

Rachel Carson Center
for Environment and Society
Annual Report 2021

Table of Contents

1.	The RCC at a Glance 2021	3
2.	Organizational Structure	4
3.	The Academic Advisory Board	6
4.	Research	7
5.	Collaborations	11
6.	Events	12
7.	Publications	21
8.	Environment & Society Portal	24
9.	Doctoral Program Environment and Society	26
10.	International Doctorate Program “Rethinking Environment”	28
11.	Certificate Program in Environmental Studies	30
12.	The Master’s Program in Environmental Humanities	32
13.	Fellows and Visiting Scholars	33
14.	Staff	39

1. The RCC at a Glance 2021

Throughout 2021, the Rachel Carson Center's activities remained significantly influenced by ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, prompting the center to continuously adapt its operations to prioritize the safety of its staff, researchers, fellows, and students. This adaptation primarily involved the organization of virtual or socially distanced events and activities. Additionally, the conclusion of the center's main funding as Käthe Hamburger Kolleg by the German Ministry of Research and Education in July 2021 marked a significant milestone after 12 years of generous support. The RCC will continue its work with positions and funding provided by LMU Munich.

Fellows

The fellowship program exclusively funded by the German ministry concluded in July 2021, with the RCC successfully hosting a larger cohort of fellows compared to 2020 from January to July. However, due to persistent COVID-related challenges and restrictions, not all fellowships could proceed as planned. Director Christof Mauch is currently collaborating with Herrmannsdorfer Landwerkstätten to establish a smaller, residential fellowship program in 2022. The RCC further brought in the first two Rachel Carson–Simone Veil fellows (a fellowship program in cooperation with Project House Europe at LMU).

Events & Projects

In 2021, several notable projects started at the Rachel Carson Center. Among others, there is Francesca Mezzenzana's VW Freigeist project, "Learning Nature," Gregg Mitman's ERC Advanced Grant project, "Fragments of the Forest," and the International Doctorate Program "Rethinking Environment," a collaborative program between the RCC and the University of Augsburg. With the conclusion of ministry funding, the hosting of third-party funded projects became critical for the center's continuity.

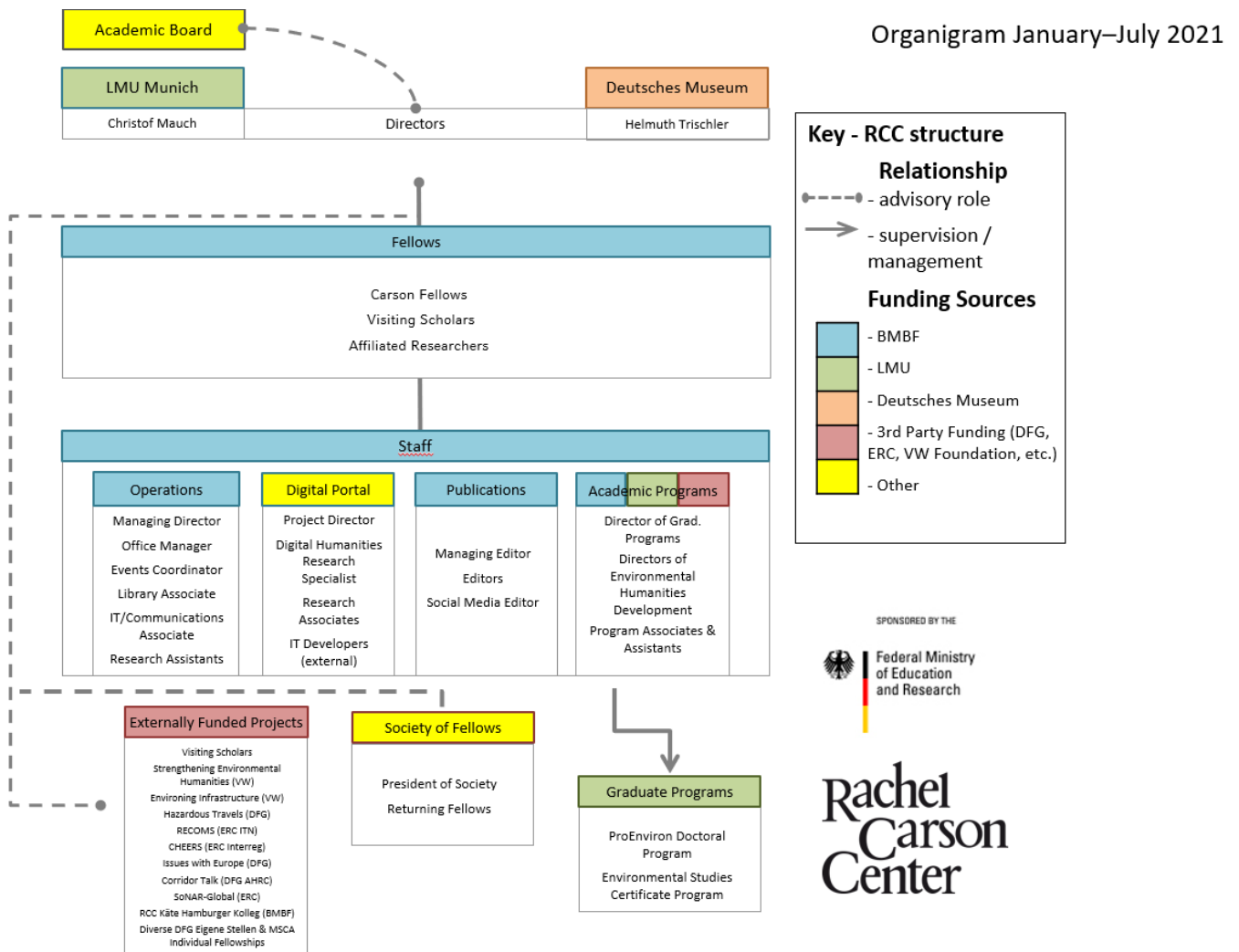
Despite the COVID-19 challenges, the RCC successfully resumed both online and in-person events, including Lunchtime Colloquia and Tuesday Discussions. The center organized a diverse array of conferences, workshops, and seminars. Noteworthy in-person events include the "Hazardous Hope" conference, a Chilean-German workshop, and the "Pop-Up Exhibition RCC Glasgow."

Additionally, the RCC's online presence remained vibrant throughout 2021, with the editorial team supporting the publication of partner journals and series, along with multiple online publications on the RCC's own platforms.

2. Organizational Structure

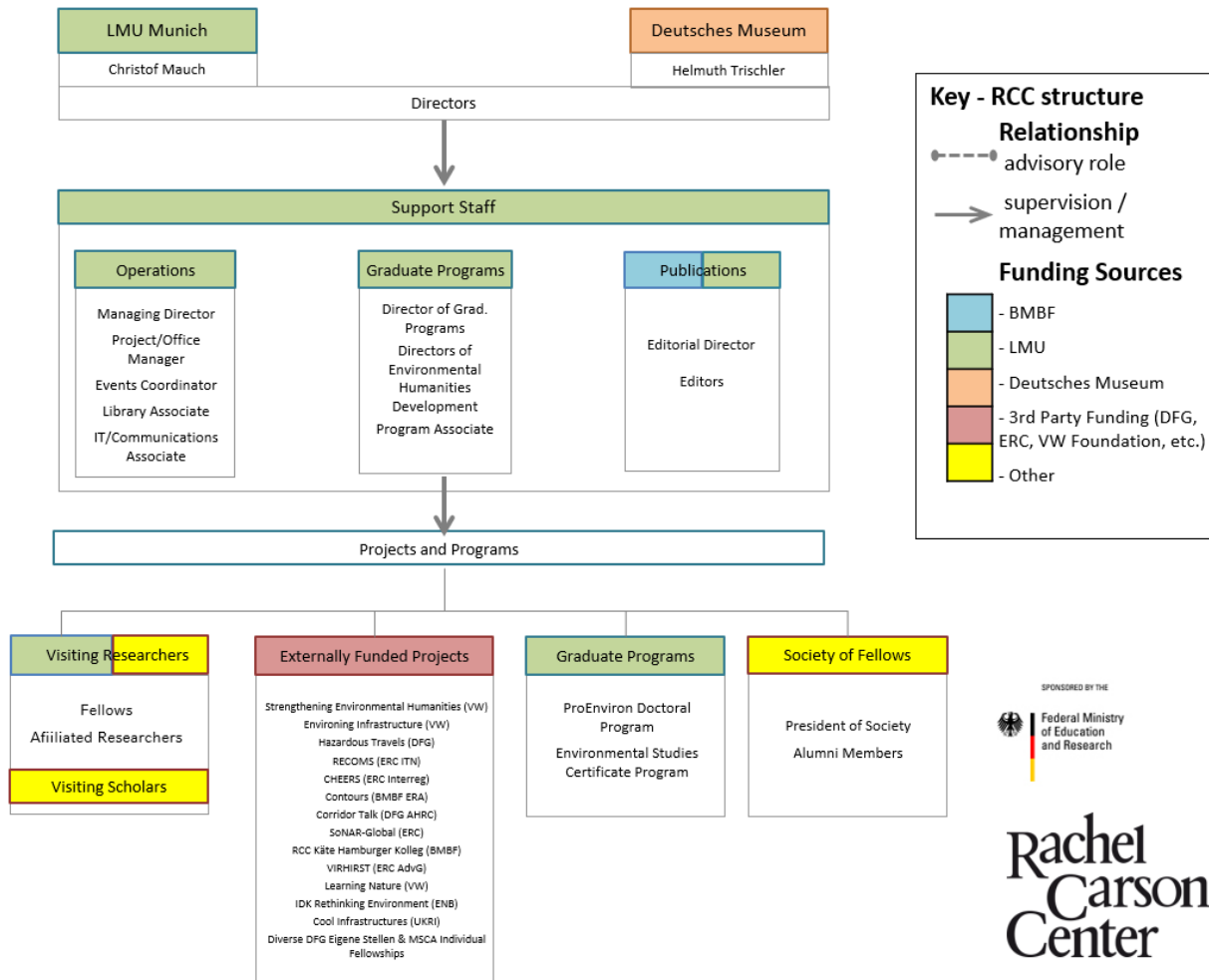
Because of organizational changes to the Rachel Carson Center, there are two separate organigrams for 2021, one that indicates the structure before the RCC was fully integrated with LMU at the end of July 2021, and one from August to December 2021.

The Rachel Carson Center until July 2021:



The Rachel Carson Center from August 2021:

Organigram August–December 2021



3. The Academic Advisory Board

The RCC Academic Advisory Board (listed below) completed their terms on 31 July 2021. As the RCC transitions to a permanent entity at LMU Munich, the center will no longer be served by external advisors in this capacity.

The members of the advisory board as of the end of July 2021:

- 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 (University of Manchester, UK)
- Prof. Dr. Gregg Mitman (University of Wisconsin-Madison, US)
- Prof. Dr. Cindy Ott (University of Delaware, US, ex-officio member as president of the Society of Fellows)
- Prof. Dr. Catherine Rigby (Bath Spa University, UK)

4. Research

In 2021, the RCC continued many of its externally funded research projects and started several new ones. Third-party projects, as they are known, have grown in number and importance.

The projects included [Marine Environmental Awareness: Knowledge, Media, and the Politics of a Thriving Underwater World \(1870–1980\)](#), a German Research Foundation project led by RCC historian Franziska Torma, which will be ongoing until 2023. Franziska held online presentations in Oslo and Göttingen in spring 2022 and is finishing an article on ships as enviroing technologies for the *Archiv für Mediengeschichte*. She is also preparing two additional articles: one on diving technologies and body experiences, the other on research vessels as floating film studios.

Another German Research Foundation project, [Die Startbahn](#), led by historian Michael Schüring, deals with the protest of local residents and environmentalists against the extension of Frankfurt Airport through the construction of a new takeoff runway: Startbahn 18 West.

UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)-funded [Cool Infrastructures](#), led by RCC co-investigator geographer Elspeth Oppermann, has continued with significant field research carried out in Karachi (Pakistan), Hyderabad (India), Douala (Cameroon), and Jakarta (Indonesia). The project has revealed significant gaps between formal policy and the mechanisms that the urban poor rely on to manage extreme heat, offering new avenues for intervention.

[Enviroing Infrastructure: Communities, Ecologies, and China’s “Green” Development in Contemporary Southeast Asia](#): On the core team are Alessandro Rippa, Roger Norum, and Huiying Ng, while additional funding for another research position, starting in July 2021, was secured through the “Covid and Beyond” initiative and was filled by Jessica Clendenning. The team met regularly for reading groups and feedback sessions and has organized several events. They have published a number of relevant scientific publications, all of which can be accessed through their website (<https://www.enviroing.asia/>).

[Members](#) of the the German Research Council (DFG) and the UK’s Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) jointly funded project [Corridor Talk: Conservation Humanities and the Future of Europe’s National Parks](#) have concentrated their research on the Wadden Sea National Parks in Denmark, the Pyrénées National Park in France, the Bavarian Forest in Germany, and the Šumava National Parks in the Czech Republic. The Corridor Talk team’s [workshop in the Pyrenees National Park, held from 30 August to 5 September](#), served to cement the already fruitful cooperation between conservation scientists working in national parks and researchers in the humanities. While the first half of the three-year project had to rely on videoconferencing technology to bring people together to collaborate on their [first publications in print](#), several exciting project interactions took place elsewhere, such as the [IUCN World Congress](#) in Marseille, France, and an exploratory online workshop on the [Wadden Sea](#) coast.

The Urban Environments Initiative (UEI) is a research project launched in October 2019 as a collaborative venture between the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich (LMU), the Technical University of Munich (TUM), the University of Cambridge, and New York University. UEI is coordinated by Eveline Dürr (LMU) and Regine Keller (TUM) and supported by administrative staff based at the Rachel Carson Center. They held two major events in 2021: the “Re: Thinking the Urban” virtual

workshop on 22 January and the virtual international conference, “Irritations and Unforeseen Consequences of the Urban,” which took place from 30 June to 2 July. The events brought together both UEI and external participants from around the world. UEI members continue to work collaboratively on a special issue for *Global Environment: A Journal of History and Natural and Social Sciences*, published by RCC collaborative partner [The White Horse Press](#) and set for publication in 2023.

The Rachel Carson Center collaborated with the University of Heidelberg on joint conferences and fellowships as part of [Epochal Life Worlds: Humans, Nature, and Technology in Narratives of Crisis and Change](#). The RCC is one of six partners for the larger Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) funded joint-project: [Worldmaking from a Global Perspective: A Dialogue with China](#). This collaboration started this year.

The [CHEERS—Cultural HERitagE: Risks and Securing activities](#) project, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Alpine Space program and led by David Stäblein and Christof Mauch, with administrative assistance from Lena Engel, concluded after the publication of its [sourcebook](#). The sourcebook provides guidance on how to proceed within the current Civil Protection and Disaster Management response systems in order to integrate the specific needs of cultural heritage and ensure its territorial protection. Over the past three years, the RCC has worked closely with the Achthal mining museum to help ensure that the site is better prepared for the potential occurrence of natural disasters. All researchers, stakeholders, and representatives of the pilot sites (from the six Alpine countries) convened for the final conference on 6 July 2021 in Munich.

The international consortium that collaborates on [SoNAR-Global: A Global Social Sciences Network for Infectious Threats and Anti-Microbial Resistance](#) carried out research in Germany, Malta, Italy, France, and Slovenia to explore the psychosocial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable population groups and to identify actions that could make people more resilient to crises. As a part of this larger project, interviews were conducted in Munich involving 82 people in an effort to safeguard vulnerable populations, such as asylum seekers, international students, people with disabilities, and single parents, from the COVID-19 pandemic and to address future challenges. Team members on this project included, among others, Zeliha Öcek, Martin Saxer, and Christof Mauch as well as Michaela Coenen, Vera Klünder, and [Eva Rehfuess](#) at the Pettenkofer School of Public Health, Munich.

Primarily overseen by the University of Innsbruck, the project [Issues with Europe: A Network Analysis of the German-Speaking Alpine Conservation Movement \(1975–2005\)](#) generated two noteworthy publications, “[9 Moving Mountains: The Protection of the Alps](#)” and “[Politisierung der Alpen](#)” in 2021. The final conference took place in June 2021, with the contributions expected to be published in 2022 in a special issue of *Histoire des Alpes—Storia delle Alpi—Geschichte der Alpen*.

With funding from the German Research Foundation (DFG), Stephen Milder’s work on [Making Green Germany: The Emergence of Climate Politics amidst German Reunification and the Post-Cold War Transformation of Europe](#) continued in 2021. Making Green Germany explores how climate change became not only a salient issue but also part of mainstream politics in the 1990s, in the hopes of re-conceptualizing common understanding of environmental history, one that better links the study of the environmental concerns with “mainstream” social and political problems.

Funded by the European Commission, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA) Innovative Training Network’s transdisciplinary consortium [RECOMS, Resourceful and Resilient Communities](#), also continued in 2021 with the “Spaces of Possibility” confex (an international online [conference](#) and

physical [exhibition](#)), which took place in Brussels in early June, and a writing retreat, which took place in Barcelona in early October.

Supported by a European Research Council Advanced Grant, Gregg Mitman's team will begin an examination of the ecological, economic, political, and social forces that have turned certain regions of the world into valuable reservoirs for biomedical research. The project, [Bloodborne: Hot Zones, Disease Ecologies, and the Changing Landscape of Environment and Health in West Africa](#), focuses on how economic interests of the Global North have produced new insights into the ecology of diseases on the one hand, but, on the other hand, changed the environment and the species structure in such a way that new pathogens are able to thrive.

A new collaboration between the RCC and the [Munich Science Communication Lab](#) with the expressed intention of "Communicating Planetary Health" began in 2021 with the generous support of the Volkswagen Foundation. The project's focus is on the complex links between climate change and human health and the highlighting of options for action. The Lab aims to develop science-communication approaches that are adequate for "wicked problems" like planetary health and convey the complexity and uncertainty of the scientific process while offering strong engagement and pathways for action. The project is run by members of LMU's communication department: Bernhard Goodwin and Julia Serong at LMU. The executive board of the Lab includes communication experts (Hans-Bernd Brosius, [Constanze Rossmann](#)), museum experts (Michael John Gorman and Helmuth Trischler), and environmental and public health experts (Christof Mauch and Eva Rehfuess).

Led by Francesca Mezzenzana, [Learning Nature\(s\): A Cross-Cultural Investigation of Children and Nature\(s\)](#) received funding from the Volkswagen Foundation to begin work in 2021 on what it envisions as a large-scale comparative study to examine how specific practices of socialization, material engagements, and direct and indirect interactions with natural entities shape children's understandings and relationships with the nonhuman world. Utilizing anthropological and psychological methods in tandem, the project aims to compare children's experiences of learning about nature in three communities committed to creating alternative relationships to the nonhuman world: an urban kindergarten in Germany, an ecovillage in Italy, and an Indigenous village in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

Under the leadership of principal investigator Simone Müller, the Emmy Noether Research Group [Hazardous Travels: Ghost Acres and the Global Waste Economy](#) interrogates the structures and dynamics of the international trade in hazardous waste from the 1970s onwards. The project works with an asymmetrical comparison of case studies from North America, Germany, Ecuador, and India in an effort to understand how the system of the global waste economy simultaneously relied on structures of "voluntary exchange" of toxic materials as well as "garbage imperialism" and environmental racism. Hazardous Travels postulates that after industrial countries' 1970s environmental turn, nationally and regionally distinct waste regimes emerged and facilitated the exchange of toxic waste between nations; one nation's waste became another country's recycling or secondary material.

The [Environment and Society Portal](#) continues its work of publishing open-access, peer-reviewed research from hundreds of RCC fellows and the broader scholarly community, discoverable by an interactive map, timeline, and keyword explorer. The result is a scholarly gateway to human-environment knowledge that has reached well over two million users from every country on earth.

The permanent institutionalization of the Environmental Humanities (EH) at LMU Munich continues to be a top priority of RCC Director Christof Mauch. With generous funding from the Volkswagen Foundation's Hochschule der Zukunft / University of the Future initiative, EH will be transformed into a fully-fledged discipline at LMU. Learning from the opportunities and challenges of existing EH programs around the globe, LMU endeavors to finance workshops and short-term visiting professorships, to design and become experts in innovative teaching tools, such as massive open online courses (MOOCs), field seminars, produce digital multimedia presentations, and curate exhibitions.

5. Collaborations

The RCC continued its many successful collaborations with university partners and environmental centers in Austria (BOKU, Vienna), China (Renmin University, Beijing), Estonia (KAJAK, Tallinn), the United Arab Emirates (eARThumanities, NYU Abu Dhabi), Switzerland (University of Zürich), and others.

A new partnership was formed with [Project House Europe \(PHE\)](#), led by Kiran Patel at LMU Munich. The RCC and PHE agreed to award fellowships for a period of five years to historians who work in the field of European environmental history. Among the 2021 awardees were Stefan Couperus and Katharina Scharf. The joint fellowship is named after Rachel Carson and Simone Veil, the former president of the European Parliament and first woman to hold that office.

The close collaborations with the Technical University of Munich (TUM) as well as LMU's partner universities, New York University (NYU) and the University of Cambridge continued through the Urban Environment Initiative (UEI) project.

The RCC also worked closely with the [Bavarian Forest National Park](#). Joint projects include a doctoral study by Zhanna Baimukhamedova. Additionally, the center collaborated with [Green City Munich](#), where several doctoral students from the RECOMS project received internships.

The RCC continued its collaboration with the [European Society for Environmental History](#) (ESEH) for the [2021 Turku Book Award](#). Over 50 books were nominated, and the prize was awarded to Nicolai Hannig for his monograph *Kalkulierte Gefahren. Naturkatastrophen und Vorsorge seit 1800* (Wallstein, 2019). The winner was announced at a virtual award ceremony on 9 July 2021 as part of the digital 2021 ESEH Ordinary General Meeting.

6. Events

Lunchtime Colloquia

The Lunchtime Colloquium series consists of short presentations by RCC fellows. The talks are open to the public and 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, most Lunchtime Colloquia and the discussions took place online. The events resumed in person in the winter term, taking place at Kaulbachstraße 37 and subject to the current 3G or 2G rules. The last event in December once again took place digitally.

The following Lunchtime Colloquia took place in 2021:

07.01.2021 (online)

Milica Prokic (Rachel Carson Center / European University Institute) on "Goli otok (Barren Island): 'Nature' and Narratives of the Infamous Yugoslav Prisonscape"

14.01.2021 (online)

Stefan Dorondel (Francisc I. Rainer Institute of Anthropology, Romania) on "River Islands as Webs of Life: State, Communities, and Nature along the Lower Danube"

21.01.2021 (online)

William San Martín (Worcester Polytechnic Institute, US) on "Unequal Futures: Linking Nitrogen Species, Epistemologies, and Ontologies in Sustainable Development Governance"

28.01.2021 (online)

Giorgos Kallis (Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain) on "Limits, Degrowth, and Environmental Justice"

04.02.2021 (online)

Shawn Miller (Brigham Young University, US) on "Human Dreams and Environmental Realities on the Long Unfinished Pan-American Highway"

11.02.2021 (online)

Alfonso Donoso (Pontifical Catholic University of Chile) on "Climate Injustice in a More-than-Human World"

15.04.2021 (online)

Marcela Cely-Santos (Alexander von Humboldt Institute, Colombia) on "Inclusive Vitality: Human-Bee Relationships in the Tropical Countryside"

22.04.2021 (online)

Katharina Scharf (University of Salzburg, Austria) on "Environmental Women: Case Studies from Germany and Austria"

29.04.2021 (online)

Young Rae Choi (Florida International University, US) on “Getbol: South Korea’s Beloved Tidal Flat, 1945–Present”

06.05.2021 (online)

Kirk Sides (University of Bristol, UK) on “African Anthropocene: Ecological Turns in African Literatures”

20.05.2021 (online)

Matthew Gandy (University of Cambridge, UK) on “Urban Natures in the Anthropocene”

27.05.2021 (online)

Munira Khayyat (American University, Egypt) on “Resistant Ecologies in a Landscape of War”

02.06.2021 (online)

Olusegun Titus (Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria) on “Musical Representations of Oil Exploration, Honeybees (Dis)placement, and Endangerment in the Niger Delta of Nigeria”

10.06.2021 (online)

Rebecca Kariuki (The Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, Tanzania / University of York, UK) on “East African Futures: Impacts of Land Cover Change on Achieving Sustainable Development Targets”

17.06.2021 (online)

Steven Vanderheiden (University of Colorado, US) on “The Politics of Visible Carbon”

24.06.2021 (online)

Ricardo Rozzi (University of Magallanes, Chile / University of North Texas, US) on “Biocultural Ethics: Valuing the Vital Links among Co-inhabitants, Their Life Habits, and Shared Habitats”

01.07.2021 (online)

Stefan Couperus (University of Groningen, the Netherlands) on “Grey Democracy for a Green Future? Postwar Democracy and the Imaginary of Democratic Innovation”

08.07.2021 (online)

Joyce Chaplin (Harvard University, US) on “The Franklin Stove: Heat and Life in the Little Ice Age”

15.07.2021 (online)

Jack Halberstam (Columbia University, US) on “An Aesthetics of Collapse”

21.10.2021 (online)

Michele Navakas (Miami University of Ohio, US) on “Early American Coral: Gender, Race, and the Language of Labor”

28.10.2021 (in-person)

Miles Powell (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore) on “Apex Predators: Encounters with Sharks since 1900”

04.11.2021 (in-person)

Ron Doel (Florida State University, US) on “The Pentagon’s Interest in Global Warming...When? Military Fascination with the Physical Environmental Sciences in the Early Cold War”

11.11.2021 (in-person)

Nina Wormbs (KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden) on “Shrinking Sea Ice as a Prism of Climate Change Understanding”

18.11.2021 (in-person)

Carmel Finley (Oregon State University, US) on “How Tuna Shaped Oceanography”

25.11.2021 (in-person)

Lora Koycheva (independent scholar) on “Green Like a Robot: Speculative Anthropologies of the Role of Robotics in Next beyond-Human Paradigms”

09.12.2021 (in-person)

Gloria Pessina (Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy) on “Energy Transition in Sardinia: A Matter of Time, Space, and Justice”

16.12.2021 (online)

Alf Hornborg (Lund University, Sweden) on “Dismantling the Machine: Modern Technology as Magic”

Conferences, Workshops, and Seminars

Each year, the RCC convenes and organizes conferences, workshops, and seminars. These stem from the work of current and former fellows or staff members and are connected to the center’s main research foci.

The RCC hosted or co-hosted the following conferences, workshops, and seminars in 2021:

22.01.2021 (online)

Re: Thinking the Urban

Urban Environments Initiative workshop as a continuation of the Spaces of Living in Transformation workshop

09.04.2021–11.04.2021 (online)

Religion and the Experience of Nature: Comparative Perspectives

Online conference sponsored by the Heisenberg Program and the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society

06.05.2021–07.05.2021 (in-person)

Hazardous Hope: Exploring New Ways of Narrating Toxic Bodies and Landscapes?

Conference convened by the DFG Emmy Noether Research Group Hazardous Travels: Ghost Acres and the Global Waste Economy

20.05.2021 (online)

Call Yourself a Feminist? Gender, Allyship, and Environmental History

Online seminar organized by the ESEH diversity committee

07.06.2021–11.06.2021 (hybrid)

Spaces of Possibility: Communities and Places in Times of Social and Environmental Uncertainty

An international confex (conference and exhibition)

14.06.2021 (online)

Doktorandentag 2021

Organized by the Doctoral Program in Environment and Society

30.06.2021–02.07.2021 (online)

Irritations and Unforeseen Consequences of the Urban

Urban Environments Initiative conference

02.07.2021 (online)

History– Culture– Environment

Online international graduate colloquium (Oberseminar)

13.07.2021 (online)

Psychedelics & Climate Anxiety

Online workshop organized by the RCC Alumni Association together with the RCC

29.07.2021 (online)

Communicating Planetary Health: Science Communication between Research, Practice, and Social Movements

Symposium convened by the Munich Science Communication Lab

11.08.2021 (in-person)

From Hand Lenses to Telescopes: The Best Way to Explore the Micro- and Macrocossms in Natural Laboratories in Extreme Zones of Chile and the World

A Chilean-German Workshop

22.09.2021 (in-person)

Art and Nature in the Bavarian Countryside

Seminar held at the Foundation for Art and Nature in Nantesbuch

22.09.2021–24.09.2021 (online)

Environment and Infrastructure from the Early Modern Period to the Present

Online conference organized by the FBK-ISIG: Fondazione Bruno Kessler—L’Istituto Storica Italo-Germanico (ISIG)

02.11.2021 (in-person)

Doctoral Dissertation Defense: Noemi Quagliati on “Military Visualities: Photographed Landscape in WWI Germany”

02.11.2021–12.11.2021 (in person)

Pop-up Exhibition RCC Glasgow

Exhibition running in parallel with the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow

16.11.2021 (online)

Eco-Forum 2021: “Polish-German Green Deal?”

Online conference supported by the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation

09.12.2021 (online)

The Rivers of Rio de Janeiro: Urban Nature at Work in the Early Twentieth Century

5th Online Minisymposium of the Centre for Environmental History, 14th Rachel Carson Center Lecture

13.12.2021 (online)

Oil Spaces: A Multidisciplinary Discussion on the Global Petroleumscape in Times of Transition

Webinar organized by Gloria Pessina and Chiara Gerold

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. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the screenings in 2021 were held online.

The following films screenings took place in 2021:

14.01.2021 (online)

Human Nature—Die CRISPR Revolution

Discussion with Sophia Guttenberger (Umweltinstitut München e.V.)

25.02.2021 (online)

The Time of Forests

Discussion with Ralf Straußberger (BUND Naturschutz in Bayern e.V.)

15.03.2021 (online)

Sanctuary

Discussion with Christoph Mayer (Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities)

19.04.2021 (online)

Right to Harm

Discussion with Franz-Theo Gottwald (Schweisfurth Foundation)

10.05.2021 (online, DOK.fest Munich homepage)

Film talk: ***Holgut***

Moderated by RCC Director Christof Mauch, with a virtual panel comprising Liesbeth De Ceulaer (director), Elena Feditchkina Tracy (RCC alumni fellow / Indigenous Services Canada), and Olga Trufanova (University of Regensburg)

17.05.2021 (online)

Fantastic Fungi

Discussion with Philipp Benz (Technical University of Munich)

14.06.2021 (online)

Smog Town

Discussion with Dorit Lehrack (freelance consultant and physicist)

11.10.2021 (in-person)

The Superfood Chain

Discussion with Sandra Mayr (Naturland e.V)

27.10.2021

Unser Boden, unser Erbe

Discussion with Annette Freibauer (Institut für Ökologischen Landbau, Bodenkultur und Ressourcenschutz)

06.12.2021 (in-person)

Eine Frage der Haltung

Discussion with Felix Remter (Director / Technical University Munich) and Miriam Remter (Director / Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich)

Lectures

In 2021, the RCC continued the series “Pandemics in American History and Culture,” which started in 2020 and was organized in collaboration with the Amerika-Institut (LMU).

07.01.2021 (online)

Amy Mohr on “US Education and the Pandemic: Literary and Cultural Insights”

Online lecture series “Pandemics in American History and Culture”

14.01.2021 (online)

Andreas Etges on “Never Waste a Good Crisis? Pandemic Preparedness and Presidential Crisis Management”

Online lecture series “Pandemics in American History and Culture”

21.01.2021 (online)

Clemens van Loyen on “Dealing with Epidemics in Rio de Janeiro for over a Century: From National Vaccine Campaigns to Neighborhood Activism”

Online lecture series “Pandemics in American History and Culture”

28.01.2021 (online)

Pierre-Héli Monot on “Infodemic: Knowledge, Virality, and the American Public”

Online lecture series “Pandemics in American History and Culture”

04.02.2021 (online)

Dan Sinykin on “Pandemic and Apocalypse: A Warning”

Online lecture series “Pandemics in American History and Culture”

11.02.2021 (online)

Film Screening of *In the Shadow of Ebola* and discussion with Gregg Mitman

Online lecture series "Pandemics in American History and Culture"

17.03.2021 (online)

Christof Mauch on "The Plague Comes to America: Racism, Science, and Politics in US History"

Online lecture series "Another Silent Spring"

12.04.2021 (online)

Paul Josephson on "Giving Atoms Agency: Toward a Global Nuclear Environmental History"

Online lecture

21.04.2021 (online)

Kate Rigby on "Symposie. Romantic Poetry, Environmental Protest, and Cocreativity"

Online lecture series "Romantische Ökologien"

05.05.2021 (online)

Kate Brown and Antonia Alampi on "How to Live with Toxicity? An Interdisciplinary Conversation"

Second annual RCC tandem lecture

12.05.2021 (online)

Christof Mauch on "Geschichten vom Ende der Natur: Das Anthropozän im Sunshine State Florida"

Online lecture series "Die Amerikas und das Anthropozän"

16.06.2021 (online)

Bernhard Malkmus on "'Vogel als Prophet' (Robert Schumann). Romantik und die Leiblichkeit der Musik"

Online lecture series "Romantische Ökologien"

09.12.2021 (online)

The Rivers of Rio de Janeiro: Urban Nature at Work in the Early Twentieth Century

5th Online Minisymposium of the Centre for Environmental History

Tuesday Discussions

The Tuesday Discussions bring environmental practitioners such as politicians, NGO leaders, and activists to the RCC to discuss topical environmental issues. The guests also offer insights into the application of environmental qualifications and knowledge in practice. Due to the pandemic, the Tuesday Discussions were held online until the start of the winter term. From October, they took place in person at Leopoldstraße 13, 80802 Munich, subject to the 3G rule to maintain public health. Toward the end of the year, some of the discussions resumed online.

The following Tuesday Discussions took place in 2021:

12.01.2021 (online)

Frauke Huber and Uwe H. Martin (LandRush Project)

19.01.2021 (online)

Julie Weissmann (Urban Pollinators / TUM)

26.01.2021 (online)

Julian Zöschinger (Think Digital Green)

02.02.2021 (online)

Mattias Kiefer (Archdiocese of Munich and Freising)

09.02.2021 (online)

Konstantin Reetz (Foundation for Art and Nature Nantesbuch)

13.04.2021 (online)

Reinhold Leinfelder (Anthropocene Working Group)

20.04.2021 (online)

Elisabeth Albrecht (Umweltinstitut München)

27.04.2021 (online)

Tizian Unkauf (Olytopia)

04.05.2021 (online)

Manuela Barth (Urban Gardens Munich)

11.05.2021 (online)

Johanna Bär (Bündnis für eine enkeltaugliche Landwirtschaft—Alliance for an Agriculture fit for Future Generations)

18.05.2021 (online)

Yannick Passeick (Competence Center for Radicalization Prevention in Nature Conservation)

01.06.2021 (online)

Clara Bütow (Impact Revolution)

08.06.2021 (online)

Tobias Beetz, David Kaiser, and Lennard Riedel (Communitree)

15.06.2021 (online)

Kathrin Succow (Michael Succow Foundation)

22.06.2021 (online)

Bernadette-Julia Felsch (State Chairperson, German Bicycle Association)

29.06.2021 (online)

Jona Christians (Sono Motors)

06.07.2021 (online)

Ando Shah (creative technologist and environmental experience designer)

13.07.2021 (online)

Stefan Pauleit (Centre for Urban Ecology and Climate Adaptation / TUM)

19.10.2021 (in-person)

Günes Seyfarth (Community Kitchen Munich)

26.10.2021 (in-person)

Wolfgang Schürger (Environment and Climate Initiative, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria)

02.11.2021 (in-person)

Susanna Eder (Munich Global Impact Sprint)

09.11.2021 (in-person)

Sandra Gern (egoFM)

16.11.2021 (in-person)

Matthew Auer (University of Georgia)

23.11.2021 (in-person)

Patrick Bombik and Laura Schultheiss ([glassic](#))

30.11.2021 (online)

Dorothea Seror (artist)

07.12.2021 (in-person)

Agnes Limmer (Institute for Earth System Preservation—IESP e.V. / TUM)

14.12.2021 (online)

Marco Heurich (Bavarian Forest National Park)

7. Publications

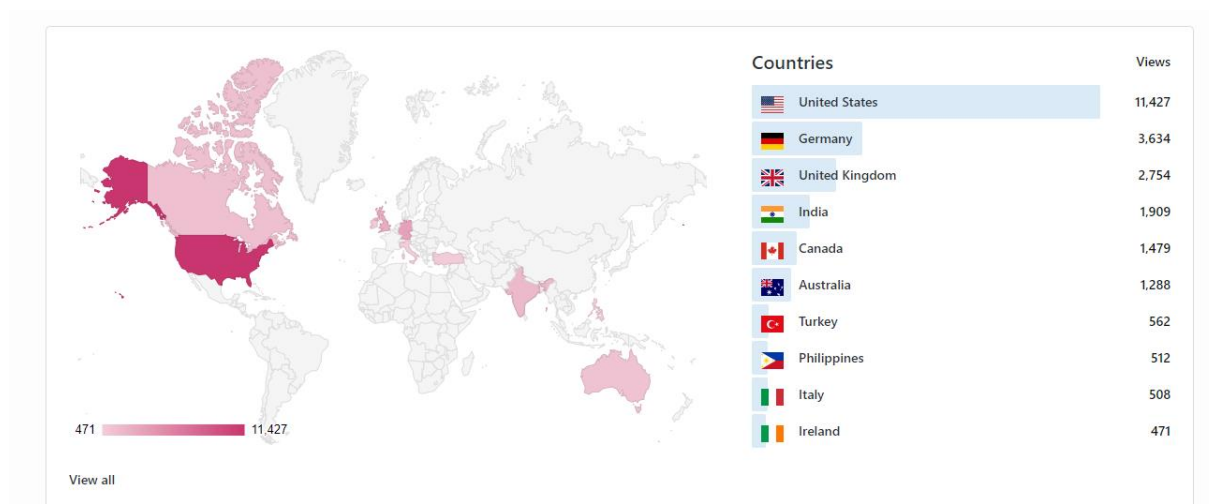
After having published the last issue of [Perspectives: Transformations in Environment & Society](#), “[Strata and Three Stories](#),” in 2020, the RCC Editorial and Communications Team set to work on developing a new open-access online publication that will stress the importance of hybridity, intersectionality, and transdisciplinary research in the ever-evolving field of environmental humanities. This new journal, *Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review*, will debut in 2022. In July 2021, the RCC discontinued its blog [Seeing the Woods](#) in order to concentrate on *Springs*.

Other publication projects include our partner journal [Global Environment](#) and the series “The Environment in History: International Perspectives,” published by Berghahn Books. The team have also continued to run the Environment & Society Portal, which hosts the RCC’s open-access online journal [Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History](#), the [Virtual Exhibitions](#), and the Multimedia Library.

The RCC Blog: *Seeing the Woods*

From a sketch for teaching the Anthropocene in the Alps to a piece on combining ecocriticism and the social sciences over an entry on environmental justice activism in the South Pacific, a diverse range of articles were added to the RCC’s blog, *Seeing the Woods*, in 2021.

The site continued to attract a large number of readers from across the world, despite the fact that it was discontinued in July. *Seeing the Woods* will stay online, and articles will remain openly accessible.

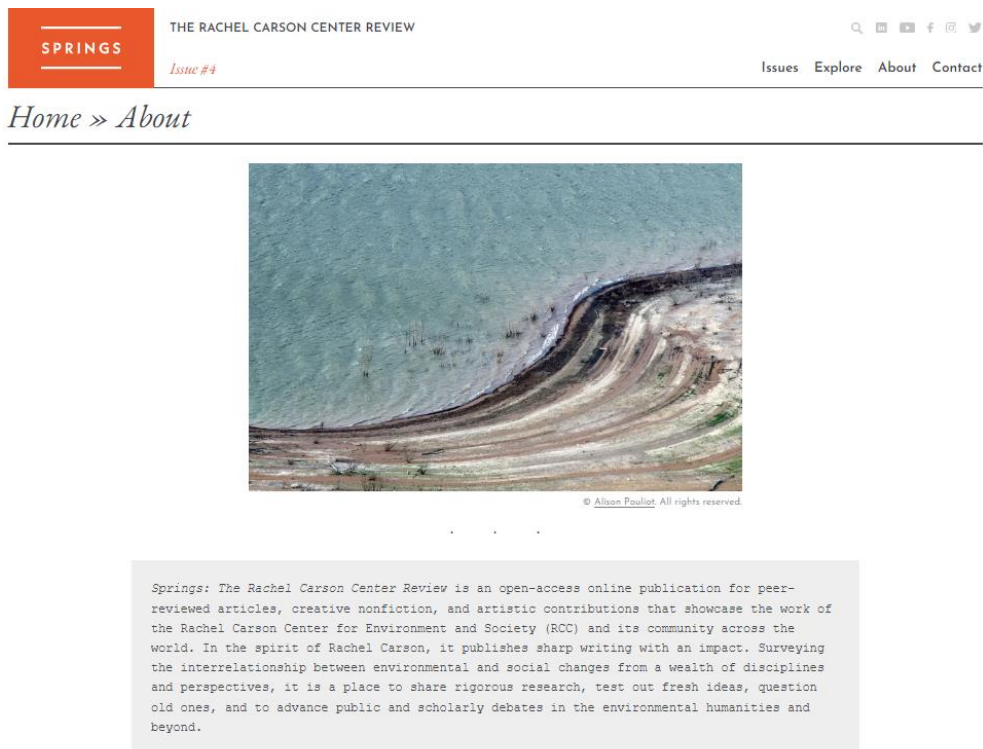


Number of visits to *Seeing the Woods* by country (top eight countries displayed here) in 2021.

Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review

As part of the final years of funding through the Käte Hamburger Kolleg, *Springs* will showcase the work done at the center since the beginning of the Kolleg Project in 2010. The Editorial and Communications Team hired three staff members to further assist with the creation of *Springs*: Pauline Kargruber and ProEnviron doctoral candidate Jonatan Palmblad as digital editors in May 2021, and L. Sasha Gora as the editorial director in October 2021. *Springs* will publish sharp writing with an impact. Surveying the interrelationship between environmental and social changes from a wealth of disciplines and perspectives, it will be a place to share rigorous research, test out fresh ideas, question old ones, and to advance public and scholarly debates in the environmental humanities and beyond. On *Springs*, peer-reviewed articles will live side by side with creative non-fiction, furthering academic research at the intersection between environment and society and, simultaneously, stimulating new ways of seeing and responding to the environmental problems we are facing today. Published biannually, *Springs* will feature a range of content, from text and photography to audio and video. The material on *Springs* will be categorized by nine themes: eight themes that speak to the environmental humanities (Arts & Culture, Planetary Health, Means & Technics, Ethics & Politics, Research & Knowledge, Nonhuman Nature, Impacts & Transformations, and Places & Environments) as well as a separate *Springs* theme reserved for non-archive material.

Issues will be made of nine contributions by the RCC community across the globe and from a large range of disciplinary perspectives. The RCC publishing team has already started soliciting submissions, and the first issue of *Springs* will be released in summer 2022.




THE RACHEL CARSON CENTER REVIEW

SPRINGS

Issue #4

Issues Explore About Contact

Home » About



© Alison Paullot. All rights reserved.

Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review is an open-access online publication for peer-reviewed articles, creative nonfiction, and artistic contributions that showcase the work of the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society (RCC) and its community across the world. In the spirit of Rachel Carson, it publishes sharp writing with an impact. Surveying the interrelationship between environmental and social changes from a wealth of disciplines and perspectives, it is a place to share rigorous research, test out fresh ideas, question old ones, and to advance public and scholarly debates in the environmental humanities and beyond.

The *Springs* “About” page displaying the mission statement.

The Springs Archive

While developing the publication, it has been of particular importance to integrate an archive that brings together writing from other RCC publications, collecting a selection of the research done at the RCC in one place. The *Springs* archive will curate articles that were originally published in *RCC Perspectives*, *Seeing the Woods*, and *Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History*.

Global Environment

Published by the White Horse Press, *Global Environment* includes peer-reviewed research articles as well as interviews and 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 the series editor).

Special Issue 2021: Javier Puente, ed. “The Environmental and Ecological Impacts of Guerrilla and Irregular Warfare.” *Global Environment* 14, no. 1 (2021).

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 21: Angela N. H. Creager and Jean-Paul Gaudillière, eds.

Risk on the Table: Food Production, Health, and the Environment

Volume 22: Julia Herzberg, Andreas Renner, and Ingrid Schierle, eds.

The Russian Cold: Histories of Ice, Frost, and Snow

Supported Publications

In addition to the regular series, RCC alumni published numerous books as a result of the research they 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, and 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 an interactive map, timeline, and keyword explorer. The result is a scholarly gateway to human–environment knowledge that has reached well over two million users from every country on earth. Here are some highlights from 2021:

[Toxic Relationships: Uncovering the Worlds of Hazardous Waste](#)

In this Virtual Exhibition, the DFG Emmy-Noether Research Group Hazardous Travels: Ghost Acres and the Global Waste Economy takes the visitor on a journey to some corners of the world that most prefer not to see. The RCC-based interdisciplinary team, consisting of Prof. Dr. Simone Müller and her doctoral students, presents its research while bringing the world of hazardous waste out of the shadows, highlighting how the by-products of modern society have become commodities that are unfairly distributed across the globe.

[Oceans in Three Paradoxes: Knowing the Blue through the Humanities](#)

In the second Virtual Exhibition of 2021, former Carson Fellow Helen Rozwadowski introduces the Portal's visitors to the emergent field of the "blue humanities." Through a series of thematic chapters, we learn about the watery aspects of the environment that are often forgotten, neglected, and misunderstood in today's scholarship and society.

[*Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History*](#)

The peer-reviewed online journal *Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History* (ISSN 2199-3408) tells short environmental stories embedded in time and place, and has been working to further expand its geographical diversity. In 2021, *Arcadia* published 34 articles, from the story of how a Buddhist purification ritual was repurposed during COVID to one of the gender dynamics of the inauguration of the Hoover Dam in 1934. *Arcadia* 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.

[The Multimedia Library](#)

The Portal's Multimedia Library has grown and now features many more excerpts from new and exciting books in the environmental humanities. Publishers like Routledge, Brill, and Cambridge University Press have given the Portal permission to republish parts of their works, and the Rachel Carson Center's long-standing partnership with the White Horse Press continues with a series of open-access books. While many additions are externally sourced, several books from former fellows have been profiled. Among the new profiles from RCC affiliates, fellows, and alumni are Anna-Katharina

Wöbse and Patrick Kupper (eds.), [*Greening Europe: Environmental Protection in the Long Twentieth Century—A Handbook*](#) (Oldenburg: De Gruyter 2021), Anne Rademacher and K. Sivaramakrishnan, [*Death and Life of Nature in Asian Cities*](#) (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2021), and Marcus Hall and Dan Tamir (eds.), [*Mosquitopia: The Place of Pests in a Healthy World*](#) (London: Routledge, 2022). The Multimedia Library has furthermore seen an increase in open-access journal articles, videos, and podcasts.

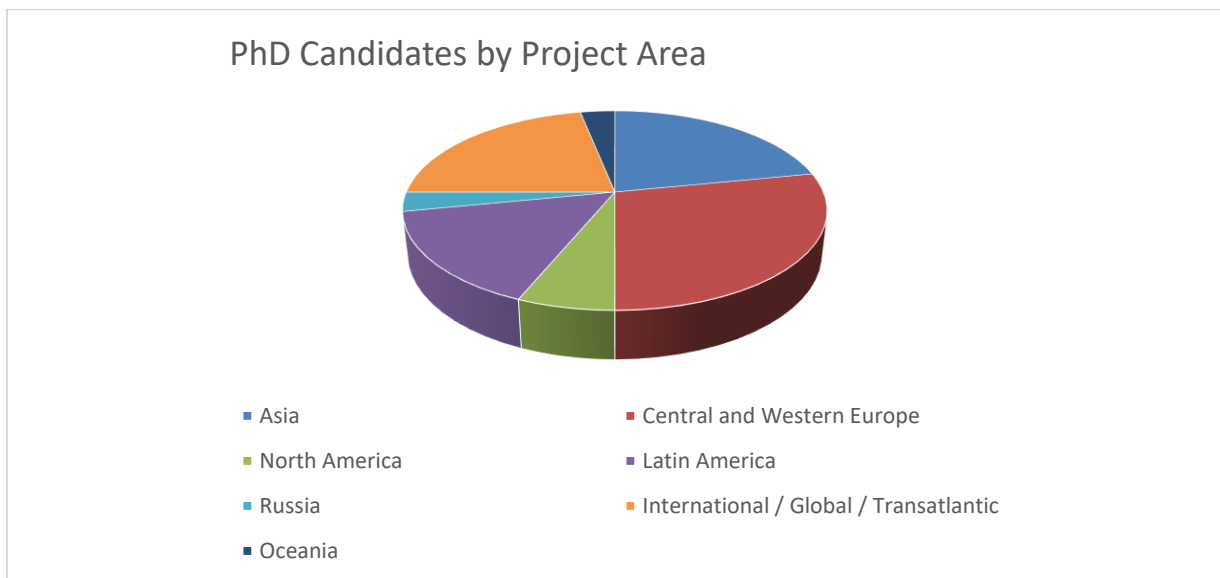
9. Doctoral Program Environment and Society

The RCC Doctoral Program Environment and Society continues to enjoy great popularity. A total of 72 full applications were submitted for the two application rounds in 2021. Seven new students were selected and eventually joined the program for the winter semester 2020/21 and summer semester 2021, with projects that continue a clear transnational shift in areas of research. With four doctoral students completing the program in the winter semester of 2021, the program included 30 participants by the end of 2021.

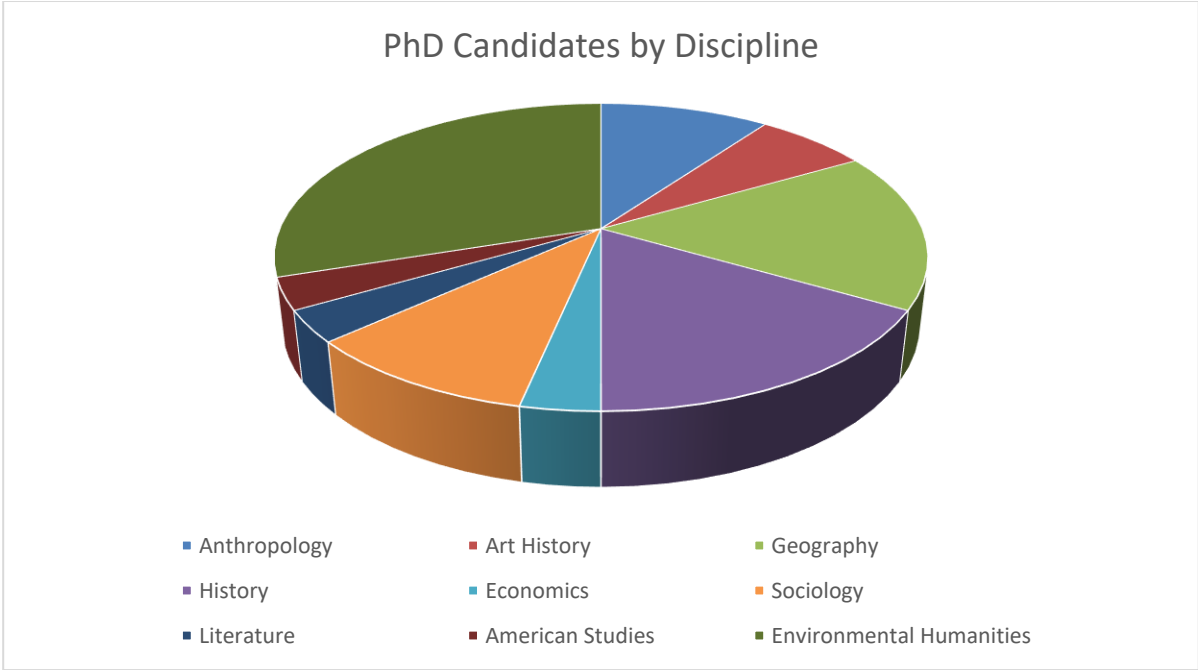
The RCC community congratulates the four candidates who completed the Environment and Society program in 2021, with the following dissertations:

- Maximilian Feichter, "Hazards in the Amazon: An Environmental History of Oil Production in Ecuador"
- Claudio de Majo, "Woodland Civilization: An Environmental History of the Sila Plateau from Essentiality to Neglect"
- Noemi Quagliati, "Beyond the Whiteness: Environmental Concerns in the Photo-Cine Aesthetics of Carrara Marble Quarries"
- Eugenio Luciano, "The Anthropocene Hypothesis: Birth and Epistemology"

Due to COVID-19 regulations, doctoral students could only attend workshops and conferences in 2021 remotely. The Doktorandentag took place virtually as well. However, the number of visiting doctoral students increased again due to less restrictive travel bans.



PhD candidates by project area.



PhD candidates by discipline.

Since the start of the IDK (International Doctorate Program “Rethinking Environment”) in 2021, the doctoral students at the RCC have been accompanied by the [ProEnviron](#) doctoral students from the Environment and Society program. The IDK students in Munich and the ProEnviron students strive for regular exchange between the two programs, from which both sides benefit.

10. International Doctorate Program “Rethinking Environment”

The International Doctorate Program (*Internationales Doktorand:innenkolleg—IDK*) “Rethinking Environment” brings together emerging scholars and experts from various fields to explore new ways of approaching the ecological transformation of society.

The IDK is a partnership between the Rachel Carson Center and the Environmental Science Center (*Wissenschaftszentrum Umwelt—WZU*), at Augsburg University. At the WZU, the environmental humanities are one important dimension in a larger inter- and transdisciplinary network with a strong base in the natural sciences.

PhD Students

Twenty PhD students are part of IDK, representing a mix of Bavarian and international backgrounds (ranging from Canada, India, and Italy, to the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Pakistan, and Tajikistan). Each student in this diverse group is supported by an advisory team that consists of three experts from both universities, which allows them to profit from the distinct academic environments and their respective networks.

The doctorate program takes place in Augsburg and Munich. Working in these cities creates two research groups with distinct academic profiles, and the in-depth learning formats and cross-regional research groups enable new constellations and regular meetings.

Advisors

The IDK’s advisory team brings together 20 experts from the two universities, coming from various disciplines including economics and business administration, environmental ethics, ethnology, environmental history, history of technology, human geography, literary and cultural studies, philosophy, biology, chemistry, and environmental health sciences.

The program’s extensive and multifaceted inter- and transdisciplinary approach relies on innovative teaching methods and intensive learning formats. Beyond seminars and conferences, the program’s teaching philosophy is built on various workshop formats, field trips, and working groups involving visiting scholars and artists.

Events & Activities

Divided into eight semesters, the IDK program offers a variety of teaching formats (mandatory, elective, and optional). In the first semester of the program (winter term 2021–2022), the activities consisted of an orientation session and a kick-off workshop, a welcoming event, a soft-skills workshop, a colloquium, and an Oberseminar series.

A Brief Overview of the Program's Main Academic Activities:

Oberseminars

The IDK Oberseminar is a two-semester series of lectures and discussions of concepts, theories, and modes of inquiry regarding “ecological transformation” from multidisciplinary perspectives. Organized every two weeks over the course of the first and second semesters (at the University of Augsburg and LMU), the Oberseminar was a mandatory activity for IDK doctoral students. They were required to read pre-circulated texts and prepare a response paper for each session.

In the first semester (winter term 2021–2022), members of the IDK offered their reflections on the transformation of established disciplines and knowledge cultures in the face of the current ecological crisis and the rise of the environmental humanities.

Colloquia

The IDK colloquia offer the PhD students a genuine opportunity to present and discuss each individual project with an interdisciplinary audience of scholars. The supervisors are on-site to support and engage with their questions, ideas, and suggestions. The aim of the IDK colloquium is to discuss one's thoughts and ideas in an academic environment and practice scholarly conversations across disciplines. It is an ideal training ground not only for practicing how to talk about one's topic in a concise way but also for learning how to make one's topic accessible and comprehensible for a multidisciplinary audience. Participation in the IDK colloquia is mandatory for all PhD students. This two- or three-day event takes place every other semester at the University of Augsburg and LMU.

Master Classes

The IDK master classes allow joint in-depth learning and intensive discussion and exchanges between PhD students and visiting fellows in the environmental humanities. The format enables students to explore one particular theme together with a leading expert and in connection with their own research topic.

With a total duration of 12 hours of class time, a master class is substantially shorter than the Oberseminar. The comprehensive format allows flexibility regarding the schedule and length of individual sessions. Master classes are offered on a regular basis throughout the program. It is mandatory to visit at least two of them and fulfill the tasks specified in advance by the individual instructor.

Conferences

“Ambivalences of Ecological Transformation” is the first international conference hosted by the IDK Um(Welt)Denken, planned for June 2022.

11. Certificate Program in Environmental Studies

In 2021, a total of 141 students were enrolled in the interdisciplinary Environmental Studies Certificate Program, of which 27 successfully graduated from the program by the end of the year. The students come from 58 different master's programs (LMU, TUM, and other universities in- and outside Germany) and work toward earning an additional certificate in environmental studies at the RCC. The number of students coming from technical, engineering, and natural-science backgrounds is continuously increasing.

The weekly Lunchtime Colloquium and the reading course, Introduction to Environmental Studies, form the core of the program, providing the students with an overview of current debates and ongoing research in environmental studies and the environmental humanities. Additionally, students can choose from a wide array of courses from other LMU faculties in topics such as biology, sociology, law, ethics, and geography, all with a relevant connection to environmental issues.

Online teaching and learning continued in 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. In the winter term, some classes took place in person, but all were subject to strict COVID-19 regulations. All field trips and in-person meetings had to be canceled and/or postponed. However, the number of received applications (60 in total) and the general participation in class demonstrated that students were motivated to apply for and continue in the program despite difficult circumstances. The Eco Slam, a larger in-person event and social gathering where students present their final projects, had to be postponed until July 2022.

In the weekly Tuesday Discussion, the RCC's environmental-practice seminar, practitioners introduced students to a wide variety of fields. Speakers included heads of environmental foundations, members of environmental research institutions, green businesses, environmental nongovernmental organizations (ENGOs), or representatives of the Ministry of the Environment. The RCC fellows' talks at the Lunchtime Colloquia were well received among the students and widely discussed in the reading course.

The certificate program has been actively involved in the Public Climate School (PCS) during both the summer and winter terms of 2021. During the PCS week, all classes offered by the RCC were open and focused their lectures on climate-related issues.

The certificate program is steadily expanding and strengthening its ties with the Technical University of Munich (TUM) through collaborative teaching. In 2021, the sufficiency seminar, taught together with the department of civil, geo-, and environmental engineering, took place for the fourth winter semester since 2018. Further collaborations with the chair of sustainable urbanism are being planned.

The ERASMUS+ exchange program was increasingly popular in 2021. Four universities are now exchange partners: Ca' Foscari Venice (Italy), University of Stavanger (Norway), BOKU University (Austria), and University of Napoli (Italy). A total of three students took advantage of the opportunity to study for a semester abroad.

The Environmental Studies Certificate Program was also restructured in 2021. We synchronized the elective modules with the new MA program, both due to start in the fall of 2022. The new structure

offers an even broader range of environment-related courses from 11 LMU faculties. The number of science courses has expanded at the request of current certificate students.

Content Areas	Module Titles							effective as of October 2022
International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Environment and Society 6 ECTS	P.1.1 Current Perspectives on Environment and Society (1) 1 ECTS	P.2.1 New Fields of Research on Environment and Society (1) 1 ECTS						Mandatory 6 ECTS
	P.1.2 Reading Course: International Perspectives (2) 2 ECTS	P.2.2 Reading Course: Interdisciplinary Perspectives (2) 2 ECTS						
Humans in the Environment 6 ECTS	WP 1: Topics and Themes in Environment and Society	WP 3: Sociological Fields	WP 15: Advanced Theory and Concepts in Historiography	WP 17: Advanced Concepts and Theories	WP 30: Foundation Course: Historiography		Elective Choose 3 out of 4 Get a total of 6 ECTS in each Content Area you elected	
	WP 2: Environment and Comparative Literature	WP 4: Environmental Anthropology I	WP 16: Environmental Anthropology II	WP 20: Transformations in the Anthropocene	WP 31: Sociology and Society			
Environmental Practice 6 ECTS	WP 5: Academic Practice in Environmental Studies	WP 18: Professional Practice in Environmental Studies	WP 32: Engaging Local Environmental Practices					
	WP 6: Environmental Practice	WP 19: International Collaboration in the Environmental Humanities						
Environment and Responsibility 6 ECTS	WP 7: Climate Change and Society	WP 21: Environmental Ethics	WP 23: Environmental Law and Governance	WP 25: Sociology and Social Inequality				
	WP 8: Foundation Course: Communication Science	WP 22: Public Policy	WP 24: Methods in Communication Sciences	WP 33: Environment, Planning and Policy				
Sustainability and Environmental Sciences 6 ECTS	WP 9: Geographical Sustainability	WP 11: Foundation Course: Organismic Biology	WP 13: Environmental Geobotany	WP 26: Geographical Perspectives on Sustainability and Resources	WP 28: Field Exercise in Geology	WP 34: Sustainability, Infrastructure and Technology	WP 36: Natural Hazards	
	WP 10: Marine Biology	WP 12: Foundations Course: Ecology, Behavioral and Evolutionary Biology	WP 14: Global Change and the Earth System	WP 27: Geological Foundations for Environment and Society	WP 29: Soil-Plant-Air-atmosphere-Continuum	WP 35: Theoretical and Applied Hydrology	WP 37: Evolutionary Ecology	
Final Project 9 ECTS	WP 38: Thesis							Mandatory Choose 1 out of 2 9 ECTS
	WP 39: Creative Project							

New ESCP module structure (effective as of 1 October 2022).

Students and alumni of the program added to the official curriculum by organizing and attending online events and even one in-person event (a visit to a beekeeper in Moosrain) through the RCC Alumni Association e.V.

12. The Master's Program in Environmental Humanities

After long consultations with the LMU legal department, the last set of documents for the MA program will be submitted for final senate approval, which is expected to be granted in July 2022. This will conclude the internal legal process for the establishment of the program at LMU, so that it can begin in the 2022/23 winter term. The program was originally due to start in 2021, which was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the consultation process, import agreements with other faculties and departments were concluded, bringing our total number of available electives to 47 (37 of which are imported from across 8 faculties). The program's module structure has also been finalized (see Fig. 1).

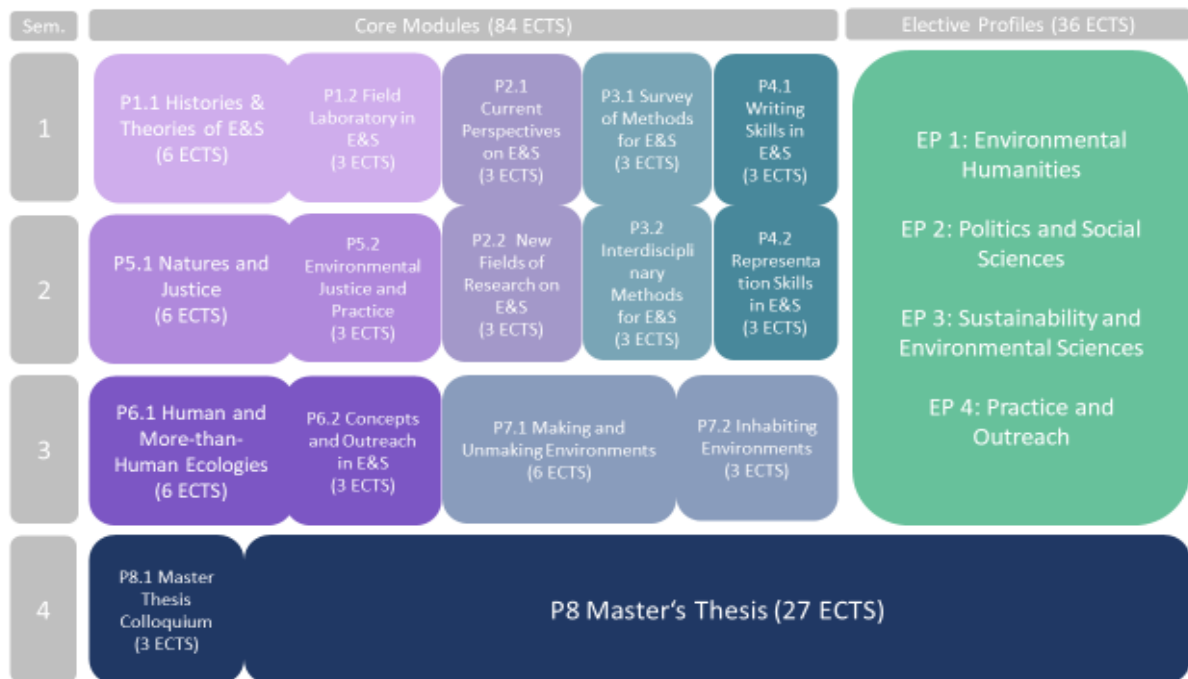
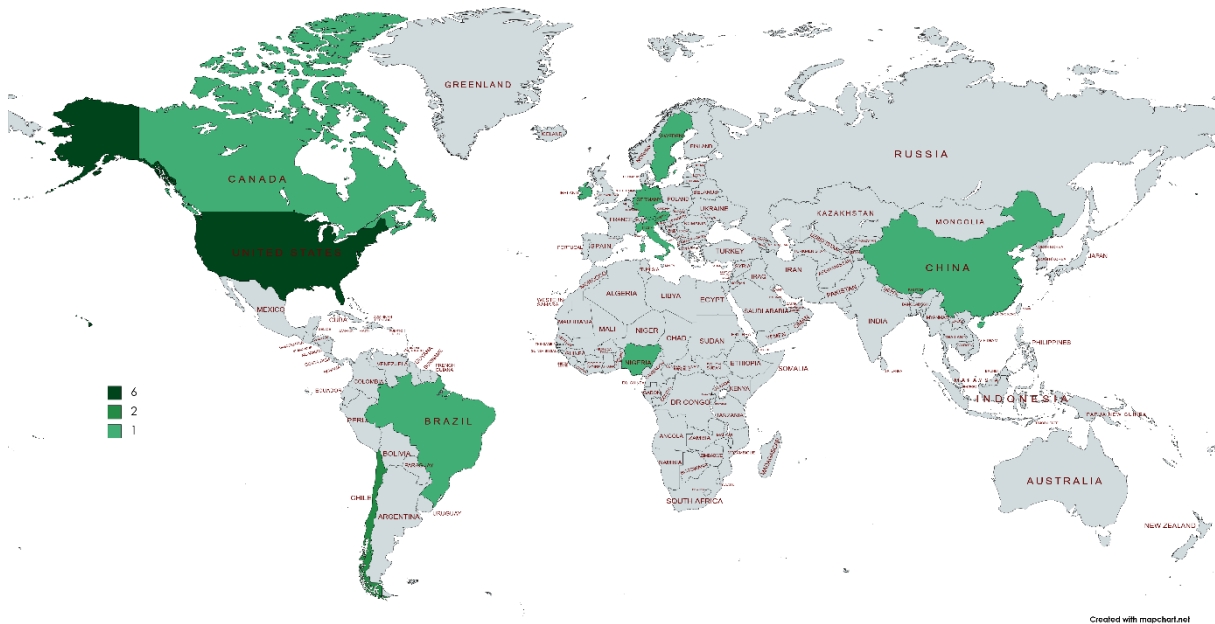


Figure 1: Finalized module overview for MA "Environment and Society."

The team is currently preparing for the first year of teaching. This includes developing syllabi, course-catalog preparation, schedule planning, etc., as well as organizing excursions and other hands-on events.

Since April 2021, the team has also been involved in several international events, conferences, and workshops, including the German Sustainability Summit, a joint workshop with the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), and the STREAMS conference. The program directors, Hanna Straß-Senol and Anna Antonova, were both involved in several workshops/conferences.

13. Fellows and Visiting Scholars



Map indicating the countries of origin of RCC fellows and visiting scholars in 2021.

In 2021, the RCC hosted 5 visiting scholars, all women, and 11 Carson fellows (four women, seven men). They came from 11 countries: the US, Chile, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Nigeria, and Sweden. The cohort included literary scholars, historians, philosophers, geographers, musicologists, political theorists, and ethnographers. Most projects were multi- and interdisciplinary, including topics on government and social policies, technology, multispecies interactions, ecomusicology, post-growth and post-capitalist societies, decolonialism, and gender studies.

We were fortunate to have several visiting scholars who contributed significantly to the intellectual culture of the RCC. All visiting scholars have their own funding, including grants from the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), the Humboldt Foundation, the Fulbright Foundation, and others.

Carson Fellows

Michelle Navakas

01.09.2021–22.12.2021

“Early American Coral: A Literary and Cultural History”

Michele Navakas is an associate professor of [English](#), affiliate of the [Institute for the Environment and Sustainability](#), and affiliate of [American studies](#) at Miami University of Ohio, where she teaches courses in early American literature and environmental humanities. She is the author of [Liquid Landscape: Geography and Settlement at the Edge of Early America](#) (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018), which won the 2019 Rembert Patrick Award and the 2019 Stetson Kennedy Award from the

Florida Historical Society. At the Rachel Carson Center, she worked on her second book project, “Early American Coral: A Literary and Cultural History,” a study of the literary and cultural significance of coral from early America to the present day. (Her book, [Coral Lives: Literature, Labor, and the Making of America](#), will be published by Princeton University Press in 2023.) Her research has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities (2017–2018), the Library of Congress (2013–2014), the Huntington Library (2012–2013), the John Carter Brown Library, the Newberry Library, the Library Company of Philadelphia, and the McNeil Center for Early American Studies. She earned her PhD in literature from UC Irvine in 2009.

Miles Powell:

01.09.2021–21.12.2021

“Apex Predators: Encounters with Sharks since 1900”

Miles Powell is an associate professor of history at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, where he studies marine and global environmental history, and heads the university’s Green Humanities Research Cluster. His first book, [Vanishing America: Species Extinction, Racial Peril, and The Origins of Conservation](#) (Harvard University Press, 2016), uses discourses of extinction to explore connections between racial attitudes and environmental thought in the late-nineteenth and early twentieth-century US. His research projects include a global environmental history of human interactions with sharks (under contract with Harvard University Press), and a grant-funded study of Singapore’s marine environmental history. His research was published in *Environment & History*, *Environmental History*, *The International Review of Environmental History*, *The Pacific Historical Review*, *The Western Historical Quarterly*, and edited anthologies. He currently serves on the editorial board of *Environment and History*.

Ricardo Rozzi:

01.05.2021–31.08.2021

“Biocultural Ethics and Conservation for Sustainable and Just Futures”

Ricardo Rozzi is a Chilean ecologist and philosopher. He is professor at the University of Magallanes in Chile and at the Department of Philosophy and Religion at the University of North Texas in the US. Based in these institutions, he is the director of the [Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation Program](#) (US and Chile). His academic work focuses on the links between human welfare and the conservation of biological and cultural diversity, and combines theory and practice. His theoretical work encompasses three interrelated concepts: biocultural homogenization, biocultural conservation, and biocultural ethics. The latter proposes a “3Hs” conceptual framework to value the vital links among specific life habits and habitats where they take place in communities of human and other-than-human co-inhabitants. In his applied work, he led the creation of the Omora Ethnobotanical Park (Puerto Williams, Chile, 2000), the UNESCO Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve (5 million hectares, 2005), and the Diego Ramirez Islands-Drake Passage Marine Park (15 million hectares, 2019). Working with various organizations to incorporate environmental ethics into conservation practices and education, he

created the Field Environmental Philosophy (FEP) methodological approach. In turn, this has led to the creation of biocultural conservation activities such as ecotourism with a hand lens. Currently, Ricardo Rozzi leads the establishment of the Cape Horn International Center for biocultural research, education, and conservation in Puerto Williams, the capital city of the Chilean Antarctica.

William San Martín:

11.01.2021–15.06.2021

“Unequal Nitrogen Futures”

William San Martín is an assistant teaching professor of history at the Department of Humanities & Arts at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He works at the intersections of history, science and technology studies (STS), and environmental governance studies. He holds a PhD in history from the University of California, Davis. He was a visiting scholar and a postdoctoral associate, jointly affiliated with the Science, Technology, and Society program and the History Section, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His current research focuses on global nitrogen governance with special attention to the rise of nitrogen science and sustainable development policy in the Global South. He specializes in the science-policy interface, earth-system governance, international development, technology and the human environment, and environmental justice and inequalities. Before focusing his attention on contemporary environmental issues, he worked on questions regarding race equity, slavery, legal systems, and state formation in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries across the North Atlantic and the Americas. He integrates many of the discussions from colonial, postcolonial, and development studies, critical race theory, history and sociology of state formation, and the social history of law and policy into his teaching and scholarship. In doing so, he aims to highlight areas that tend to be overlooked in modern scholarly and public environmental-governance debates, such as political economy, inequalities, violence, and colonialism. He is the recipient of the 2019 EHCA Prize for Interdisciplinary Research in Environmental History awarded by the Environmental History Research Cluster Austria. He is coeditor, along with Emily O’Gorman, Mark Carey, and Sandra Swart, of *The Routledge Handbook of Environmental History*, and author of various peer-reviewed articles and book chapters published in fields including history of science and technology, political ecology, environmental studies, sustainable development, and Latin American studies. William San Martín currently curates the collections “Technology and Expertise” and “Histories across Species” for *Arcadia*, the online, peer-reviewed journal of the Rachel Carson Center and the European Society of Environmental History. As a fellow, he worked on a project titled “Unequal Nitrogen Futures: Linking Nitrogen Forms, Epistemologies, and Ontologies in Sustainable Development Science and Policy.”

Katharina Scharf:

01.04.2021–30.06.2021

“Women and Gender in German and Austrian Environmental Movements”

Katharina Scharf is a historian at the University of Salzburg, Austria, with research interests in the histories of women, gender, tourism, environment, and regional change as well as the history of

National Socialism. She studied history and German studies in Salzburg. Her master's thesis on women in National Socialist Salzburg was awarded the Erika Weinzierl Prize in 2016. In 2019, she received her doctorate. Her dissertation on the comparative history of tourism in Salzburg (Austria) and Savoy (France) in the Belle Époque was published with StudienVerlag in 2021. She is a member of the EHCA (Environmental History Cluster Austria). Katharina Scharf is currently working on a research project on the role of women and gender in European environmental movements.

Kirk Sides:

01.04.2021–01.06.2021

"African Anthropocene: The Ecological Imaginary in Africa Literatures"

Kirk Sides is a lecturer in world literatures in English at the University of Bristol, UK. His research explores histories of ecological thinking in African literatures from the early twentieth century until the present. After receiving his PhD in comparative literature from the University of California, Los Angeles, Kirk was a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Witwatersrand's Institute for Social and Economic Research in Johannesburg, South Africa. He has published articles in the *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*, *Safundi: Journal of South African and American Studies*, *Critical Philosophy of Race*, and others. A specialist in African environmental literatures and humanities, his book manuscript, "African Anthropocene: The Ecological Imaginary in African Literatures," explores the relationship between ecological and decolonial thinking in African literary and cultural production across the twentieth century. While at the Rachel Carson Center, Kirk worked on sections of the project that historicize contemporary turns toward speculative and science fiction in African literatures. African Anthropocene argues that "the speculative turn" is a current mode of thinking about climate change and planetary futures that can be traced back to at least the start of the twentieth century, where decolonial thinking is linked to environmental awareness and ecological forms of writing. Kirk has also co-created a series of workshops called "Anthropocene Storytelling," which employ speculative and creative methodologies for thinking about environmental precarity and climate change. Using narrative as a form of ecological knowledge, these workshops encourage participants to engage in speculative storytelling as a way to think about planetary change.

Thomas Smith:

01.10.2020–31.3.2021

"Participatory Pathways for Reshoring European Manufacturing (RESHORE)"

Thomas Smith is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow (2022–2024) in LMU's Department of Geography. He holds a PhD from the University of St Andrews, Scotland. From 2018 to 2022, he worked as a postdoctoral researcher in environmental studies at Masaryk University in the Czech Republic. Smith is a member of the Community Economies Research Network (CERN) and is interested in community-based economic practices for post-growth and post-capitalist futures. His project, RESHORE, examines the potential for insurgent industrial cultures and alternative production networks

(APNs) in the Czech Republic and Germany at a time of economic disruption, supply chain crisis, and deglobalization.

Olusegun Titus:

01.05.2021–31.08.2021

“Musical Representations of Oil Exploration and Honeybees: (Dis)placement and Endangerment in the Niger Delta of Nigeria”

Olusegun Stephen Titus is a senior lecturer in the Department of Music, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria. He obtained a PhD in African musicology/ethnomusicology from University of Ibadan, Nigeria. His work focuses on musical narratives on climate change, space and place, urban spaces, performance studies, ecomusicology, migration, trafficking, internally displaced persons, medical musicology, and peace building. Olusegun has held fellowships at IFRA-Nigeria, the A. G. Leventis Program, and has been a visiting scholar at SOAS, the University of London, and Oxford University. In 2020, he held a fellowship at the American Council of Learned Society under the African Humanities Program of the Carnegie Corporation in New York.

Steve Vanderheiden:

01.05.2021–31.08.2021

“Visible Carbon: The Social, Political, and Ethical Dimensions of Pollution Transparency”

Steve Vanderheiden is a professor of political science and environmental studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder in the US. Trained as a political theorist, his research focuses on issues of justice and democracy in international environmental politics and policy. In this book-length project, he considers the social, political, and ethical dimensions of carbon transparency through which carbon footprints can be calculated, and information about the impacts upon climate of various goods and services. While the project is partly empirical, in considering evidence from case studies in carbon-footprint assessment as well as in personal and institutional carbon budgeting, its primary contribution will be to the environmental humanities, especially around issues of justice as these arise in environmental governance.

Tracie L. Wilson:

01.02.2021–31.03.2021

“Once Absent, Now Returned: Narratives of Endangerment and the Reemergence of Charismatic Predators across Polish-German Boundaries”

Tracie L. Wilson is a research associate at the Aleksander Brückner Institute for Polish Studies at Martin Luther University in Halle (Germany). Previously she was a research fellow at Leipzig University and a postdoctoral fellow at Bryn Mawr College and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She

studied folklore, ethnography, and communication studies at Indiana University-Bloomington (“‘Wild Nature’: Globalization, Identity, and the Performance of Polish Environmentalism.” PhD diss., 2005). Her research examines environmental debates in central and east-central Europe, especially their intersections with broader discussions of migration, borders, and boundary-crossing. Her project focuses on wildlife conservation, populist discourse, and multispecies interactions/imaginaries regarding grey seals and wolves in Poland and Germany.

Nina Wormbs:

08.09.2021–22.12.2021

“An Environing Technology: Satellites and the Perception of the Earth”

Nina Wormbs is an associate professor at the Division of History of Science, Technology and Environment, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm. She holds a PhD in history of technology and an MS in engineering physics. Between 2010 and 2016, she was chair of the said division, and, in 2011, she cofounded KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory together with Sverker Sörlin. Nina Wormbs has worked on media history with particular interest in the infrastructural dimensions of broadcasting in Sweden and the Nordic countries. She has also taken an interest in the electromagnetic spectrum as a natural resource. Recently, she has worked on remote sensing and how images of the planet from a distance affect our understanding of our global and local environment. At the RCC, Wormbs worked on a collection of essays with a focus on satellite technology as environing.

Visiting Scholars

Emily Gioielli

01.05.2021–31.07.2021

“Cataclysm: Water and the Holocaust in Central Europe, 1933–1945”

Guo Jingjing

01.09.2021–31.08.2022

“Care in Tissues of Socionature: In the Everyday of China’s ‘Last Generation of Peasants’”

Rebecca Jordan

01.12.2021–31.07.2022

“‘Wespe, komm in meinen Mund’: Cyborg Animals in North American and German Literature”

Gloria Pessina:

01.10.2021–18.12.2021

“Energy Transition in an Extreme and Fragile Land: The Case of Sardinia, Italy”

14. 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 and incoming researchers in adjusting to life in Munich and at the RCC as well as handling RCC communications, mail, and library loans.

Arielle Helmick (Managing Director)

Lena Engel (Project & Office Manager)

Hugo Branley (Research Assistant)

Daniel Dumas (Urban Environments Initiative)

Maximilian Heumann (IT/Communications Associate)

Sophia Hörl (Research Assistant/Events Coordinator)

Charlotte Huber (Project Assistant)

Andreas Jünger (Events Coordinator)

Carolin Märtens (Urban Environments Initiative)

Laura Mann (Librarian)

Stefanie Schuster (Research Assistant)

Graduate Programs

In addition to supervising the RCC's doctoral and certificate students, the academic programs team coordinates LMU Munich faculty networks and partnerships with universities abroad. The team is also currently developing the new master's program in Environment and Society.

Gesa Lüdecke (Director of Graduate Programs)

Anna Antonova (Director of Environmental Humanities Development)

Anna Mazanik (Doctoral Program Coordinator)

Hanna Strass-Senol (Director of Environmental Humanities Development)

Kerstin Kessler (Program Associate)

Malin Klinski (Program Associate)

Julia Leitert (Program Associate)

Anne Schilling (Program Associate)

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)

Iris Trautmann (Digital Humanities Research Specialist)

Jonatan Palmblad (Managing Editor, *Arcadia*)

Publications

The editorial team is responsible for editing various publications. They are currently developing a new online publication. In addition, they maintain the RCC's website and social media platforms.

L. Sasha Gora (Editorial Director)

Harriet Windley (Managing Editor)

Kristy Henderson (Academic Editor)

Pauline Kargruber (Digital Editor)

Jonatan Palmblad (Digital Editor)