

Rachel Carson Center  
for Environment and Society  
Annual Report 2020

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## 1. The RCC at a Glance 2020

From March 2020 onwards, the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the RCC had to restrict or digitalize many of its activities. The RCC is both grateful for and proud of the combined efforts of all the staff and visitors who kept the center running during this time, especially managing director Arielle Helmick and the general operations team (Team GO) and office manager Lena Engel, who dealt with the constant and changing technological, logistical, and bureaucratic hurdles.

### Fellows

The RCC hosted around half its usual number of fellows in 2020. In March, most members of the January 2020 cohort chose to return to their home countries. In April, an early response to finalists for the 2020–21 cohort of fellows offering optional, staggered start dates allowed a more flexible ongoing response to the changing situation of the pandemic. The May 2020 cohort was postponed for one year (until May 2021), and no fellows were in residence from May to August 2020. A small group of ca. 10 fellows were welcomed back to the RCC in September 2020 and were able to meet for Works in Progress in person (socially distanced) until mid-December, when re-enforced pandemic restrictions again prevented in-person activities.

### Events

The January fellows who returned home in the spring continued Works in Progress in an online format; this worked well, but primarily because the fellows had all met in person in Munich before the pandemic hit.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were no Lunchtime Colloquia (LC) or Tuesday Discussions (TD) during the summer semester (April–July). Both LC and TD resumed in the winter semester, and all members of the September 2020 cohort were extremely positive about their experience; many extended their stay into 2021.

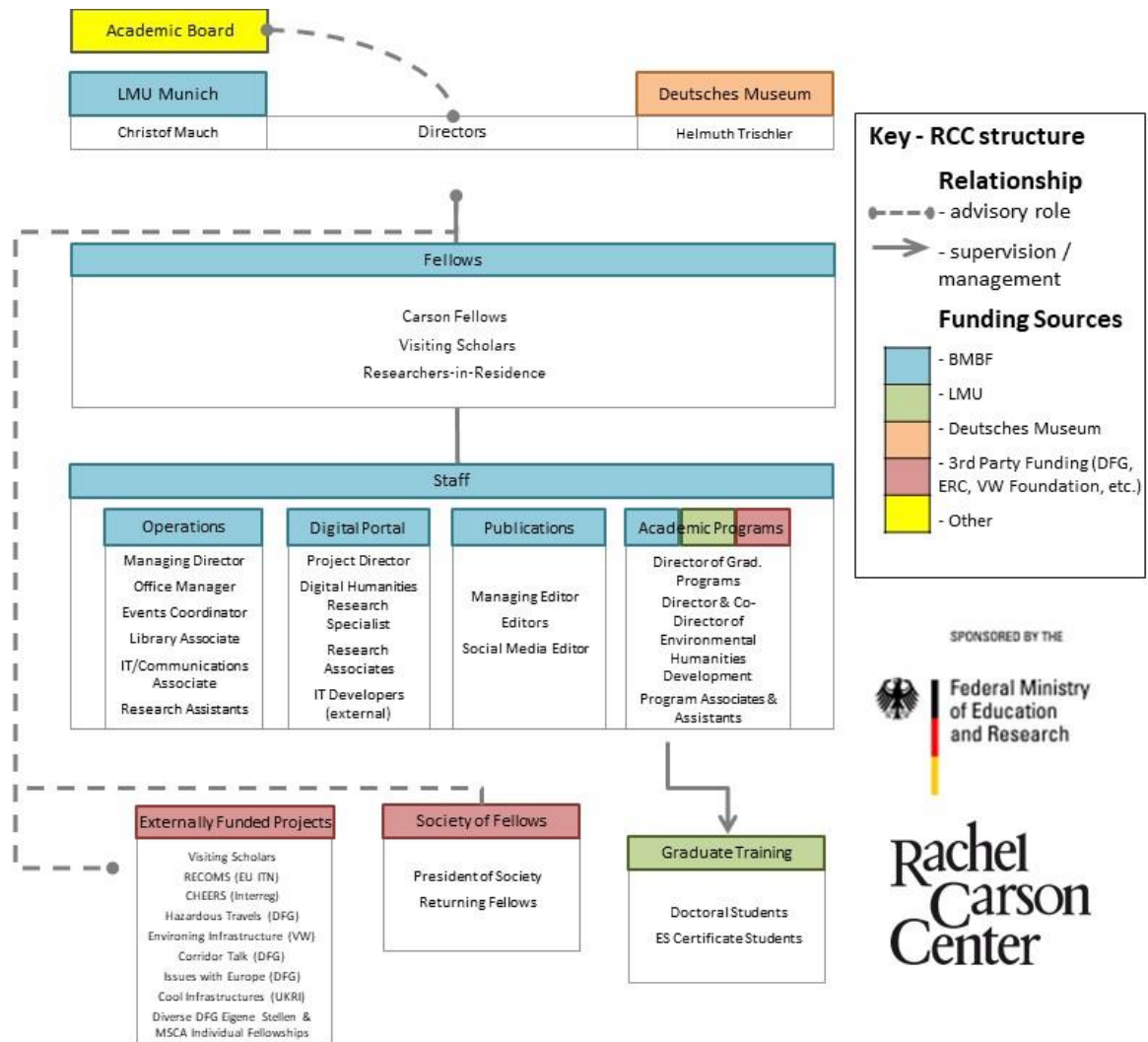
The one international event that took place in-person in 2020 was the January workshop “Environmental Dialogues,” taking place at the New York University in Abu Dhabi. Many other events were held digitally and some were postponed.

The Center’s winter online events proved successful and wide-reaching. Examples include the RCC webinar “An Existential Toolkit for Climate Educators,” the alumni-doctoral collaborative workshop “Flows, Histories, and Politics of Pollution in Europe,” participation in numerous seminars, talks, and discussion podiums at the Public Climate School in November, and various events organized by the Urban Environments Initiative (UEI).

The RCC responded rapidly to the pandemic (and its inescapable interconnectedness with environmental issues) with targeted academic projects such as the Environment & Society Portal’s digital compendium on “[Pandemics in Context](#),” the blog series on Seeing the Woods “[COVID-19: Responses to the Pandemic](#)” as well as a lecture series in collaboration with the Amerika-Institut (LMU) on “Pandemics in History.” These resources provided a rich substrate for international dialogue on the pandemic relevant to scholars in the environmental humanities and beyond.

The publications team gained a full-time academic editor in March to accompany the part-time managing editor. The team worked intensely with the Center's long-term visual designer on three issues of the series *RCC Perspectives: Transformations in Society*, including the last ever issue. With new material on *Seeing the Woods* and the Environment & Society Portal, the online presence and digital outreach at the RCC remained lively and far-reaching throughout 2020.

## 2. Organigram



### 3. The Academic Advisory Board

The members of the Advisory Board as of the end of 2020:

- Prof. Dr. Dorothee Brantz (Technical University of Berlin, Germany)
- Prof. Dr. Michael John Gorman (Founding Director of BIOTOPIA/LMU Munich, Germany)
- Prof. Dr. Sophia Kalantzakos (New York University/NYU Abu Dhabi)
- Prof. Dr. Christoph Küffer (ETH Zürich, Switzerland)
- Prof. Dr. Sherilyn MacGregor (The University of Manchester, UK)
- Prof. Dr. Gregg Mitman (University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA)
- Prof. Dr. Cindy Ott (University of Delaware, USA, ex-officio member as President of the Society of Fellows)
- Prof. Dr. Catherine Rigby (Bath Spa University, UK)

## 4. Research

In 2020, the RCC continued many of its externally-funded research projects. Among others, a German research foundation project, [Marine Environmental Awareness: Knowledge, Media, and the Politics of a Thriving Underwater World \(1870–1980\)](#), led by RCC historian Franziska Torma; another German research foundation project, [Die Startbahn](#) (led by historian Michael Schüring), that deals with the protest of local residents and environmentalists against the extension of Frankfurt Airport through the construction of a new take-off runway (Startbahn 18 West); and [Cool Infrastructures](#), a three-year research project (led by geographer Elspeth Oppermann) that aims to enhance our understanding of the social and technical infrastructures for cooling in contexts of urban poverty across South Asia.

The Marie Skłodowska Curie (MSCA) Innovative Training Network (ITN) [RECOMS, Resourceful and Resilient Communities](#) continued in 2020, with the doctoral winter school “Creating Alternative Urban Imaginaries from Ideas to Practices and Back” taking place in Barcelona, Spain, and the workshop and Master Class “RECOMS Creativity, Visualisation and Communication” taking place in Austria. Additionally, the RCC hosted an online summer school in conjunction with its partners on the project at the Bavarian Forest.

The European project [CHEERS \(Cultural HERitage, Risks and Securing activities\)](#), led by David Stäblein and Christof Mauch and administered by Lena Engel, organized one in-person event and several online events in 2020. The international conference “Open Data and Open Maps for Heritage Protection” taking place in Castelgrande, Bellinzona, examined the existing data and maps about heritage and natural hazards to explore their use for heritage protection. CHEERS concluded this year of research with an online midterm conference focusing on the territorial implementation of the project and related on-the-field activities.

The DFG Emmy-Noether Research Group [Hazardous Travels. Ghost Acres and the Global Waste Economy](#) (Ayushi Dhawan, Maximilian Feichtner, and Jonas Stuck, led by Simone Müller) produced various publications, organized and participated in a range of events, and saw the first team member finishing off their part of the project. Alongside the group’s new virtual exhibition on the Environment and Society Portal titled “Toxic Relationships: Uncovering the Worlds of Hazardous Waste,” Jonas Stuck showcased some of his work in the virtual exhibition “Islands of Waste” on his website. The team members published articles in the journals *Historia Ambiental Latinoamericana y Caribeña* (HALAC) and *Environmental History*. Additionally, team leader Simone Müller prepared a chapter for *A Cultural History of Sea in Global Age* (edited by Franziska Torma, London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2021).

Several **new research projects** were granted or started this year.

January 2020 saw the official start of [Strengthening the Environmental Humanities](#), a six-year project supported by the “University of the Future funding line” of the Volkswagen Foundation. The project is led by Christof Mauch and coordinated by Anna Antonova and Hanna Straß-Senol.

RCC Researcher-in-Residence [Gregg Mitman](#) has been awarded a [European Research Council Advanced Grant](#) for his project VIRHIST (**Bloodborne: Hot Zones, Disease Ecologies, and the Changing Landscape of Environment and Health in West Africa**). Gregg applied for the grant together with the LMU and the project, due to start in December 2021, will run from the RCC.

RCC Researcher-in-Residence Alessandro Rippa has been awarded a large grant from the Volkswagen Foundation for a five-year project on [Environing Infrastructure: Communities, Ecologies, and China's](#)

["Green" Development in Contemporary Southeast Asia](#). Research and fieldwork will be carried out by a team of three researchers based at the RCC. The project focuses on the environmental components of Chinese large-scale infrastructure development in Southeast Asia

In 2020 the RCC and **Heidelberg University** were awarded a grant from the German Ministry of Research and Education. Starting in 2021, the new joint program on the topic of **Worldmaking** will bring environmental scholars from China to Germany and vice versa. Christof Mauch (RCC) serves as Principal Investigator, together with Barbara Mittler (Heidelberg).



## 5. Collaborations

The Center entered an official partnership this year with the **eARTHumanities Initiative** founded by former RCC fellow Sophia Kalantzakos. The project examines how ecology meets geopolitics in the Himalayan region and brings together interdisciplinary researchers from **New York University (Abu Dhabi)** and the **Global Network University**.

Together with **Project House Europe** (LMU), the RCC opened applications for their jointly awarded **Simone Veil Fellowship**. Project House Europe (PHE) promotes cutting-edge research from around the world on the history of Europe during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

The RCC continued its collaboration with the **European Society for Environmental History** (ESEH) with the call and review of submissions for the **2021 Turku Book Prize**, to be awarded at the Biennial Conference in Bristol (UK) in July 2021.

As part of an ongoing collaboration, the RCC and **The Bavarian Forest National Park** co-hosted a workshop on celebrating and understanding 50 years of history at the National Park. 2020 also saw the release of a collection of essays by experts on the history of the Bavarian Forest National Park that was edited by Christof Mauch and Marco Heurich, titled *Urwald der Bayern: Geschichte, Politik und Natur im Nationalpark Bayerischer Wald*.

In a continuation of the past projects based on *Beyond Doom and Gloom* (2014 *Perspectives* issue) and *Radical Hope* (2017 workshop), the RCC hosted the online digital webinar and workshop “**An Existential Toolkit for Climate Educators**,” convened by [Jennifer Atkinson](#), [Elin Kelsey](#), and [Sarah Ray](#). The workshop's primary purpose was to produce a globally accessible climate educators' existential toolkit and cultivate a global network of people working on the topic.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the RCC teamed up with the **Amerika-Institut** (LMU) to host an online lecture series on “Pandemics in History.” Among the speakers were former RCC fellows Uwe Lübken and Marcus Hall, RCC board member Gregg Mitman, and Christof Mauch.

Several films in the Green Visions Film Series (a joint initiative of the RCC, **Deutsches Museum**, and the **Münchner Volkshochschule**) were screened, two of them as part of the City of Munich's **Klimaherbst** annual events.

The RCC's in-house, externally funded projects also contributed to building the Center's academic network with external institutes in 2020. The **Urban Environments Initiative** virtual workshop “Spaces of Living in Transformation” brought together scholars from **LMU**, **Technische Universität München** (TUM), **New York University** (NYU), the **University of Cambridge**, and many others. The RCC hosted the first (virtual) workshop of the **Corridor Talks Conservation Humanities** project, which also brought together experts from the Bavarian Forest National Park, the Pyrénées National Park, and the Wadden Sea National Park. Ties with experts from around the world were also strengthened during the “More-than-Human Archives” workshop hosted by the RCC as part of the **Environing Infrastructures** project (funded by the Volkswagen Foundation).

## 6. Events

### Lunchtime Colloquia

The Lunchtime Colloquium series consists of short presentations by RCC fellows. The talks are based on the fellow's own research, often focusing on their most recent project. Each talk is followed by a question-and-answer session for audience members to seek clarification, request further information, or challenge the speaker's argument. All Lunchtime Colloquia are recorded (audio and video) and uploaded to the [RCC'S YouTube channel](#). Due to the pandemic, Lunchtime Colloquia were recorded, with the discussions taking place digitally and livestreamed on Facebook.

The following lunchtime colloquia took place in 2020:

09.01.2020

**Mu'azu Shehu** (Gombe State University, Nigeria) on "Religion & Environment in Nigeria: Comparing Christian & Muslim Congregations"

16.01.2020

**Jiat-Hwee Chang** (National University of Singapore) on "Air-Conditioning and the Changing Climate in Urban Asia"

**Winnie Yee** (University of Hong Kong) on "The Urban in the Ruins: Ecotopia in Chinese Literary Texts"

23.01.2020

**Kara Schlichting** (Queens College, CUNY, USA) on "Summer in the City: Seasonal Challenges in New York City"

30.01.2020

**Stephen Halsey** (University of Miami, USA) on "Developmental Dynamics in China: The Big Picture"

06.02.2020

**Laura Watts** (The University of Edinburgh, Scotland) on "Hope, the Sea, and Marine Energy: Stories from the Energy Future Islands"

05.11.2020 (online)

**Cherry Leonardi** (Durham University, UK) on "Governing the Bush in South Sudanese History"

12.11.2020 (online)

**Johanna Conterio** (Flinders University, Australia) on "Green Moscow: Urban Planning, Social Engineering and the Politics of Green Space in the USSR, 1931–1941"

19.11.2020 (online)

**Ute Hasenöhr** (Innsbruck University, Austria) on "Contested Nightscapes: Illuminating Colonial Bombay, 1830s–1940s"

26.11.2020 (online)

**Lauri Lahikainen** (Tampere University, Finland) on “Environmental Philosophy for Cities: The Case of Climate Change and Responsibility”

03.12.2020 (online)

**Alessandro Rippa, Roger Norum, and Huiying Ng** (Rachel Carson Center) on “Environing Infrastructure: China’s ‘Green’ Developments in Southeast Asia”

10.12.2020 (online)

**Stephen Milder** (Rachel Carson Center) on “The Making of ‘Green Germany’: The Emergence of Climate Politics in the 1980s and 1990s”

17.12.2020 (online)

**Michael Schüring** (Rachel Carson Center) on “The Runway: An Object-Oriented Protest History of the Frankfurt Airport Extension, 1962–1987”

## Conferences, Workshops, and Presentations

The RCC convenes and organizes conferences, workshops, and presentations each year that come out of the work of current and former fellows or staff members and that are connected to the Center’s main research foci.

The RCC hosted or co-hosted the following conferences, workshops, and presentations in 2020:

12.01.2020 – 13.01.2020

### **Environmental Dialogues Workshop**

Workshop, organized by the RCC and eARTHumanities (NYU Abu Dhabi), Abu Dhabi, UAE

07.02.2020

### **“Writing with Landscape”** with Laura Watts

Writing Workshop at the RCC

26.06.2020 (online)

### **“Urban Environments Initiative—Spaces of Living in Transformation”**

Virtual Workshop by Eveline Dürr and Regine Keller

02.07.2020 – 05.07.2020 (online)

### **“An Existential Toolkit for Climate Educators”**

Online Video Webinar and Workshop by Jennifer Atkinson, Elin Kelsey, and Sarah Ray

10.07.2020 (online)

### **“History—Culture—Environment”**

Online International Graduate Colloquium (Oberseminar)

28.08.2020 – 29.08.2020 (online)

**“Flows, Histories, and Politics of Pollution in Europe (17–20 Century)”**

Online Workshop by Andrei Vinogradov and Julia Herzberg

05.10.2020 (online)

**“The Bavarian Forest National Park—Celebrating and Understanding 50 Years of History”**

Workshop by Marco Heurich and Christof Mauch

30.10.2020 (online)

**“History—Culture—Environment”**

Online International Graduate Colloquium (Oberseminar)

16.11.2020 (online)

**“Sufficiency: Perspectives in Engineering and Society”** by Gesa Lüdecke (RCC) and Werner Lang

Online Seminar, organized by the Public Climate School (PCS)

16.11.2020 (online)

**“Representing Environmental Refugees in Film and Literature”** by Hanna Straß-Senol (RCC)

Online Seminar, organized by the Public Climate School (PCS)

16.11.2020 (online)

**“Global Justice and Individual Responsibility”** by Alexander Schulan

Online Seminar, organized by the Public Climate School (PCS)

17.11.2020 (online)

**“Common Ground: Property, the Commons, and Environmental Justice”** by Anna Antonova (RCC)

Online Seminar, organized by the Public Climate School (PCS)

18.11.2020 (online)

**“How to Make the World a Better Place: Utopianism in Theory and Practice”** by Philippa Thapa

Online Seminar, organized by the Public Climate School (PCS)

20.11.2020 (online)

**“Modernisiert. Intensiviert. Nachhaltig? Geschichte, Gegenwart und Zukunft des Agrarsektors im**

**‘Plastikmeer’ von Almería”** by Andreas Jünger (RCC)

Online Workshop, organized by the Public Climate School (PCS)

28.11.2020 (online)

Christof Mauch (Rachel Carson Center) on **“Die Verletzlichkeit der Welt und der Imperativ der Nachhaltigkeit: Ein Argument für Hoffnung und Aktion”**

Keynote at the workshop “The Ecological Imperative,” organized by the University of Bern

06.12.2020 (online)

**“Bearing Witness: Human Footprint on the Himalaya”**

Online Seminar by The Geopolitics and Ecology of Himalayan Water Initiative, a collaboration of NYU Abu Dhabi and the Rachel Carson Center

## Green Visions Film Series Screenings

The RCC hosts the film series “Green Visions” in cooperation with the Deutsches Museum and the Münchner Volkshochschule. Each academic semester, the series screens environmental documentaries from across the world. The screenings are followed by discussions with directors, environmental experts, and film scholars.

The following films screenings took place in 2020:

16.01.2020

### **Zeit für Utopien**

Discussion with Laima Eicke (IASS Potsdam, I.L.A.-Kollektiv)

13.02.2020

### **Welcome to Sodom**

Discussion with Simone Müller (Rachel Carson Center)

05.10.2020 (hybrid event)

### **San Augustin - Ebbe im Plastikmeer**

Discussion with Andreas Jünger (Rachel Carson Center)

26.10.2020 (hybrid event)

### **The Need to Grow**

Discussion with Franz Rösl (Interessengemeinschaft gesunder Boden e.V.)

05.11.2020 (hybrid event)

### **Living the Change**

Discussion with Gordon Winder (LMU Munich)

17.12.2020

### **Toxic Beauty** (online)

Discussion with Stefanie Scheffler (Fraunhofer Institute for Toxicology and Experimental Medicine ITEM)

## Lectures

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the RCC could not host as many lectures by scholars from all around the world as in previous years. However, the RCC collaborated with the Amerika-Institut (LMU) and responded to the pandemic with the series “Pandemics in American History and Culture.”

The following lectures took place in collaboration with the RCC in 2020:

28.01.2020

**“Immer nur Wachsen ist auch keine Lösung—nicht Wachsen aber auch nicht?”** by Karen Pittel and Harald Lesch

LMU Winter Semester Lecture Series: "Macht des Verzichts"

04.02.2020

**“Sind wir schuld am Müll in Afrika? Eine Geschichte von Verzicht, Konsum und dem internationalen**

**Handel mit giftigen Abfallstoffen**” by Simone Müller  
LMU Winter Semester Lecture Series “Macht des Verzichts”

12.11.2020 (online)

Michael Hochgeschwender (LMU/Amerika-Institut) on **“Cocolitzli: A Mysterious 16th Century Pandemic in Central America”**

Online Lecture Series “Pandemics in American History and Culture,” a collaboration of the Amerika-Institut (LMU) and the RCC

19.11.2020 (online)

Thorsten Logge (Hamburg University) and Benjamin Roers (Justus Liebig Universität Gießen) on **“The coronarchive – Crowdsourcing as Citizen Science in the Humanities?”**

Online Lecture Series “Pandemics in American History and Culture,” a collaboration of the Amerika-Institut (LMU) and the RCC

26.11.2020 (online)

Uwe Lübken (LMU/Amerika-Institut) on **“The Struggle against Polio: A Success Story?”**

Online Lecture Series “Pandemics in American History and Culture,” a collaboration of the Amerika-Institut (LMU) and the RCC

03.12.2020 (online)

Christof Mauch (LMU/Amerika-Institut, Rachel Carson Center) on **“The Plague Comes to America: Racism, Science, and Politics in US History”**

Online Lecture Series “Pandemics in American History and Culture,” a collaboration of the Amerika-Institut (LMU) and the RCC

10.12.2020 (online)

Charlotte Lerg (LMU/Amerika-Institut) on **“Worse than (the) War? The ‘Spanish’ Flu 1918-1920”**

Online Lecture Series “Pandemics in American History and Culture,” a collaboration of the Amerika-Institut (LMU) and the RCC

17.12.2020 (online)

Marcus Hall (University of Zurich, Switzerland) on **“Dreams of Eradication: The Rockefeller Foundation’s Battle against Malaria in Sardinia”**

Online Lecture Series “Pandemics in American History and Culture,” a collaboration of the Amerika-Institut (LMU) and the RCC

## Tuesday Discussions

The Tuesday Discussions bring environmental practitioners such as politicians, leaders in NGOs, and activists to the RCC to discuss topical environmental issues. The guests also offer insights into the application of different environmental qualifications and knowledge in practice.

The following Tuesday Discussions took place in 2020:

07.01.2020

**Maria Weise** (Klimaherbst)

14.01.2020

**Thomas Ammerl** (BayFOR)

21.01.2020

**Tharaka Sriram** (Whale and Dolphin Conversation)

28.01.2020

**Lise Sedrez** (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Instituto História)

04.02.2020

**Frank Schweikert** (German Marine Foundation)

03.11.2020 (online)

**Quentin Orain** (Foodhub München)

10.11.2020 (online)

**Elsbeth Oppermann** (Cool Infrastructures)

17.11.2020 (online)

**Ramón Arndt** (City of Munich)

24.11.2020 (online)

**Felix Ekardt** (University of Rostock)

01.12.2020 (online)

**Angelika Zahrnt** (BUND, Friends of the Earth Germany)

08.12.2020 (online)

**Oliver Engelmayer** (Landscape Planning/Naturalization of the Isar River)

15.12.2020 (online)

**Philipp Verpoort** and **Janosch Pfeffer** (Climate Participation NOW!)

22.12.2020 (online)

**Lisa Poettinger** and **Wolfgang Reuther** (Extinction Rebellion)

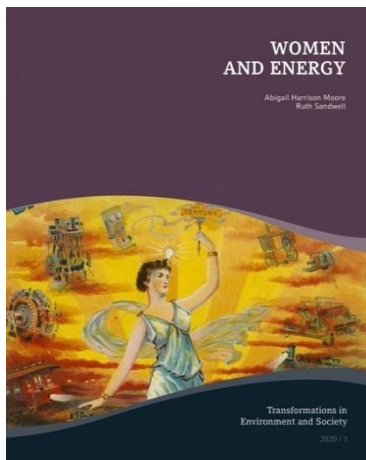
## 7. Publications

The RCC's open-access journal *Perspectives: Transformations in Environment & Society* was accompanied by our partner journal *Global Environment* and new books in the series "The Environment in History: International Perspectives" published by Berghahn books. The publishing team also continued to raise the profile and extend the reach of the RCC blog, [Seeing the Woods](#).

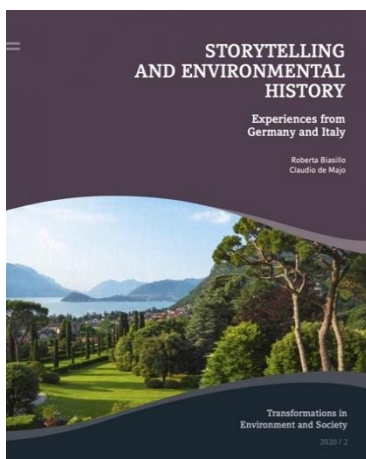
### *RCC Perspectives: Transformations in Environment and Society*

Produced in-house by the RCC's editing team, the journal *RCC Perspectives* reflects on the diversity of events and discussions at the Rachel Carson Center. It aims to bridge the gap between scholarly and non-scholarly audiences and encourage international dialogue. The year began with a volume on women's roles in energy transitions, followed by an experimental volume on storytelling and environmental history, including contributions from a number of PhD students at the RCC and stemming from a workshop held at the historic Villa Vigoni residence in Italy. The volume was then translated into Italian by the volume's editors, Claudio de Majo and Roberta Biasillo. The final volume in the *Perspectives* series, *Strata and Three Stories*, addresses narratives of the Anthropocene based on the RCC's 10th anniversary tandem lecture, which took place at the end of 2019.

#### *RCC Perspectives in 2020*

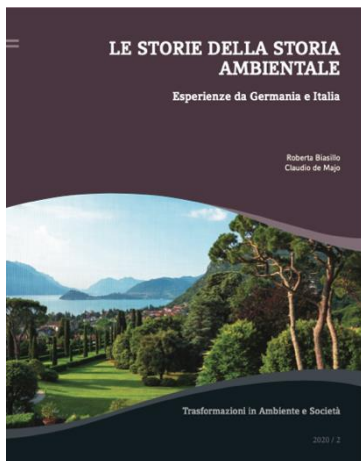


**2020/1:** Abigail Harrison Moore and Ruth Sandwell, eds.  
"Women and Energy."

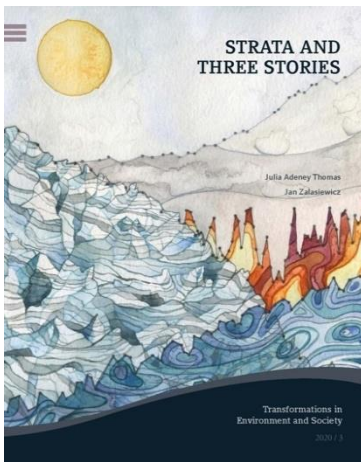


**2020/2:** Roberta Biasillo and Claudio de Majo, eds.  
"Storytelling and Environmental History: Experiences from Germany and Italy."





**2020/2:** Roberta Biasillo and Claudio de Majo, eds. “Le Storie della Storia Ambientale: Esperienze da Germania e Italia.”



**2020/3:** Julia Adeney Thomas and Jan Zalasiewicz. “Strata and Three Stories.”

### RCC Blog: *Seeing the Woods*

Despite the pandemic and the reduction in the number of fellows visiting the RCC, the RCC’s blog, *Seeing the Woods*, continued to grow and attract new readers in 2020. It saw a steady increase in the number of people visiting the site. The blog’s highlights for the year include the development of four new series: [Matter of Degrees](#), [Breaking the Ice: Women, Science, and Antarctica](#), [Covid-19: Responses to the Pandemic](#), and [Environmental Justice](#).

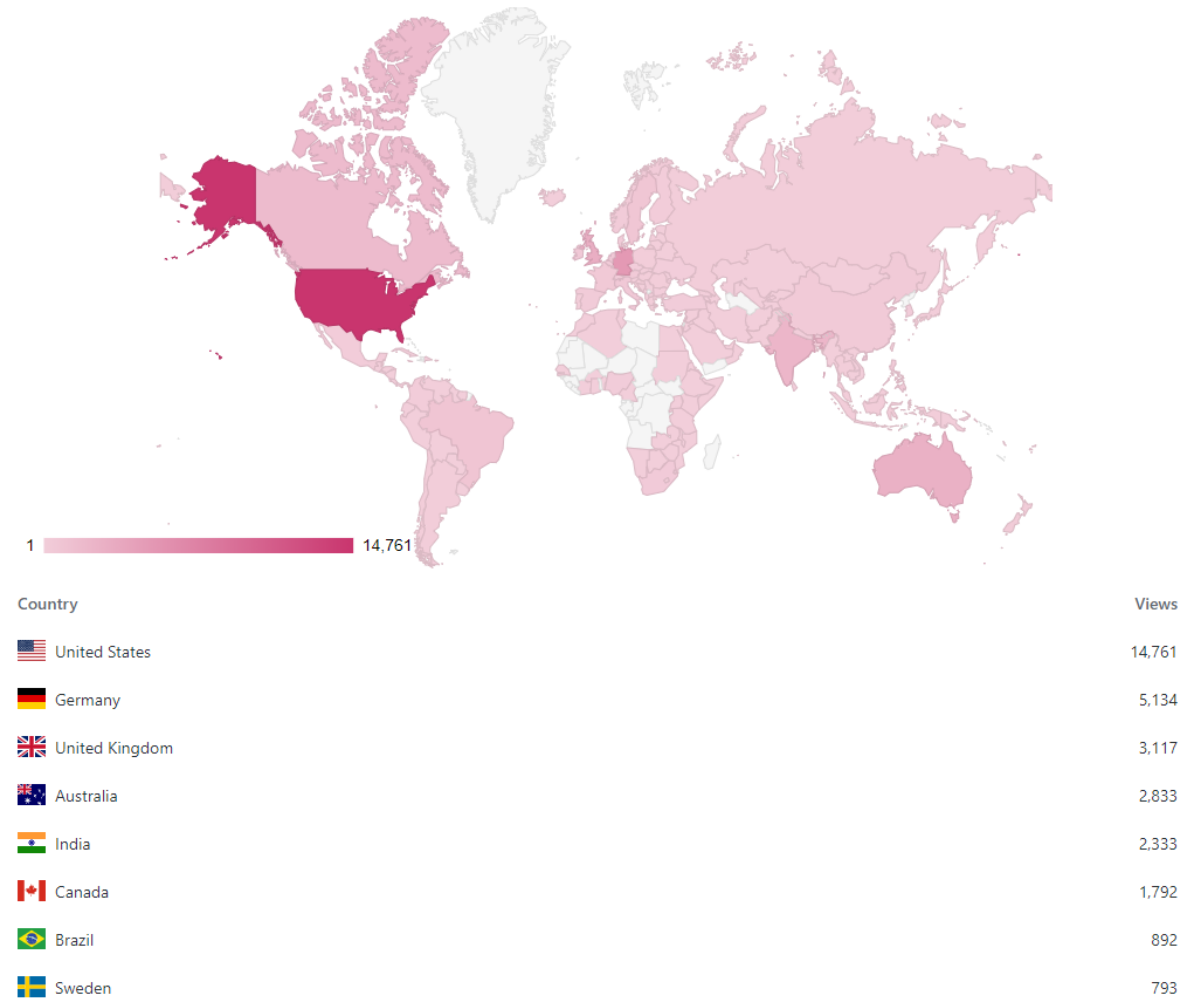
The [Covid-19: Responses to the Pandemic](#) series, in particular, brought new readers to the blog, with its regular and diverse contributors providing much food for thought as environmental and social topics associated with the pandemic became global discussion points throughout 2020.

In collaboration with the Environment and Society Portal, and in response to developments in the United States concerning the effects of structural racism, the [Environmental Justice](#) series was initiated in order to provide an avenue through which associated topics could gain attention within the Environmental Humanities.

Both the [Matter of Degrees](#) and [Breaking the Ice](#) series were curated by RCC fellows and visiting scholars.

The continued growth in the blog’s online readership has initiated a new phase in the RCC’s publications portfolio, with plans underway to transform the blog into a digital magazine in the second half of 2021.

Stats for 2020



*Number of visits to Seeing the Woods by country (top eight countries displayed here) in 2020.*

### **Global Environment**

*Global Environment* is published by the White Horse Press. It includes peer-reviewed research articles as well as interviews and other special features that give “voice and space to historical experiences from the most remote regions of the globe.” The Rachel Carson Center edits one special issue per year (with Christof Mauch as series editor).

**Special Issue 2020:** Ulrich Kirchberger, ed. "Horizons of Ecological Change: Stories of Transfer across the Indian Ocean in the Age of Empire." *Global Environment* 13, no. 1 (2020).

### ***The Environment in History: International Perspectives***

This English-language series is published by Berghahn Books (New York and Oxford) and showcases high-quality research in environmental history and related disciplines from around the world.

**Volume 20:** Karena Kalmbach.

*The Meanings of a Disaster: Chernobyl and Its Afterlives in Britain and France*

**Volume 19:** Abigail Dowling and Richard Keyser

*Conservation's Roots: Managing for Sustainability in Preindustrial Europe, 1100–1800*

**Volume 18:** Paul Munro

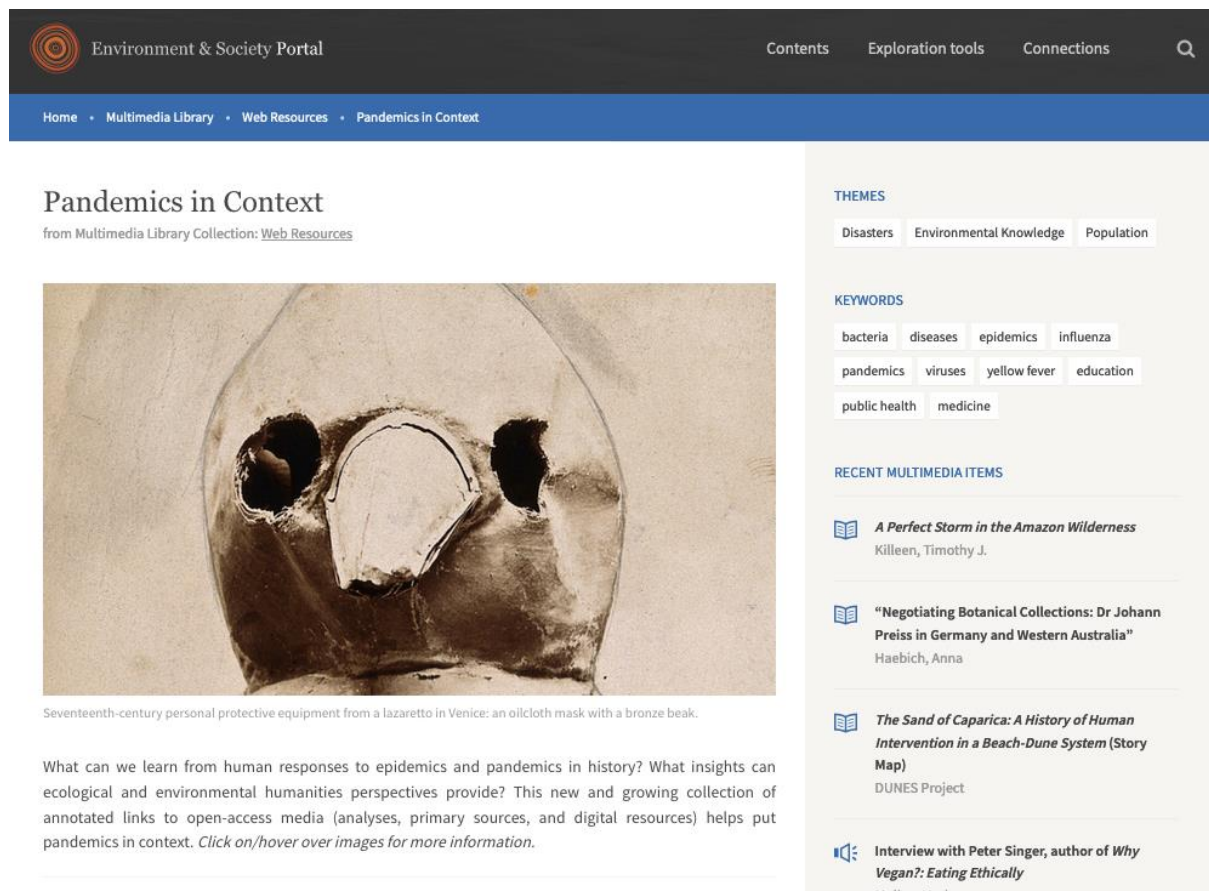
*Colonial Seeds in African Soil: A Critical History of Forest Conservation in Sierra Leone*

### **Supported Publications**

In addition to the regular series, RCC alumni published a number of books that originated from research conducted at the RCC.

## 8. Environment & Society Portal

For environmental history and humanities research to have an international impact, it must be accessible and discoverable. This is the mission of the RCC's [Environment & Society Portal](#). In addition to publishing two in-house born-digital, peer-reviewed publications: [Arcadia](#) (ISSN 2199-3408) and [Virtual Exhibitions](#) (ISSN 2198-7696), the Portal makes the research of hundreds of RCC fellows and the broader scholarly community discoverable by interactive [map](#), [timeline](#), and [keyword explorer](#).. The result is a scholarly gateway to human-environment knowledge that has reached well over 1 million users from every country on earth. Here are some highlights from 2020:



The screenshot shows the 'Pandemics in Context' resource page on the Environment & Society Portal. The page features a navigation bar with 'Contents', 'Exploration tools', and 'Connections'. Below the navigation bar, there is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Multimedia Library > Web Resources > Pandemics in Context'. The main heading is 'Pandemics in Context', with a sub-heading 'from Multimedia Library Collection: [Web Resources](#)'. A large image of a seventeenth-century oilcloth mask with a bronze beak is displayed. Below the image is a caption: 'Seventeenth-century personal protective equipment from a lazaretto in Venice: an oilcloth mask with a bronze beak.' The page also includes a 'THEMES' section with buttons for 'Disasters', 'Environmental Knowledge', and 'Population'. A 'KEYWORDS' section lists terms like 'bacteria', 'diseases', 'epidemics', 'influenza', 'pandemics', 'viruses', 'yellow fever', 'education', 'public health', and 'medicine'. A 'RECENT MULTIMEDIA ITEMS' section lists three items: 'A Perfect Storm in the Amazon Wilderness' by Killeen, Timothy J.; 'Negotiating Botanical Collections: Dr Johann Preiss in Germany and Western Australia' by Haebich, Anna; and 'The Sand of Caparica: A History of Human Intervention in a Beach-Dune System (Story Map)' by DUNES Project. An audio icon indicates an interview with Peter Singer, author of 'Why Vegan?: Eating Ethically' by Melissa Mark.

*Screenshot of the Environment & Society Portal's Pandemics in Context resource. Image: Seventeenth-century personal protective equipment from a lazaretto in Venice: an oilcloth mask with a bronze beak. Courtesy of the Wellcome Library. Public domain.*

### Pandemics in Context

What can we learn from human responses to epidemics and pandemics in history? What insights can ecological and environmental humanities perspectives provide? Thanks to the engagement of the entire RCC community, this collection of annotated links to open-access media (analyses, primary sources, and digital resources) helps put pandemics in context.

## Environmental Justice Resources Online

Environmental justice is both a social movement with global reach and an interdisciplinary academic field that addresses the inequalities embedded in the ongoing ecological crisis. The Portal team assembled this resource with contributions from Kristy Henderson and Carson Fellow alumni Malcom Ferdinand and Robert Gioielli.

### “Another Silent Spring”

In this virtual exhibition, historian and Carson Fellow alumnus Donald Worster explains how human relations with other animals, wild and domestic, are at the core of a majority of epidemics. In the face of the current coronavirus crisis, he argues that an exclusive focus on human life and economy will keep neither the planet nor people healthy. We must decide "whether we humans can or want to restore and protect the health, not just of ourselves, but also of the planet."

### “Ecopolis München 2019: Environmental Stories of Discovery”

*Ecopolis München 2019: Environmental Stories of Discovery* is an exhibition on Munich’s environmental histories. The virtual exhibition, edited by Katrin Kleemann, showcases the final projects of students in the RCC’s [Environmental Studies Certificate Program](#). The stories told in this exhibition ask: to whom does the urban world belong and what do we want the urban environment of the future to look like?

### “American Land Rush: ‘A Lonely Homesteader’ searches for security in the Montana Homestead Boom”

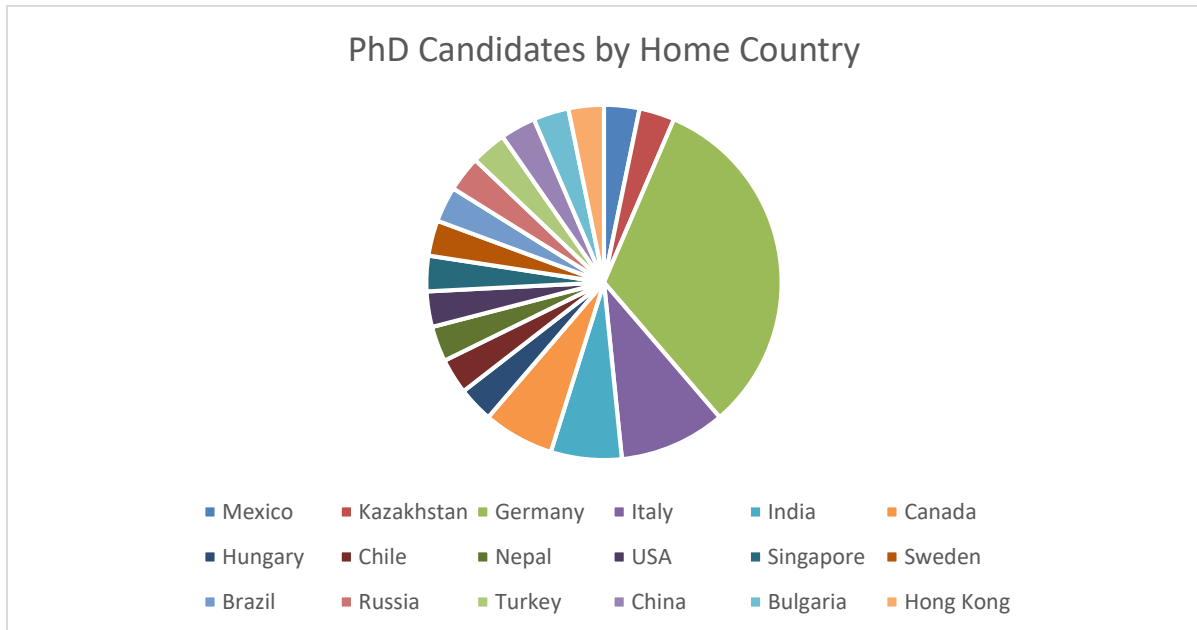
Swept up in the optimism of the 1910s, Lily Stearns settled with her four children on a promising homestead in northeastern Montana, where she found her fate conscribed by extreme weather and the limits of her endurance. In this richly illustrated virtual exhibition, Carson Fellow alumna Sara M. Gregg tells the story of one participant in the largest homestead boom in US history, revealing the erratic fortunes of farm life reflected in the abundant economic, political, and personal uncertainties of the era.

**Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History** (ISSN 2199-3408) tells short environmental stories embedded in time and place, and has been working to expand its geographical diversity. In 2020, *Arcadia* published 46 articles, from the story of a farmer on the !Garib/Orange river in Namibia using historical flood markers to challenge eviction, to a complicated plan to reintroduce commercial whaling to the Japanese port city Hachinohe, to histories of the social lives of central Himalayan herbs. *Arcadia* had more than 58,000 unique visitors in 2020, an increase of 19% from last year. It is archived via LMU

Munich's university library Open Journal Systems, in the beta version of the Fachinformationsdienst historicum.net, and is included in the Directory of Open Access Journals.

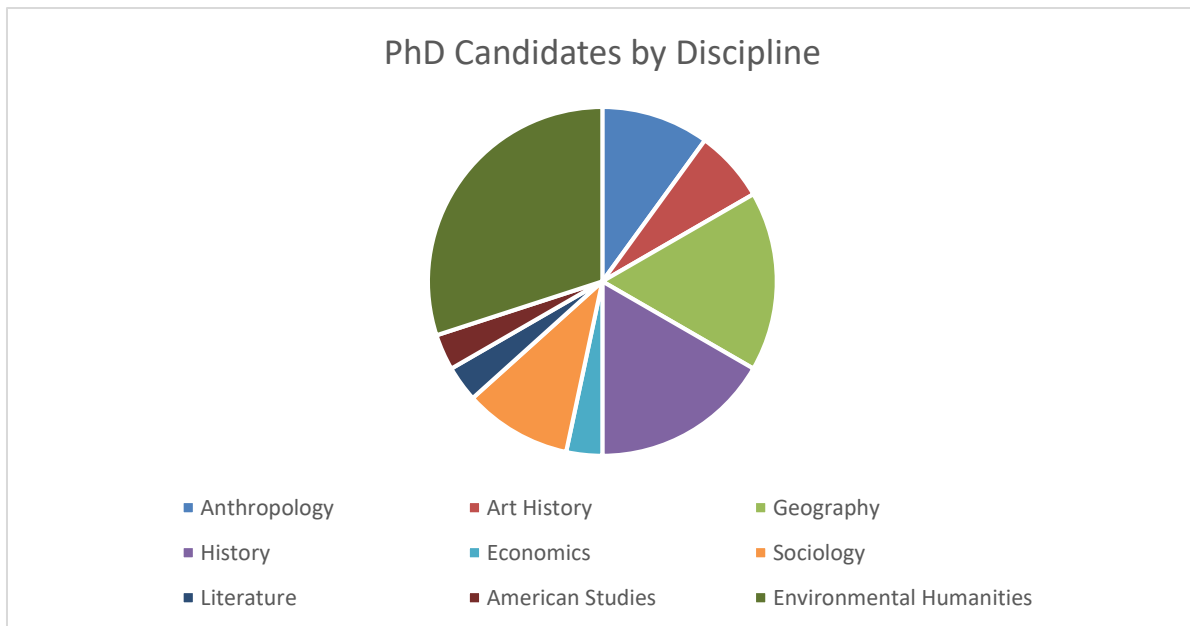
## 9. Doctoral Program Environment and Society

The doctoral program “Environment and Society” (ProEnviron) completed its tenth year of existence in 2020. With the addition of Professor for Geography, Julia Pongratz, Professor for Comparative Literature Studies, Juliane Prade-Weiss, and Professor for Quantitative Empirical Research, Katrin Auspurg, the academic board now represents 14 disciplines.



*Figure 1: PhD candidates by home country*

For the fall 2020 application round, 34 full applications were submitted. Five new students were selected and eventually joined the program in the winter semester 2020/21, with projects that continue a marked transnational shift in areas of research, bringing the total number of current program participants to 32.



*Figure 2: PhD candidates by discipline*

The RCC community congratulates the five candidates who completed the “Environment and Society” program in 2020, with the following dissertations (in alphabetical order by author):

- L. Sasha Gora, “Culinary Claims: A Cultural History of Indigenous Restaurants in Canada”
- Katrin Kleemann, “A Mist Connection: The Icelandic Laki Fissure Eruption of 1783”
- Valentina Roxo, “Struggle for Oil: An Environmental History of West Siberia, 1970s–2008”
- Elena Torres-Ruiz, “The Invention of Urban Farming – Crisis Management or Sustainable Future? An Examination of Urban Farming Approaches to Detroit’s Post-Industrial Problems”
- Fabienne Will, “Evidence Practices at the Interstice of Sciences, Humanities, and the Public: The Anthropocene Debate”
- Fabian Zimmer, “Hydroelectric Projections: The Culture of Water Power in 1950s European Industrial Films”

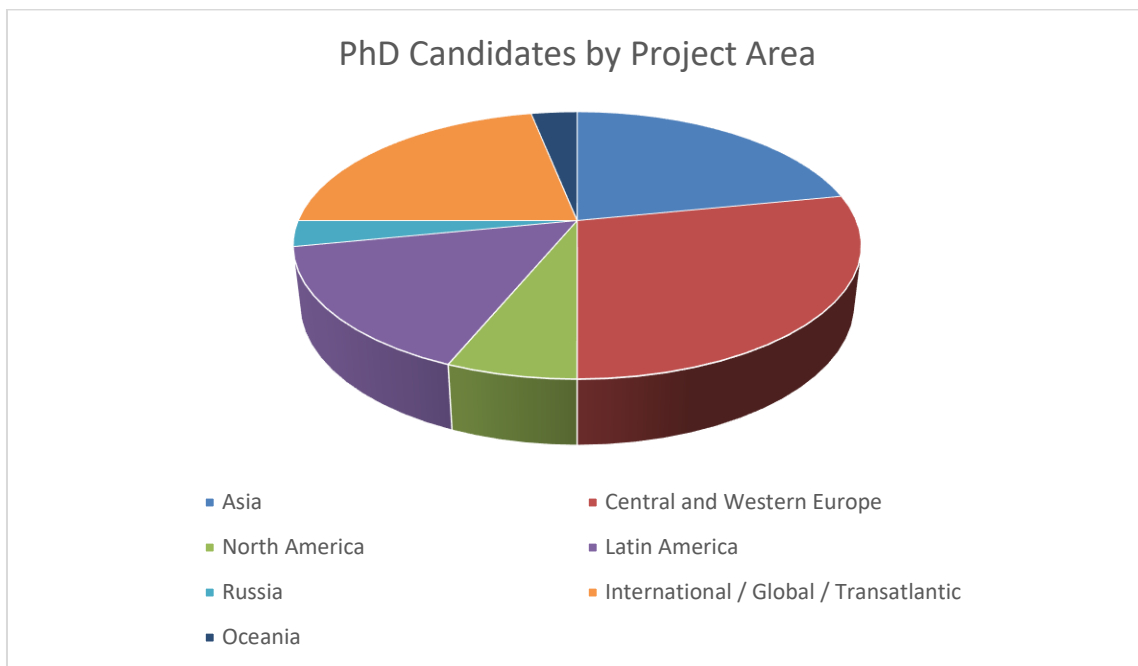
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, doctoral students could only virtually (if at all) attend workshops and conferences in 2020 and had to postpone the Doktorandentag to 2021. The number of (international) visiting doctoral students was also cut by travel bans.

Nevertheless, the RCC started a TA-ship collaboration with Ulrike Plath from Tallinn University in 2020 with two RCC doctoral students being involved in teaching. The doctoral students are now more involved with fellows through student presentations at Works in Progress, organized by the RCC fellows. One doctoral student now coordinates the RCC Reading Group, another student coordinates the RCC Writing Group.

The Graduate Program coordinators adjusted the structure of the program in order to facilitate the fulfillment of all the necessary requirements for the doctoral students. In order to attain the necessary requirements, students now



- attend the interdisciplinary Lunchtime Colloquium series, Tuesday Discussions, Works in Progress, or similar RCC activities (a **minimum of 60 sessions** is required over the course of the program);
- take part in **two or more doctoral workshops** (*Doktorandentage*, doctoral retreats) organized within the program. Proenviron members will need to present their work at **one of the *Doktorandentage*** (or retreats);
- take part in the **doctoral meetings** (*jour fixe*) organized by the program coordinator **once a month** during the semester;
- present their research **at least once** at a scholarly event (conference or similar) held outside of LMU.



*Figure 3: PhD Candidates by Geographical Areas of Projects*

## 10. Certificate Program in Environmental Studies

In 2020, a total of 131 students were enrolled in the interdisciplinary Environmental Studies Certificate program, a new record in its seven-year history. Students have come from 58 different master programs (LMU, TUM, and other universities inside and outside Germany) and work towards earning an additional certificate in Environmental Studies at the RCC. The number of students coming from technical, engineering, and natural science backgrounds has continued to increase.

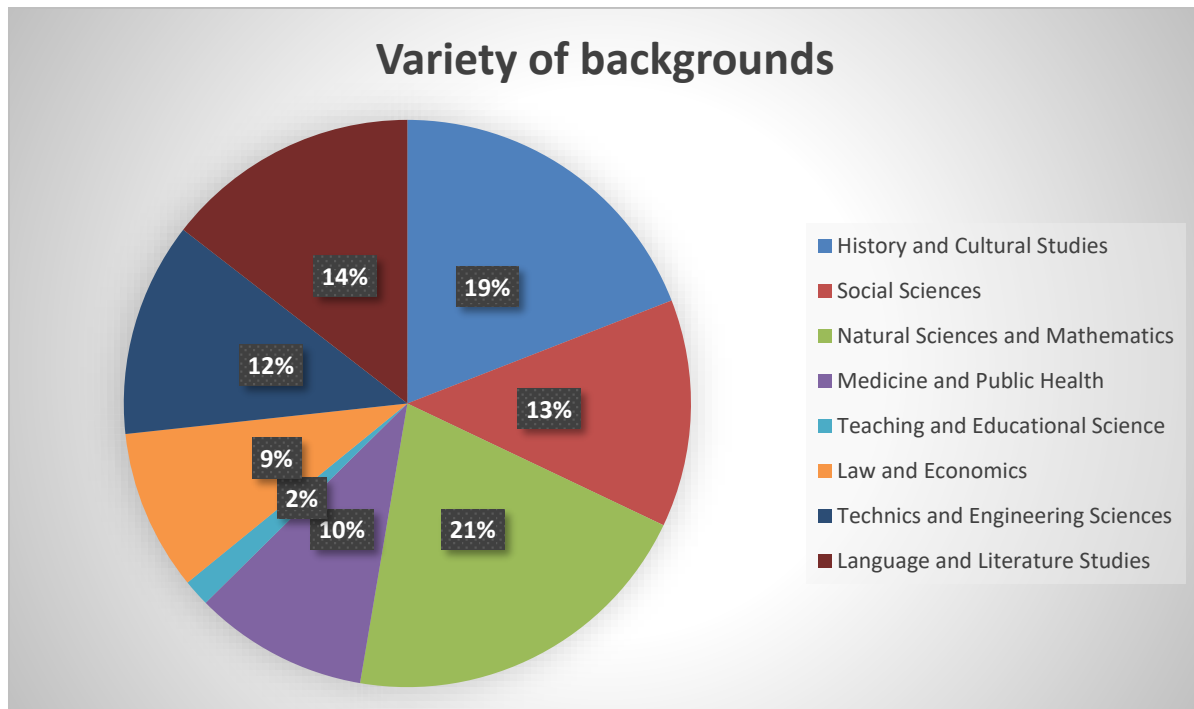


Figure 4: Variety of study program backgrounds of enrolled certificate students

The weekly Lunchtime Colloquium and the subsequent Reading Course “Introduction to Environmental Studies” form the core of the Environmental Studies Certificate Program, providing students with an overview of environmental history, environmental anthropology, political ecology, environmental ethics, as well as current debates and ongoing research in environmental studies. In addition, students can choose from a wide array of imported courses from other LMU faculties such as biology, sociology, law, ethics and geography, which all have a relevant connection to environmental issues.

2020 was characterized by online teaching and learning due to the pandemic. All field trips and in-person meetings had to be cancelled and/or postponed. However, the number of applications to the program (60 in total) and participation in online classes has shown that students are highly motivated to start or continue the program despite difficult circumstances. In 2020, 17 students completed the program with their final project. Since an in-person meeting was not possible, the planned Eco Slam, in which students present their final projects, had to be postponed.

In the weekly online Tuesday Discussions, the RCC’s environmental practice seminar, practitioners introduced students to a wide variety of fields, both academic and otherwise. Participants had the

opportunity to meet speakers who function as heads of environmental foundations, as members of environmental research institutions, green businesses, environmental nongovernmental organizations (ENGOS), or as representatives of the Ministry of the Environment. Lunchtime Colloquia continued virtually, with the talks of RCC fellows well received and widely discussed among students in the Reading Course that followed each Lunchtime Colloquium.

The certificate program was actively involved in the Public Climate School during both the winter and summer semester of 2020. All classes offered by the RCC were open to the public during this week, with lecturers focusing their teaching on climate related issues. The certificate program was also offered a talk followed by a Q&A with Jenia Mukherjee, a former RCC fellow and assistant professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur.

The certificate program is steadily expanding and strengthening its ties with the Technical University in Munich (TUM) through collaborative teaching. The sufficiency seminar together with the Department of Civil, Geo and Environmental Engineering was taught for the third winter semester. Further collaborations with the Chair of Sustainable Urbanism are in the planning stages.

Students and alumni of the program added to the official curriculum by organizing and offering a number of online events through the RCC Alumni Association e.V..

## 11. Master's Program in Environmental Humanities

Over the last few months, the Environmental Humanities Development team succeeded in strengthening Environmental Humanities (EH) at LMU through a number of steps taken towards implementing the new MA program "Environment and Society." The team **received formal approval for the new program** from the Faculty of Linguistics and Literature, which will host the new master's program in November 2020. All relevant documentation will be submitted to the legal division by early July 2021; by February 2022, an optimized plan for the new program will be submitted to the LMU Senate and the Bavarian Ministry of Science, with the **program expected to start in the winter semester 2022/23**. In 2020, LMU's university leadership (*Erweiterte Hochschulleitung*) approved the proposal of Prof. Dr. Christof Mauch to establish a **new Chair in Environmental Humanities** as part of LMU's HighTech agenda. This procedure involves a proactive hire. The new chair is expected to take over the program in 2022. The selection process is underway with the proposed candidate's work bridging disciplines in innovative ways which will benefit the program and the university.

The overall conceptualization of the new master's program continues to focus on **an interdisciplinary approach to the relationship between the environment, people, and society**, with an emphasis on the humanities and social sciences. The program will address its themes, topics, and case studies from historical, social, and environmental perspectives, as well as through interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches. The program builds on the environmental humanities for its core courses (*Pflichtmodule*), extending to other disciplines in the sciences through the choice of elective modules (*Wahlpflichtmodule*). This interdisciplinary approach is specific to the program and enables students to develop new theoretical perspectives and approaches to solving complex and interconnected real-world problems. The following **module plan** reflects the prospective structure of the program (see Fig.1).

## Module Overview for MA “Environment and Society” RCC, LMU Munich

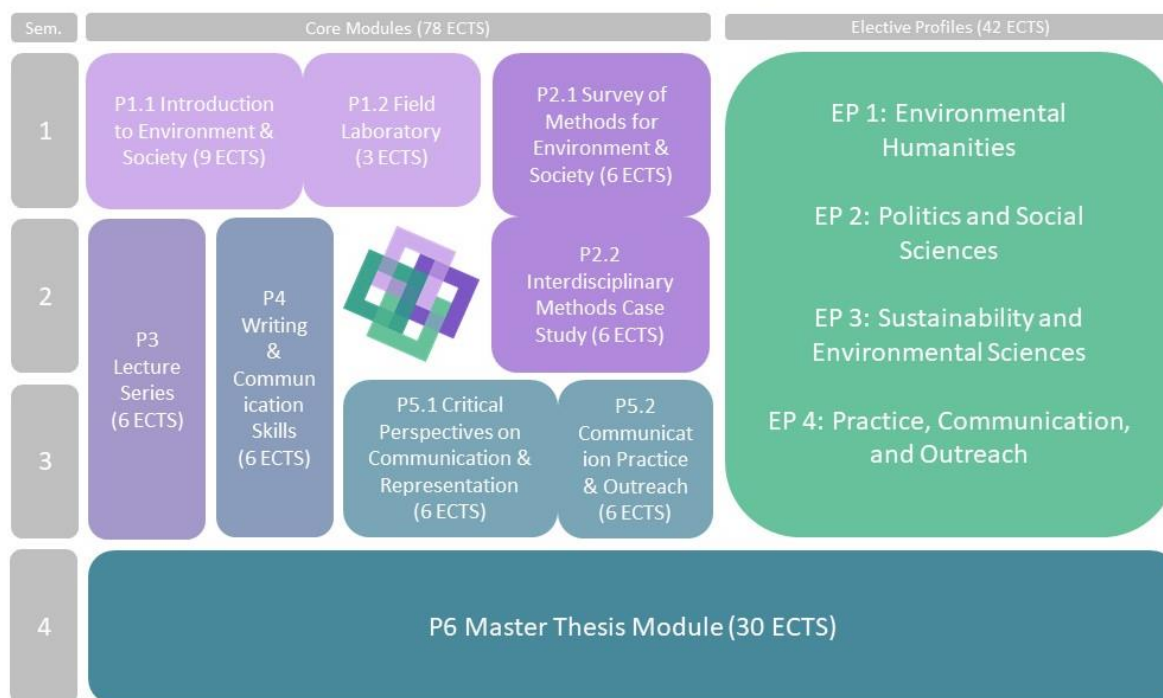


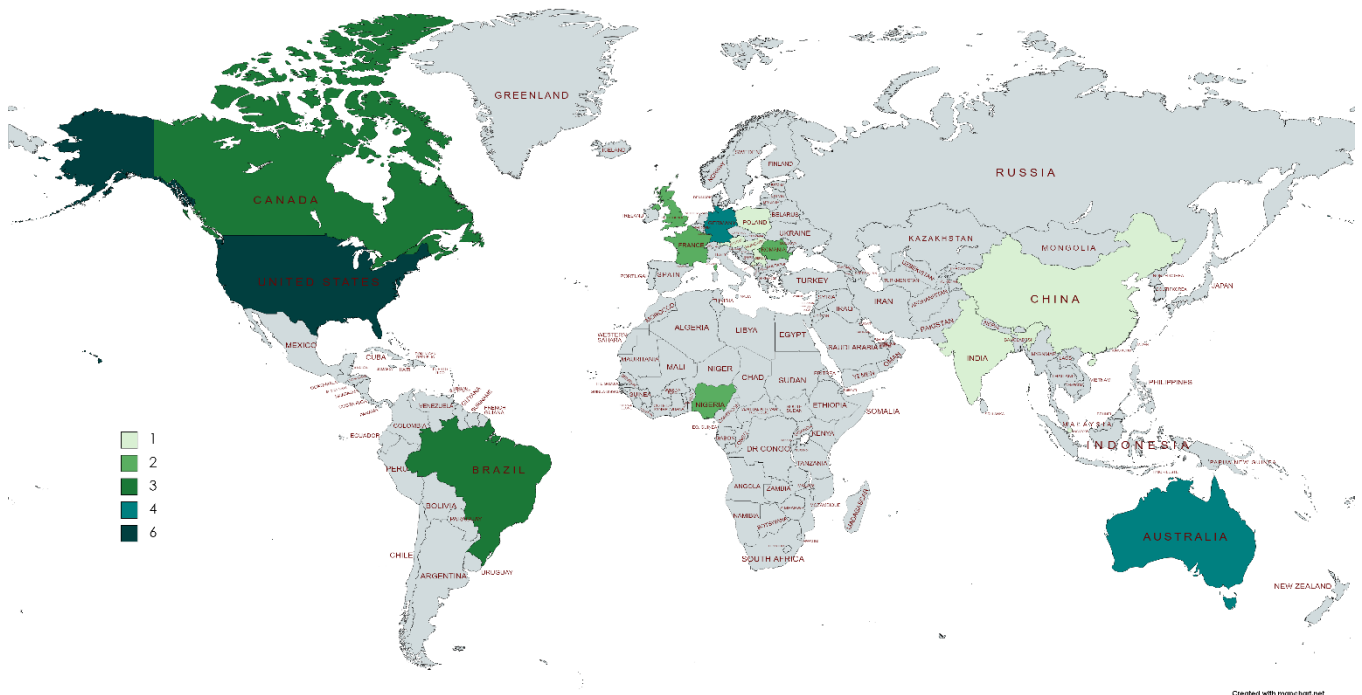
Figure 1: Planned module overview for MA “Environment and Society”

The program promises to establish **an unprecedented level of inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration between LMU faculties**: a total of 20 faculties are projected to be involved in the program’s teaching, with a substantial percentage already agreeing on specific courses and other forms of cooperation. In addition, a number of non-educational organizations have agreed to be involved. The team has incorporated a variety of teaching formats and approaches, like co-teaching, field-based learning (also in the form of collaborative excursions with international partners), and virtual teaching/learning components. For the Writing Skills Module, the team initiated a **collaboration with the LMU’s Writing Center** to develop a tailor-made module on writing and communication skills, focusing specifically on hands-on exercises in environmental communication practices and providing students with a complimentary skill set in writing for academia and beyond. Throughout, the EHD team has worked closely with the Director of Graduate Programs at the RCC to revise the ESCP in order to ensure overlap with the master’s program.

In parallel, as online teaching gained greater significance with the onset of the pandemic, work began on the project’s **MOOC deliverables**. The team conducted research into existing MOOCs in the field and in best practice. In conversation with LMU e-University staff, it familiarized itself with the technical details. Two interdisciplinary themes have so far been selected for further MOOC development: “What is a River – EH perspectives” and “Radical Hope” (in collaboration with UT Austin and Queen’s University Belfast). The EHD team has also planned **collaborative teaching projects** with the Universities of Tallinn and Oslo. Each collaboration is expected to result in an excursion opportunity for students as part of the new master’s program. The exchange with Tallinn will focus on “Beer and Bread,” capitalizing on the growing EH focus on microscale ecosystems. It will also receive funding support from a UoT grant, as well as from a new Erasmus+ collaboration between the two institutions.

The COVID-19 pandemic did result in some changes for the team and the program. Most significantly, due to wider disruptions in university administration and the Bavarian Ministry of Education, the start date for the new master's program was delayed by a year to the winter semester of 2022/23. Finally, the planned visiting professorships have been postponed, with the first projected to occur in 2022.

## 12. Fellows and Visiting Scholars



*Map indicating the countries of origin of RCC fellows and visiting scholars in 2020.*

In 2020, 35 fellows and visiting scholars were in residence at the RCC: 23 women and 12 men. They came from 18 countries: including Montenegro, Hong Kong, Ireland, Brazil, India, Nigeria, Hungary, Singapore, Australia, and Canada. The cohort included artists, performers, writers and practitioners as well as scholars and researchers. Most projects were multidisciplinary in nature, covering environmental history, the environmental humanities, environmental and comparative literature, environmental architecture, landscape hermeneutics, agricultural ethnography, political ecology, biotechnology and agronomy, sociology, cultural anthropology, ethnobiology, and more.

We were fortunate to have several visiting scholars who contributed significantly to the intellectual culture of the RCC. All visiting scholars bring their own funding; this included grants from the DAAD, Humboldt Foundation, Fulbright Foundation, among many others.

### Fellows

#### Joseph Adedeji

**01.10.2019–31.01.2020**

“African Urban Wildernesses as Cultural Entities: Bio-culturalism between the Global North and South”

Dr. Joseph Adeniran Adedeji’s core research interest is in landscape hermeneutics. He joined the Rachel Carson Center from The Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA), Nigeria, where he is a

senior lecturer at the Department of Architecture. He obtained a Bachelor (Hons.) and a Master of Technology in architecture from Ladoké Akintola University of Technology (LAUTECH), Ogbomoso, and a Doctor of Philosophy in architecture from FUTA. He lectured briefly at Osun State College of Technology, Esa-Oke (2004–2007), and LAUTECH (2007–2011) before his appointment to FUTA in 2011. A full member of the Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA) and chartered by the Architects' Registration Council of Nigeria (ARCON), he has over two decades of practical experience. His teaching, research work, and publications are situated at the intersection of spatial considerations for the comfortable use of urban open spaces, environment, and behavior, cultural morphology of cityscapes, and more profoundly so, landscape hermeneutics of the urban grain in an African context. He is especially passionate about researching the socio-cultural aspects of ecosystem services and biocultural identity of the Yoruba nation of Southwest Nigeria. His most recent project titled "Bioculturalism of Yorubas: Intersection of Mythology and Nature for Wellbeing at Osun Sacred Grove UNESCO Site, Osogbo, Nigeria" is part of the bigger project *Urban Realities and Urban Nature: Facilitating Processes of Wellbeing and Belonging within Urban Biocultural Environments* (Earthscan, forthcoming). He has published widely and presented research at academic conferences in Nigeria and abroad. These include IFLA (International Federation of Landscape Architects), World Congress 2012 and 2016, and the 2nd International Workshop on Civil Engineering and Architecture, among many others. He is a research methodologist with emphasis on the mixed-method paradigm, which he teaches on a postgraduate level. His *Survey Research Designs Incorporating Data Dummying: The What and How of a Strategy for Studying Environment Security* is a valuable resource on research methods praxis.

## **Anna Barcz**

**01.10.2019–30.06.2020**

### "Lost Landscapes and Broken Human-Animal Bonds: Literature as an Environmental Historiography of Soviet Eastern Europe"

Anna Barcz holds a PhD in literary studies from the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Science in Warsaw. Before coming to Munich, she was part of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Cofund fellowship program at Trinity Long Room Hub (Trinity College Dublin). From 2012 to 2018, she has been associated with the Institute as a research fellow. Since 2015 she has been working as an assistant professor at the University of Bielsko-Biala and has been teaching at the University of Warsaw. Anna has been carrying out research in the field of animal studies and environmental humanities. Her project *Socio-Cultural Constructions of Vulnerability and Resilience. German and Polish Perceptions of Threatening Aquatic Phenomena in Odra River Regions* (CultCon, 2016–2018) was supported by the Polish and German Research Foundations and conducted in cooperation with the Leibniz Institute for Research on Society and Space in Erkner. Polish and German literature played a major role in this project by reflecting how people cope with floods and in trying to gain a better understanding of the cultural differences between Polish and German environmental performance. Anna's recent research focuses on representing nonhumans in environmental history and the culture of Soviet Eastern Europe.

## **Jiat-Hwee Chang**

**01.01.2020–30.04.2020**

### "(Trans)forming the Air-Conditioning Complexes: Climate Control, Built Environment and Society in Singapore and Doha"



Jiat-Hwee Chang (PhD, UC Berkeley) is associate professor at the Department of Architecture, National University of Singapore. He is the author of *A Genealogy of Tropical Architecture: Colonial Networks, Nature and Technoscience* (2016) that was awarded the International Planning History Society Book Prize 2018 and shortlisted for the European Association for Southeast Asian Studies Humanities Book Prize 2017. He is also the co-editor (with Imran Tajudeen) of *Southeast Asia's Modern Architecture: Questions in Translation, Epistemology and Power* (2019) and (with William S. W. Lim) *Non West Modernist Past* (2011). Jiat-Hwee was a Manton Fellow at the Clark Art Institute, Fall 2019, and a Mellon Researcher at the Canadian Centre for Architecture, 2017–19. His interdisciplinary research has been funded by institutions in North America, Australia, Britain, Qatar, Cyprus, and Singapore. At the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Jiat-Hwee was researching the socio-cultural histories and techno-politics of air-conditioning and climate change in urban Asia.

### **Johanna Conterio**

**01.09.2020–30.04.2021**

“Greening Moscow: Urban Planning, Social Engineering and the Politics of Green Space in the USSR, 1931-1941”

Johanna Conterio is a lecturer in international and modern European history at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. She was a post-doctoral fellow at Birkbeck College, University of London, from 2014–2017, working on the Wellcome Trust project *The Reluctant Internationalists: A History of Public Health and International Organisations, Movements and Experts in Twentieth Century Europe*. Her research is focused on the environmental and medical history of the Soviet Union, with an emphasis on the intersections between environment (climate, geography, and landscape), medicine, architecture, and urban planning. She is the curator of a special forum on The Black Sea World and the Question of Boundaries, published in *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian Studies* in 2018, which drew on a workshop that she convened on The Black Sea in the Socialist World in 2015. As a Carson Fellow, she was working on the project *Greening Moscow: Urban Planning, Social Engineering and the Politics of Green Space in the USSR, 1931-1941*. This project investigates the relationship between urban planning, social order, and public health in Stalinist urbanism.

### **Kelly Donati**

**01.09.2019–14.02.2020**

“Multispecies Gastronomy: Entangled Worlds of Food and Farming in the Capitalocene”

Kelly Donati is an ethnographer in gastronomy and agriculture. Her doctoral dissertation, completed in 2017, developed the concept of multispecies gastronomy, which explores the convivial and lively co-productive collaborations between humans and nonhumans in small-scale farming practice. She has published in the fields of multispecies gastronomy, community gardens, farmers markets, the politics of Slow Food, and the development of food studies pedagogy. Kelly developed and currently lectures in Australia’s first Bachelor of Food Studies and Master of Food Systems and Gastronomy at William Angliss Institute and is the founding chairperson of Sustain: The Australian Food Network, a not-for-profit organization which undertakes food system policy work for the local government and beyond.

### **Stefan Dorondel**

**01.09.2020–28.02.2021**

“Global Nature, Multispecies Approaches, and the Ecological Restoration of the Danube”

Stefan Dorondel is a senior researcher at the Francisc I. Rainer Institute of Anthropology, Bucharest, and affiliated with the Institute for Southeast European Studies at the Romanian Academy. Stefan holds a PhD in history and ethnology from the Lucian Blaga University in Sibiu (Romania) and a PhD in rural studies from Humboldt University Berlin. He is an anthropologist and environmental historian interested in the environmental transformation of post-socialist countries. His monograph *Disrupted Landscapes: State, Peasants and the Politics of Land in Postsocialist Romania* explores the many ways socialist and post-socialist policies of land reform have disrupted humans, animals, rivers, and forests. With Thomas Sikor, Johannes Stahl, and Phuc Xuan To, Stefan co-authored the monograph *When Things Become Property: Land Reform, Authority, and Value in Postsocialist Europe and Asia*, published as part of the multi-volume series *Max Planck Studies in Anthropology and Economy* (Berghahn, 2017). Stefan’s work has been published in journals such as *Development and Change*, *Citizenship Studies*, *Social Analysis*, *Environment and History*, *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, and *Ethnologia Balkanica*, and in book chapters by Routledge. His co-authored edited volume (with Stelu Serban) *Planners, Experts, Bureaucrats: The Transformation of Economy and Nature in European Peripheries* is under contract with the University of Pittsburgh Press. He is currently working on a book tentatively titled *Global Nature, Multispecies Approaches and the Ecological Restoration of the Danube*. The book analyzes the movement of ideas about nature, technologies, solutions, and environmental experts on a global level and highlights the way in which these complex processes influenced ecological restoration of the lower Danube.

**Malcom Ferdinand**

**01.01.2020–19.03.2020**

“A World beyond the Toxic Ruins of Slavery and Colonization: The Struggle against Chlordecone in the French Antilles (1969–2019)”

Malcom Ferdinand is an environmental engineer from University College London. He holds a PhD in political philosophy from Université Paris Diderot and currently works as a researcher at the CNRS (IRISSO/University Paris Dauphine). At the crossroad of political philosophy, postcolonial theory and political ecology, his research focuses on the Black Atlantic and particularly the Caribbean. He explores the relations between current ecological crises and the colonial history of modernity. He has recently published a book based on his PhD dissertation entitled *A Decolonial Ecology: Thinking of Ecology from the Caribbean World*.

**Stephen Halsey**

**01.01.2020–31.12.2020**

“Prometheus Bound: Environmental Crisis and the Developmental State in Modern China”

Stephen R. Halsey’s scholarship focuses on the intersection of state power, economic development, and environmental change in late imperial and modern China (1850 to present). He completed his doctoral work at the University of Chicago and currently serves as an associate professor of history at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. Halsey’s first book, *Quest for Power: European Imperialism and the Making of Chinese Statecraft*, historicizes the country’s seemingly sudden political and economic ascendance after 1990. Halsey is currently completing a second book manuscript titled

*Prometheus Bound: Environmental Crisis and the Developmental State in Modern China*. It uses the “elements” of minerals, water, soil, and air in a series of four case studies to examine the environmental constraints on China’s growth in the twentieth century. He argues that government authorities preferred a technocratic approach to development, but time and again ecological limitations in place before the onset of modern growth forced them to employ an “involutionary” strategy defined by inefficient, low-tech, and labor-intensive principles. Halsey has received the following fellowships in support of his research: the Fulbright Senior Scholar Grant (China), Taiwan Fellowship, Fulbright-Hays DDRA Fellowship, Blakemore Foundation Language and Language Refresher Grants, FLAS, and Earhart Foundation Fellowship.

## **Ute Hasenöhr**

**01.10.2020–28.02.2021**

### “Empires of Light, Empires of Darkness”

Ute Hasenöhr is a social and environmental historian at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. As assistant professor in the Department of History and European Ethnology, she has published on the history of social movements and civil society, cultural landscapes and energy issues, as well as on the development and perception of socio-technical systems, institutions, and public goods. She is author of *Zivilgesellschaft und Protest. Eine Geschichte der Naturschutz- und Umweltbewegung in Bayern 1945-1980* and co-editor of the volume *Urban Lighting, Light Pollution and Society*. Her current project, *Empires of Light, Empires of Darkness*, is the first to explore the entwined colonial history of artificial light and the night in the British Empire (1830s-1960s), utilizing lighting as a focal point for an investigation of global technological (ex)change and its impacts on society and the environment. The project traces the energy landscape of key colonial cities such as Bombay, Calcutta, Khartoum, and Accra with their urban-rural connections, scrutinizing persistence, and change in the utilization of “everyday energies,” as well as in the urban fabric of light and darkness. Investigating the uneven illumination of the British Empire and tracing its colonial legacies, the project not only adds a vital historical dimension to topical discussions on energy deprivation in the Global South and light pollution in the North but also explores basic questions on the phenomenology of light(ing) and darkness: What do we need artificial light for, how has it changed our way of life and experience of the world, and how has it influenced not only different cultures but also the environment and our place within it?

## **Sarah Kanouse**

**01.12.2019–31.03.2020**

### “My Electric Genealogy”

Sarah Kanouse is an interdisciplinary artist and critical writer examining the politics of landscape and space. Migrating between video, photography, and performative forms, her research-based creative projects shift the visual dimension of the landscape to allow hidden stories of environmental and social transformation to emerge. Her creative work has been screened or exhibited at Documenta 13, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, the Cooper Union, the Clark Art Institute, the Smart Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, and in numerous academic institutions such as CUNY Graduate Center, George Mason University, University of California Berkeley, and the University of Wisconsin. She has written about performative and site-based contemporary art practices in the journals *Acme*, *Leonardo*, *Parallax*, and *Art Journal*, as well as in the edited volumes *Ecologies*, *Agents*, *Terrains*; *Critical Landscapes*; *Art Against the Law*; and *Mapping Environmental Issues in the City*. Sarah Kanouse is associate professor of media arts in the Department of Art and Design at Northeastern

University. She earned her MFA degree in studio art from the University of Illinois, and a BA in art, *magna cum laude*, from Yale University.

### **Thomas Lekan**

**01.01.2020–30.06.2020**

“Arusha 1961: The Making of the ‘Global Environment’ in an East African Town”

Thomas Lekan (PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1999) is a professor at the University of South Carolina with a joint appointment in the Department of History and the School of the Earth, Ocean and Environment. His books, essays, and reviews explore European, East African, and international environmental histories, the development of systems ecology, and critical approaches to sustainable development. He is the author of *Imagining the Nation in Nature: Landscape Preservation and German Identity, 1885-1945* (Harvard University Press, 2004), co-editor with Thomas Zeller of *Germany's Nature: Cultural Landscapes and Environmental History* (Rutgers University Press, 2005), and co-editor with Robert Emmett of the *RCC Perspectives* anthology *Whose Anthropocene? Revisiting Dipesh Chakrabarty's Four Theses of Climate History*. His second monograph *Our Gigantic Zoo: A German Quest to Save the Serengeti*, was published this year. Thomas's work also explores the intersection of environmental history and the public humanities by examining how scientific and policy processes of “baselining” nature frame the interpretation and management of protected areas and local landscapes. In this vein, he served with Jessica Efenbein as the co-principal investigator for a Historic Resource Study of Congaree National Park in Hopkins, SC, and on student-led landscape documentation projects for the South Carolina State Parks system. He has also co-edited (with Sebastián Ureta and Wilko von Hardenberg) a special section of articles for the journal *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space* called *Baselining Nature: Explorations of Futures-Past in Environmental Science and Policy*.

### **Cherry Leonardi**

**01.09.2020–31.12.2020**

“Bush Wars? Conservation, Conflict and Cultures of Nature in South Sudan and Northern Uganda, c. 1840–2020”

Cherry Leonardi is an associate professor in African history at Durham University in the UK, specializing in the history of South Sudan and northern Uganda. Her previous research explored local-level processes of state formation and the construction of authority, communities, and boundaries. She is the author of *Dealing with Government in South Sudan: Histories of Chiefship, Community and State* and co-author of *Dividing Communities in South Sudan and Northern Uganda: Boundary Disputes and Land Governance*.

### **Ajit Menon**

**01.10.2019–31.01.2020**

“Contested Conservation: Governmentalizing Landscapes and Belonging in the Nilgiri-Wayanad Region of South India”

Ajit Menon is based at the Madras Institute of Development Studies in Chennai, India, and is interested in the political ecology of development and conservation within the wider context of and debates around capital accumulation. His research primarily aims at understanding how and when the 'environment' becomes important, the contestations both discursive and material that underlie conflicts over the environment, and the environmental justice implications of development and conservation. Forested landscapes and coastal fisheries in South India have served as the site for most of his research. His recent and ongoing work has focused on criticizing neoliberal conservation and economic valuation of tiger reserves and the impacts of coastal transformation on fishing communities. At the Rachel Carson Center, he will be working on a manuscript tentatively titled *Contested Conservation: Governmentalizing Landscapes and Belonging in the Nilgiri-Wayanad Region of South India*. His most recent book, co-edited with Sharachandra Lele, is *Democratizing Forest Governance in India* (New Delhi: OUP).

### **Rubens Nodari**

**01.09.2019–28.02.2020**

#### “Has Ecosystem Management Based on Techno-scientific Practices Twisted Sustainability?”

Rubens Onofre Nodari is a geneticist who teaches and carries out research in the interface between agronomy and biology towards more sustainable landscape management. He has a BS in agronomy from the University of Passo Fundo (1977), MS in agronomy (crop sciences) from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (1980), and a PhD in genetics from the University of California in Davis (1992). From August 2016 to February 2017, Rubens held a senior internship at the University of California in Berkeley, under the supervision of Prof. Miguel Altieri. He was first selected for a position as assistant professor at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC) and then full professor. Currently, he teaches classes on plant breeding and biotechnology for agronomy students, and conservation of genetic resources, analysis of genetic diversity, and population genetics in the graduate program of plant genetic resources. For the past 20 years, he has been conducting research and guiding students in learning about (i) domestication of *Acca sellowiana*, also known as feijoa or guava-serrana; (ii) genetics and plant breeding; (iii) phylogeny and phylogeography of indigenous plants; and (iv) biosafety and biohazards of GMOs. Since 2012, he has been part of the vine and wine research network formed by UFSC, Epagri, Julius Kühn Institut. JKI (Germany), and the Edmunch Mach Foundation (Italy) to develop new varieties that combine disease resistance and quality. At UFSC he held the following positions: head of the department of crop science from 1980 to 1983; member of the university council from 1985 to 1986; and coordinator of the graduate program in plant genetic resources from 2010 to 2015. He was also regional secretary (SC) of the Brazilian Society of Genetics (SBG) from 1998 to 2000, and regional secretary (SC) of the Brazilian Society for the Progress of Science (SBPC) from 2002 to 2004. He was manager of plant genetic resources of the Brazilian Ministry of Environment from 2003 to 2008. He was a member of the National Technical Biosafety Commission (CTNBio) from 2003 to 2007 and from 2015 to 2016, and a member of the Agrobiodiversity Study Group (GEA) at the Ministry of Agrarian Development from 2012 to 2016. From 2013 to 2016 he was professor and advisor at Agostinho Neto University, Angola, of the master's degree in conservation and use of plant genetic resources.

### **Eunice Nodari**

**01.09.2019–28.02.2020**

#### “Has Ecosystem Management Based on Techno-scientific Practices Twisted Sustainability?”

Eunice Sueli Nodari is a Brazilian environmental historian at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina). Her research and teaching form an interface between history and interdisciplinary studies. She received her master's degree in European history at the University of California at Davis (1992), and her PhD in history at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (1999). In 1993 she was selected for a position as assistant professor at the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC), and since 2016 she has been a full professor. At UFSC she held the following positions: director of undergraduate courses (2000–2004), vice-rector of Extension and Culture (2004–2008), coordinator of the graduate program in history (2010–2015), and head of the Department of History (2017–2019). From 2015 to 2016, she was a visiting researcher at the Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis at Stanford University, under the supervision of Professor Zephyr Frank. She has taught modern and contemporary history and environmental and migration history to undergraduate history students, and global history and nature, migration, colonization, and the use of natural resources, and socio-environmental disasters in the graduate programs of history and interdisciplinary humanities. For the last 20 years, she has been conducting research projects and advising students on topics related to changes in the landscape of South America, forests and biodiversity, socio-environmental disasters, environmental migration, and digital humanities and spatial history. She is the main organizer of the International Symposium of Environmental History and Migrations, which has been held every two years since 2010 under the auspices of the Laboratory of Immigration, Migration and Environmental History, the only Brazilian academic research center dedicated to the environmental history of migration. She was the local chair of the 3rd World Congress in Environmental History, in Florianopolis, July 2019. Since 2010 she has been a fellow researcher in productivity at the National Research Council, Brazil. She was elected in July 2019 as a member of the board of directors at the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations. Her current project, *From Land to Table: An Environmental History of Vitiviniculture in the Americas*, is a joint project with Zephyr Frank (CESTA/Stanford) and researchers from Mendoza and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

## **Milica Prokic**

**01.09.2020–31.12.2020**

“Petrified Bodies, Humanised Stone: Embodied Environmental History of the Goli Otok (Barren Island) Political Prison”

Milica is an environmental historian and visual artist from Belgrade, Serbia. She completed her PhD at the University of Bristol, where she wrote a history of Goli otok, Barren Island—the master political prison and forced labor camp of socialist Yugoslavia. Her thesis won the Rachel Carson Prize for Best Dissertation in 2018. Milica holds degrees from the Central Saint Martins College, London, and from the Faculty of Visual Arts, Belgrade. Through her art practice, she explores ways to communicate scientific research to the wider public. In collaboration with the UoB Quantum Engineering and Technology Labs, she has worked on a series of outreach projects, including a graphic novel about the history of quantum communication. These projects have won several awards, including the EPSRC Impact Acceleration Account in 2018. Milica joined the RCC from the European University Institute, Florence, where she was a Max Weber Fellow (2019–2020) exploring embodied histories of women combatants in the southwestern Balkans. At the RCC, she revisited her doctoral research that explores the transforming “natures” of prison islands as laboratories of environmental and societal processes.

## **Jayne Regan**

**15.07.2019–15.01.2020**

“National Landscapes: The Australian Literary Community and Environmental Thought in the 1930s and 1940s”

Jayne Regan is a cultural, literary, and environmental historian. Her research focuses on the changing nature of literary engagement with the environment in early to mid-twentieth century Australia. Jayne’s Rachel Carson Center project explored the way landscapes were co-opted into the Australian literary community’s efforts to enhance Australia’s cultural “value” during the 1930s and 1940s, a period when an atmosphere of international catastrophe mingled with a variety of distinctly Australian colonial insecurities. Jayne was an undergraduate at the University of Wollongong, before completing her PhD at the Australian National University in 2017. She is the manager of Australia’s leading literary studies journal, *Australian Literary Studies*. She has also worked at the National Museum of Australia, creating history, geography, and civics education resources for the Museum’s new “Defining Moments Digital Classroom,” to be launched in 2020. Jayne has presented her research at a range of conferences, taking her from Canberra to Cologne, Beijing to Ballarat, and Humpty Doo to Helsinki.

**Kate Rigby**

**01.09.2020–31.12.2020**

“Reimagining Creation in an Era of Extinction: An Hexameron for the Anthropocene”

Kate Rigby is professor of environmental humanities at Bath Spa University, where she directs the Research Centre for Environmental Humanities together with associated MA and PhD programs, and adjunct professor of literary studies at Monash University (Melbourne). She has a background in German studies and comparative literature, and her research lies at the intersection of environmental, literary, philosophical, historical, and religious studies, with a specialist interest in European Romanticism, ecopoetics, and ecotheology. In 1999, Kate joined Australia’s cross-disciplinary National Working Group for the Ecological Humanities, and in 2004 she had the honor of becoming the inaugural president of the Association for the Study of Literature, Environment and Culture (Australia–New Zealand). In 2011 she also led the creation of the Australia-Pacific Forum on Religion and Ecology. In 2002, she co-founded the eco-humanities journal *Philosophy Activism Nature*, and is now co-editor of the University Press of Virginia series, *Under the Sign of Nature*. Following on from an interdisciplinary study of cultural-historical constructions of “natural disaster” viewed in the horizon of deepening climate crisis (*Dancing with Disaster: Environmental Histories, Narratives, and Ethics for Perilous Times*), her most recent monograph reconsiders the ecopoetic legacies of European Romanticism through a decolonial lens (*Reclaiming Romanticism: Towards and Ecopoetics of Decolonization*). Her current research responds to the escalating extinction crisis through an ecopoetic engagement with a neglected genre in Christian literature, a sequence of meditations on the biblical six days of creation (“Hexameron”).

**Kara Schlichting**

**01.01.2020–30.06.2020**

“Seasons in the City”

Kara Schlichting is an assistant professor of history at Queens College, CUNY. She received her PhD from Rutgers University. Her work in late-nineteenth and twentieth-century American history is at the intersection of urban, environmental, and political history in greater New York City. Schlichting is a co-

editor of the *H-Environment Roundtable Reviews*. She has published in the *Journal of Urban History* and the *Journal of Planning History*. Her book *New York Recentered: Building the Metropolis from the Shore* was published in 2019 as part of the History of Urban America series by The University of Chicago Press. *New York Recentered* examines the rise of the New York metropolitan area from 1840 to 1940, shifting the frame of reference of the city from Manhattan to the region's geographic edges—its coastlines and waterways—and to small-time unelected locals who shaped the modern metropolis from the periphery. This history brings to light the rapidly-evolving, often innovative, and at times uneasy relationship between the urban center and its growing suburban periphery. Her new project, *Seasons in the City*, examines how urban form created seasonal climatic challenges in pre-“climate-controlled” New York.

### **Astrid Schrader**

**01.10.2020–31.12.2020**

#### “Caring with Haunted Microbes: Transformative Times in the Anthropocene”

Astrid Schrader is a lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Philosophy, and Anthropology at the University of Exeter, UK. She works at the intersections of science and technology studies (STS), human-animal studies, and feminist and poststructuralist theories. Astrid received her PhD in history of consciousness and feminist studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz. She also holds a MS (UC Santa Cruz) and a Diplom (TU Berlin) in physics. Astrid's work explores questions of responsibility, care, and agency in scientific knowledge production, new ontologies, the relationship between anthropocentrism and conceptions of time, and questions of environmental justice. She has been particularly interested in scientific research and policy decisions about so-called “harmful algal blooms.” A recent project examined the scientific reconfigurations of life and death through research into programmed cell death in unicellular marine microbes. Another project explores the linking of bio- and geo-rhythms of marine algae and other ocean critters and how these may affect timescales of “our” concerns in the face of global warming. Her project “Caring with Haunted Microbes” is about developing new theoretical approaches in STS and “new materialisms,” combining “agential realism” (after Karen Barad) and “biodeconstruction” (after Jacques Derrida).

### **Nicole Seymour**

**01.08.2020–31.12.2020**

#### “Bad Environmentalism: Affective Dissent in the Ecological Age”

Nicole Seymour works on contemporary American literature, film, and culture, with a special interest in environmental cultural studies. Her research maps out alternative traditions of environmental activism and affect. Her first book, *Strange Natures*, rereads well-known queer novels and films as ecologically minded. At the Rachel Carson Center, she was working on her second book project, tentatively titled *Bad Environmentalism: Affective Dissent in the Ecological Age*. Nicole received her PhD in English from Vanderbilt University before taking a visiting assistant professor post at the University of Louisville. She is now assistant professor of English at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

### **Muazu Shehu**



**16.10.2019–10.01.2020**

“Diversity and Similarity in the Perception of Environmental Problems among Salafi and Sufi Muslim Denominations in Northeast Nigeria”

Muazu Shehu is a senior lecturer of sociology at Gombe State University, Nigeria. He received his BS and MS from the Ahmadu Bello University and Bayero University, Nigeria, respectively. He obtained his PhD in sociological studies from the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom. Although originally trained in sociology, his research interests are interdisciplinary and include religion and ecology, religion in society, science and technology in society, and forced migration. As a PhD researcher, he was an active member of the Science and Technology in Society research group at the University of Sheffield. He has published his research in several academic journals and blogs and has also given talks at leading conferences across the world. His work has been funded by the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), the Institute of International Education (IIE), and the Carnegie Corporation, among others. Muazu’s current research explores the perception of climate change and environmental degradation among religious conservatives in Nigeria, humanitarian crises, and sustainable development in northeast Nigeria.

**Bettina Stoetzer**

**01.01.2020–30.06.2020**

“Becoming-More-Than Urban: Wildlife Mobilities, Borders, and the Resilience of Cities in an Era of Environmental Change”

Bettina Stoetzer is a cultural anthropologist whose research focuses on the intersections of ecology, migration, and urban social justice. Bettina is an associate professor of anthropology at MIT. Bettina received her MA in sociology, anthropology, and media studies from the University of Goettingen and completed her PhD in anthropology at the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2011. Before coming to MIT, Bettina was a Harper Fellow in the Society of Fellows at the University of Chicago. Bettina's forthcoming book, *Ruderal City: Ecologies of Migration and Urban Life in Berlin* (under contract with Duke University Press), draws on fieldwork with immigrant and refugee communities, as well as ecologists, botanists, nature enthusiasts, and other Berlin residents to illustrate how human-environment relations have become a key register through which urban citizenship and racial inequalities are articulated in contemporary Europe. Bettina is also the author of a book on feminism and anti-racism, titled *InDifferenzen: Feministische Theorie in der Antirassistischen Kritik (InDifferences: Feminist Theory in Antiracist Criticism*, Hamburg: Argument, 2004), and she co-edited *Shock and Awe. War on Words* (Nampa: New Pacific Press, 2004) together with Bregje van Eekelen, Jennifer Gonzalez, and Anna Tsing. Bettina is currently working on a new project on urban wildlife mobility, climate change, and nationalism in the US and Germany.

**Xiaoping Sun**

**01.09.2019–28.02.2020**

“Feeding the Nation from the Wilderness: Food, Migration, and Environment in Northeast China”

Xiaoping Sun is assistant professor of Chinese history at Saint Mary’s University, Canada. She grew up in northeast China and received her PhD in history from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her previous research focused on social movements in Republican China (1912–1949). Recently, she has started to investigate China’s efforts in achieving national food security since 1949. Her research

project, *Feeding the Nation from the Wilderness: Food, Migration and Environment in Northeast China*, examines the mutual transformation of the state, humans, and nature in the process of turning China's northeastern frontier from the "Great Northern Wilderness" in the 1950s to China's largest cluster of state farms that can feed 10 percent of the population in the 2000s. This project has been generously funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council in Canada (Insight Development Grant, 2015–17; Insight Grant, 2018–23).

### **Anna Varga**

**01.09.2019–30.04.2020**

#### "Shepherding the Wild: Unmaking and Remaking Hungarian Wood Pastures"

Dr. Anna Varga came to the RCC from the MTA Centre for Ecological Research in Hungary. She is a biologist and ethnobiologist with interests in the history and recent development of the silvopastoral systems in central and eastern Europe. She holds a PhD from the University of Pécs (2018). In 2011 she participated in the Global Environmental Summer Academy hosted by the Rachel Carson Center. This course, along with several international ethnobiology events, has deeply influenced her work. Anna has been involved in multiple international agroforestry research initiatives over the last few years. Her work was one of the main influences on the forest grazing issue in Hungarian forest policy, enabling successful advocacy for changes to the Hungarian forestry law (2017). She is delighted that, after 60 years, forest grazing is permitted again in some places in Hungary. Anna is an active teacher and environmental educator and is interested in rural communities. Her research explores questions of ethnobiology, landscape history, environmental education, childhood, and processes of separation and (re)connection with nature.

### **Monica Vasile**

**01.10.2019–31.01.2020**

#### "Associative Environmentalism: The Revival of Forest Commons in the Romanian Carpathians"

Monica Vasile is an environmental anthropologist. She is currently writing her first monograph *The Forest Never Ends: Timbermen, Fiefdoms and Bison in the Postsocialist Carpathian Mountains*. She is head of the research group Romanian Mountain Commons, which maps and extensively describes contemporary forest and pasture commons across the Carpathian Mountains and is currently hosted by the Solidarity Laboratory, Bucharest. She has conducted research in the mountainous regions of Romania and is interested in issues of changing environmental practice, forests, grazing areas, and mountain communities. She has published and presented on topics related to environmental relations in the Carpathian Mountains, both in the past and in the present, on land commons, forest extraction, rewilding, and conservation. Monica studied and taught sociology and social anthropology at the University of Bucharest, where she obtained her PhD in 2008. From 2009 to 2013, she was a researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle-Saale. In addition to her academic pursuits, Monica worked as a socioeconomic expert for NGO-led nature conservation projects in Romania with direct effects to the lives of Carpathian communities. As a fellow at the RCC, she taught the course "Introduction to Environmental Anthropology" for the Environmental Studies Certificate Program.

### **Jessica White**

**01.12.2019–31.05.2020**

“Ecobiography: Exploring Environments and Selves”

Jessica White is a writer and academic. Her first novel, *A Curious Intimacy* (New York: Viking, 2007), won a Sydney Morning Herald Best Young Novelist award, was shortlisted for the Dobbie prize and the Western Australia Premier’s awards, and longlisted for the international IMPAC award. Her second novel *Entitlement* was published in 2012 (New York: Viking). Her third book, *Hearing Maud* (Crawley: University of Western Australia Publishing, 2019), is a hybrid memoir that weaves together her experiences of deafness with those of Maud Praed, the deaf daughter of nineteenth century expatriate Australian novelist Rosa Praed. Jessica’s short stories, essays, and poems have appeared widely in Australian and international literary journals and have been shortlisted or longlisted for major prizes. Jessica is also the recipient of funding from Arts Queensland and the Australia Council for the Arts, and has undertaken residencies in Hobart and Rome. She has a PhD from Birkbeck, the University of London, and currently lectures and researches at The University of Queensland, where she is writing an ecobiography of Georgiana Molloy (1805–1843), Western Australia’s first female scientist.

**Katherine Wright**

**01.07.2019–30.06.2020**

“Gleaning the Soils of Silver City—Cultural Revival and Colonial Resistance in a Community Garden”

Kate Wright’s research is situated at the interface of environmental humanities scholarship, community engagement, and social and environmental activism. Through innovative, participatory environmental humanities research projects, her research applies multispecies and anticolonial methodologies to work toward social and environmental justice. Between 2015 and 2019 Kate held a Chancellor’s postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of New England. The project was a four-year collaboration with Anaiwan, Gumbaynggirr, Dunghutti, and Gamilaroi people, developing and maintaining a community garden on a block of land that was once part of the East Armidale Aboriginal Reserve. This public environmental humanities research project was a prototype for environmental humanities research in action, where the research team, comprised of academics, community members, and nonhuman inhabitants of the community garden, collaborated to create new questions, to foster new modes of attentiveness and learning to be affected, and to develop alternative ecologies of responsibility and obligation at the interface of scholarship and activism. In 2017 Kate published her first monograph, focused on decolonizing philosophy and writing through intimate, embodied, and situated encounters with the more-than-human world, titled *Transdisciplinary Journeys in the Anthropocene: More-than-Human Encounters* in the *Routledge Environmental Humanities* series. Kate holds a PhD, which received the Vice Chancellor’s Commendation for Excellence in Research, from Macquarie University, and is co-editor of the Living Lexicon section of *Environmental Humanities*. Kate is currently completing work on a monograph documenting the community garden project, tentatively titled *Gleaning the Soils of Silver City – Cultural Revival and Anticolonial Resistance in a Community Garden*.

**Winnie Lai Man Yee**

**01.01.2020–30.04.2020**

“The Urban in the Ruins: Studies of Ecotopia in Chinese Urban Texts in the 2000s”

Winnie L. M. Yee is assistant professor in comparative literature and program coordinator of the MA Literary and Cultural Studies at the University of Hong Kong. Her research interests include environmental humanities, contemporary Chinese literature and film, Hong Kong culture, and postcolonial theory. She has published on Hong Kong independent cinema, Chinese filmmaker Jia Zhangke, Chinese writers Natalia Chan and Dung Kai-cheung. Her works have appeared in the *Journal of Asian Cinema*, *Communication and the Public*, *Environment, Space, Place*, *Jump Cut*, and the *Journal of Urban Cultural Studies*, among others. She is currently working on a book project exploring the relationship between ecopoetics and the Chinese independent film scene as well as on an edited volume on Asian ecocinema.

## Researchers-in-Residence

### Antoine Acker

**03.09.2020–31.12.2020**

#### “AnthropoSouth: Latin American Oil-Based Futures in the Development Century (1920–1975)”

Antoine Acker is an environmental historian working on Brazil and Latin America’s global connections in the age of the Anthropocene. In 2014, he has received a PhD from the European University Institute, Florence. Antoine has researched and taught at eight different European universities. Since 2017 he has worked as a senior lecturer at the history department of the University of Zurich. His first monograph, *Volkswagen in the Amazon: The Tragedy of Global Development in Modern Brazil*, analyzes a transnational ranching project which started in the early 1970s in the Brazilian rainforest. This study unveils the entwinement of the Amazon’s transformation into a modern export region and its rise to a global socio-environmental cause. At the Rachel Carson Center, Antoine worked on the transnational circulation of ideas, practices, and people involved in the building of a continent-wide regime of oil production and ownership in Latin America. In particular, he investigated the entwinement of energy and environmental topics in the process of nationalizing resources, which accompanied the construction of postcolonial Latin American nation states, and evaluate the impact of these transformations for energy transitions on a global level. This project is a contribution to an emerging academic and popular reflection about the role of the so-called Global South in shaping globalization of fossil fuels and the Anthropocene.

### Jemma Rowan Deer

**01.10.2020–30.11.2020**

#### “Mycomorphism: Fungi and the Literary Imagination”

Jemma Deer joined the RCC from the Harvard University Center for the Environment, where she was a 2018–20 postdoctoral research fellow. Through readings of literature and philosophy, her work explores the ways in which the ecological and social crises of the Anthropocene—global warming, mass extinction, food and resource insecurity—are not only transforming the planet, but also transforming what it means to be human. Her first book *Radical Animism: Reading for the End of the World* (London: Bloomsbury, 2020) weaves together ideas from anthropology, astronomy, deconstruction, evolutionary biology, literary studies, psychoanalysis, quantum physics and veganism in order to develop a new theory of animism for a planet in crisis. She is currently working on a project on fungi in literature. She also hosts EcoCast, the official podcast of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE).

## **Tatiana Kasperski**

**01.11.2020–31.12.2020**

### “Waste Futures in Post-soviet Russia”

Tatiana Kasperski earned her PhD in 2012 in political science at Sciences Po, Paris, where she defended a dissertation on the memory politics of the Chernobyl disaster in Belarus. (The book based on her dissertation has been recently published in France by Petra.) Since then she has worked on public engagement with nuclear power in Russia and Ukraine as a postdoctoral fellow at Centre Alexandre-Koyré for History of Science and Technology, Paris, and as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow at Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), Barcelona. As a research fellow at UPF, she has been working on the controversies around radioactive waste. Also, Tatiana participated in the collective project “Atomic Heritage Goes Critical: Waste, Community and Nuclear Imaginaries” coordinated by Linköping University, Sweden.

## **Julia Leyda**

**01.09.2020–28.02.2021**

### “The Climate Unconscious: Contemporary Screen Cultures of the Banal Anthropocene”

Julia Leyda received a PhD in English from the University of Washington in 1998 and holds a professorship in film studies in the Department of Art and Media Studies at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim. At NTNU Julia has founded the NTNU Environmental Humanities Research Group (@EnvHumNTNU). She is also a senior research fellow in the Graduate School of North American Studies at the John F. Kennedy Institute of the Freie Universität Berlin, a board member of the Norwegian Researcher School in Environmental Humanities, and an affiliated researcher in the Critical Petroaesthetics Collaboratory at the Oslo School of Environmental Humanities. She teaches and conducts research in and across the disciplines including the environmental humanities, intersectional feminism, critical geography, and film, television, and media studies. She has written, edited, or co-edited five books: *The Aesthetics and Affects of Cuteness* (co-edited with Joshua Paul Dale, Joyce Goggin, Anthony P. McIntyre, and Diane Negra, Abingdon: Routledge, 2017); *American Mobilities: Geographies of Class, Race, and Gender in US Culture* (Bielefeld: Transcript, 2016); *Post-Cinema: Theorizing 21st-Century Film* (co-edited with Shane Denson, Falmer: REFRAAME Books, 2016, <https://reframe.sussex.ac.uk/post-cinema/>); *Extreme Weather and Global Media* (co-edited with Diane Negra, Abingdon: Routledge, 2015); and *Todd Haynes: Interviews* (University of Mississippi Press, 2014). Julia’s RCC research project focused on Norwegian screen petrocultures and the climate unconscious in popular television and film, and during her stay in Munich she also developed video essays related to her work.

## **Thomas Smith**

**01.10.2020–31.03.2021**

### “New Geographies of Localisation in the Social and Solidarity Economy”

Thomas Smith is a human geographer whose work asks larger questions around how we foment economic democracy and post-growth economies. He particularly specializes in studies of 1) community economies and the social solidarity economy, 2) community-led sustainability transitions,

and 3) novel applications of theories of practice. Thomas received his PhD from the University of St Andrews, Scotland, in 2017, and currently works as an assistant professor in environmental studies at Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic. Since 2013, he has worked as an editor at the *Dark Mountain Project*, publishing environmental non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and art that grapples with living in an age of ecological breakdown and extinction.

## Visiting Scholars

**Antonio Andrioli**

**18.12.2019–16.03.2020**

“Ökologische und sozioökonomische Folge der RR-Soja in Brasilien”

**Sarah Bezan**

**04.02.2020–30.03.2020**

“Extinction Imaginaries: Species Loss and Revival in a Biotechnological Age”

**Lukas Schemper**

**01.07.2019–31.12.2020**

“International History of Disaster and Risk”

## 13. Staff

### Directors

The directors represent the RCC's two parent institutions: LMU Munich and the Deutsches Museum.

**Christof Mauch**, LMU Munich

**Helmuth Trischler**, Deutsches Museum

### General Operations

The general operations team is responsible for ensuring that everyday life at the RCC runs smoothly. They manage the RCC's budget and finances, staff contracts, organize events, provide IT support, and assist fellows in adjusting to life in Munich, as well as handling RCC mail, communications, and library loans.

**Arielle Helmick** (Managing Director)

**Lena Engel** (Office Manager)

**Hugo Branley** (Research Assistant)

**Maximilian Heumann** (IT/Communications Associate)

**Sophia Hörll** (Research Assistant)

**Andreas Jünger** (Events Coordinator)

**Laura Mann** (Librarian)

### Academic Programs and Projects

In addition to supervising the RCC's doctoral and certificate students, the academic programs team coordinates the LMU Munich faculty networks and partnerships with universities abroad. They assist with grant writing and arranging speakers, as well as maintaining the RCC's library.

**Gesa Lüdecke** (Director of Graduate Programs)

**Anna Antonova** (Director of Environmental Humanities Development)

**Anna Mazanik** (Doctoral Program Coordinator)

**Kerstin Kessler** (Program Associate)

**Malin Klinski** (Program Associate)

**Anne Schilling** (Research Assistant)

### Portal and Exhibitions

The RCC curates content in both digital and physical formats. The Environment & Society Portal team manages the content, design, and development of the RCC's digital collections, including researching topics, reviewing submissions, and acquiring permissions.

**Kimberly Coulter** (Director of the Environment & Society Portal)

**Ruhi Deol** (Research Associate)

**Katrin Kleeman** (Research Associate)

**Nina Möllers** (Project Manager – Exhibitions)

**Jonatan Palmblad** (Research Associate)  
**Iris Trautmann** (Digital Humanities Research Specialist)

## Publications

The editorial team is responsible for editing various publications, including the in-house journal *RCC Perspectives* and the RCC's blog, *Seeing the Woods*. In addition, they maintain the RCC's social media platforms and provide German to English translations.

**Harriet Windley** (Managing Editor)  
**Kristy Henderson** (Academic Editor)