also been the focus of our successful public film series, *Green Visions*. More than 500 papers and posters will be presented at the conference in August. The RCC is using the opportunity to host not just members of ESEH but also former Carson fellows, in the first of what we hope will be regular and fruitful alumni meetings, presided over by the co-chairs of the Alumni Association, Lawrence Culver (Utah, USA) and Hou Shen (Beijing).

The other landmark on the horizon is the large-scale exhibition on the topic of the Anthropocene, to be held at the Deutsches Museum in 2014. Planning for this is already well under way, and our exploration of the concept of the Anthropocene, a new geological age initiated by human action, is something that has already started to accompany and inform many of our discussions; in January 2013, we will start the new year with a conference, co-convened with the *Haus der Kulturen der Welt* (House of World Cultures), in Berlin, where we will meet with renowned international experts including Dipesh Chakrabarty, Paul Crutzen, and Carson Professor Reinhold Leinfelder, to put our understanding of the Anthropocene on a common and well-founded footing. Our discussions of the Anthropocene will be explored in a publication in our journal *RCC Perspectives* in 2013.

The scale of these two events, which by far surpass anything we have organized at the RCC thus far, will necessarily mean a scaling back of smaller events and a tighter focus on our core interests and questions in 2013-2014. For this reason, we will not organize any major workshops or conferences in Munich during 2013, although we will continue to collaborate with our partners abroad, including for a conference entitled “Disasters Wet and Dry: Rivers, Floods, and Droughts in World History” at the new Center for Ecological History at Renmin University in Beijing, with leading

Photo used for the workshop *In Bewegung. Neue Geschichten der Umweltbewegungen* (In Motion: New Histories of Environmental Movements). Photo by Chris Goldberg/ flickr.

environmental historian and Carson alumnus Donald Worster. Another conference exploring extractive industries in the polar Arctic will take place at Memorial University in St. Johns, Newfoundland, Canada. And, we will sponsor an event in South America that examines the environmental history of Latin America.

While our geographical reach will be strengthened by our collaborations, our thematic and methodological focus will gain power through a greater concentration on emerging core questions. One of these recurring questions concerns the functioning and value of transdisciplinarity in the environmental humanities, and planning is in progress for a workshop, provisionally entitled “Transdisciplinarity: Theory and Practice” to establish frameworks for coherent and strategic methodologies.

The Environment & Society Portal is already in the process of becoming *the* platform for environmental humanities on the web. A worldwide call for submissions has resulted in six online exhibitions that will be launched in the coming year; the winning entries reflect our international resonance, with feature projects covering several continents, and demonstrating awareness of the complex relationship between the natural world and its human inhabitants.

We have other plans that take us far beyond 2013-2014—the generous grants from the Siemens Foundation is allowing us to build our library into a world-class collection of scholarship in the environmental humanities, and we will be adding to this with our acquisition and cataloguing of a collection of environmental documentary films. Tackling the environmental history of Latin America, which will lead to a book edited by the leading scholars in the field, could also be the first volume of a more ambitious project to create a multi-volume environmental history of the world. And, a further successful grant application on the research focus “Waste in Environment and Society” will allow for more programming and invited scholars, thus enabling a lively interchange of expertise and dialogue between the RCC and Munich’s Center for Advanced Studies.

But exciting though these large projects are, we are also looking forward to our daily business at the RCC—welcoming new fellows to Munich, seeing ever new

constellations of research interests as fellows come and go, listening to scholars from all over the world present their ideas at our Lunchtime Colloquium, hearing the inhabitants of Munich put their questions to our invited experts at the *Green Visions* screening, and seeing the way that the RCC has evolved and continues to evolve into an integral and exciting part of the world of environmental humanities in Germany.

