

Rachel Carson Center  
for Environment and Society  
Annual Report 2022

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# Table of Contents

- 1. The RCC at a Glance 2022..... 3
- 2. Organizational Structure ..... 5
- 3. Research ..... 6
- 4. Collaborations ..... 10
- 5. Events ..... 11
- 6. Publications ..... 22
- 7. Environment & Society Portal ..... 24
- 8. International Doctorate Program “Rethinking Environment” (IDK)..... 27
- 9. Doctoral Program Environment and Society (ProEnviron)..... 31
- 10. Certificate Program in Environmental Studies (ESCP)..... 33
- 11. Master of Arts Environment and Society ..... 38
- 12. Fellows, Researchers-in-Residence, and Visiting Scholars ..... 41
- 13. Staff ..... 56

## 1. The RCC at a Glance 2022

With the end of generous funding from the German Ministry of Research and Education, the RCC is now fully supported by LMU and third-party funding. The year 2022 was a very exciting and busy one for the Rachel Carson Center, and fortunately the hard work of its directors and staff paid off.

### Chair of Environmental Humanities

In order to ensure the continuation of the RCC after Director Christof Mauch's future retirement, it was crucial to establish a new chair, whose holder would serve as the new director of the RCC. The RCC is now proud to announce that Sonja Dümpelmann was appointed to the newly created Chair of Environmental Humanities. Prof. Dümpelmann will be on leave in 2022, but she will join the RCC in the summer of 2023, also as codirector of the Rachel Carson Center.

### Fellows

The new Landhaus Fellowship Program in collaboration with Herrmannsdorfer Landwerkstätten, which started in January 2020, continued, and the RCC received a very positive response to its newly developed residency program. The RCC further continued the Rachel Carson-Simone Veil fellowship program with Project House Europe (also LMU).

### MA Environment and Society

Having begun work on the creation of an MA in Environment and Society as early as 2020, and after numerous bureaucratic hurdles, the RCC finally welcomed its first cohort of 13 students in October 2022. The MA program will be the third graduate program at the RCC (besides the Doctoral Program and the Environmental Studies Certificate Program).

### Events & Projects

The open-access online publication [\*Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review\*](#), surveying the interrelationship between social and environmental changes, launched in 2022. The editorial team published two issues showcasing the work of the RCC.

The RCC continued to be an attractive place for third-party-funded projects. In 2022, the Foraging at the Edge of Capitalism project, funded by an ERC Consolidator Grant and led by Martin Saxer, began at the RCC.

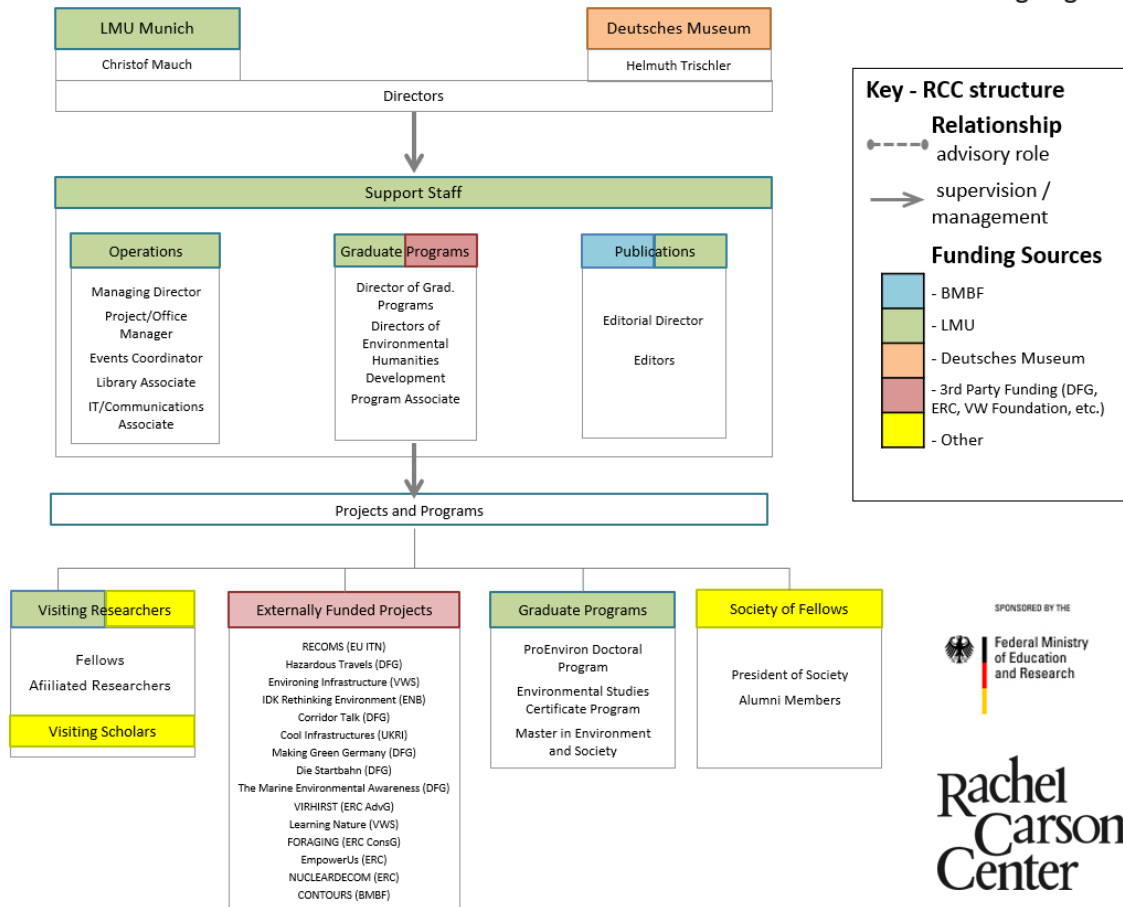
The RCC very much enjoyed a year of mostly in-person events and was able to host numerous lectures, talks, workshops, and conferences. Notable conferences were "Environmental Humanities:

Perspectives for Research and Teaching” (June) “Petra Kelly at 75” (October), and “Silent Springs: Global Histories of Pesticides and Our Toxic World” (November).

## 2. Organizational Structure

In 2022, the Rachel Carson Center was structured as such:

Organigram 2022



### 3. Research

In 2022, the RCC continued many of its externally funded research projects, several new projects began, and one ended. Over the years, third-party projects, as they are known, have grown in number and importance. The status of each is reflected here below.

#### Concluded Projects

Funded by the European Commission, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA) Innovative Training Network's transdisciplinary consortium [RECOMS, Resourceful and Resilient Communities](#), under Principal Investigator Christof Mauch, concluded in 2022. Prior to its culmination, RECOMS took part in the [New European Bauhaus Festival](#) from 9 to 12 June in Brussels.

#### New Projects

Two projects that began in 2022 were Martin Saxer's [Foraging at the Edge of Capitalism \(FORAGING\)](#), funded by an ERC Consolidator Grant until 2026, and Anna Antonova's [Socio-Economic Empowerment of Coastal Communities as Users of the Sea to Ensure Sustainable Coastal Development \(EmpowerUS\)](#), funded by an EU EmpowerUs Grant until 2025.

Foraging, according to Saxer, only gains patchy attention in mainstream debates on conservation and development. What is missing is a conceptual understanding of foraging as a basic mode of subsistence and a form of socio-environmental entanglement. The objective of his project is to work toward a comprehensive political ecology of foraging in the Anthropocene.

Antonova won, as part of a wider Horizon Europe consortium, funding for her new research project focusing on empowering coastal communities in Europe until September 2025. As the LMU PI on the project, Antonova attended the kickoff meeting in Barcelona in October 2022. The project will develop an adaptive-transformation mechanism via a network of six Transition Coastal Labs (TCLs) across all EU coastal regions with the intent to enable coastal communities to act for change and transition toward sustainable, inclusive, and resilient coastal developments.

#### Continuing Projects

Under the leadership of Principal Investigator Simone Müller, the Emmy Noether Research Group and German Research Council (DFG) funded project, [Hazardous Travels: Ghost Acres and the Global Waste Economy](#), maintained course in 2022. Interrogating the structures and dynamics of the international trade in hazardous waste from the 1970s onward, the project continued its work with an asymmetrical comparison of case studies from the US and Canada, 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.

From reports on "[India's Shipbreaking Business](#)" to "[The Hazardous Waste Trade between the Two Germanys](#)," the project continued to postulate 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.

[Marine Environmental Awareness: Knowledge, Media, and the Politics of a Thriving Underwater World \(1870–1980\)](#), the DFG project led by RCC historian Franziska Torma, entered its final year of funding, prior to its 2023 conclusion. Developing the thesis that the marine biological research of the German Empire created the fundamentals of our current environmental awareness, this project incorporates the fundamental concepts of "biocenosis," "ecology," and the "environment." In her ongoing efforts to answer the project's guiding question of how this specific knowledge of marine animals evolved into the broader understanding of the environment on a global scale, Torma held online presentations in Oslo and Göttingen in spring 2022. In addition, she continued an article on ships as enviroing technologies for the *Archiv für Mediengeschichte (Archive for Media History)*.

Members of the 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 Bavarian Forest and Šumava National Parks](#), from 30 to 31 May, was "devoted to exploring transboundary spaces and the successes and challenges of collaboration between the two national parks . . . to reflect on questions of overlapping histories of resource extraction and nature protection." While a large portion of the three-year project had to rely on videoconferencing technology to bring people together to collaborate on their [first publications in print](#), the researchers, under Network Coordinator Pavla Šimková and Codirector Katie Ritson, were able to organize their national parks trip entirely in person.

[Die Startbahn](#), led by historian Michael Schüring and funded by the DFG, continued to deal 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. The hypothesis of this project, which is set to end in 2023, is that the runway was the concrete outgrowth of a technocratic regime allegedly lacking democratic legitimacy. It was thus both a tangible disturbance of suburban living and a symbol for a tenacious elite that moved along with plans that promised enhanced air mobility and economic growth.

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 in 2021, and, since then, the RCC has collaborated with the University of Heidelberg on numerous joint conferences and fellowships as part of [Epochal Life Worlds: Humans, Nature, and Technology in Narratives of Crisis and Change](#), such as the international conference "[Creating the 'Good Life' in the City: Urban Spaces in Times of Change, Challenge and Crisis](#)," held from 10 to 12 October in Heidelberg.

During the recent COP28 meeting, several world leaders committed to relaunching the nuclear solution, begging the question: Is nuclear technology a viable option to abate carbon emissions and save the planet from global warming? This is the interrogation at the heart of Principal Investigator [Davide Orsini's](#) project, [Half-Lives/Afterlives: Labor, Technology, Nature, and the Nuclear Decommissioning Business \(NUCLEARDECOM\)](#). Funded by the EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action

program until 2023, Half-Lives proposes a holistic view of decommissioning through a dynamic and comprehensive analysis of expert strategies, workers' practices, and local communities' responses to decommissioning projects in Western Europe and in the US.

[Alessandro Rippa](#), the principal investigator within a transdisciplinary team of researchers based in Finland, Estonia, Russia, and Germany, is working on [Conservation, Tourism, Remoteness \(CONTOURS\)](#), a BMBF and ERA.Net RUS European Community funded project running until 2023. CONTOURS studies the nexus of conservation and tourism in remote parts of Europe and Russia. [ContoursTalks](#), the project's mini-lecture series, with presentations by CONTOURS team members and invited speakers, kicked off on 29 March at the RCC.

Rippa is also a core team member (along with Roger Norum and Huiying Ng) of [Environing Infrastructure: Communities, Ecologies, and China's "Green" Development in Contemporary Southeast Asia](#). Environing Infrastructure engages with local communities and Chinese planners through long-term, comparative ethnographic research, rooted in social anthropology and the environmental humanities, to explore the nexus of infrastructure development, local ecologies, and China's "green" framing of its global ambitions. In 2022, the team made their project's presence known at conferences and events around the globe, from a panel at the 4S/ESOCITE meeting in Cholula, Mexico, from 7 to 10 December, to the [presentation of a paper](#) by Huiying Ng at the EASA conference in Belfast, Ireland, from 26 to 29 July. Funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, their work is set to continue until 2025.

With funding from the 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 to study how efforts to mitigate anthropogenic climate change gained political currency in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) in the 1980s and 1990s in 2022. Milder will continue his work on post-Cold War era climate politics in the FRG through 2024.

Supported by a European Research Council Advanced Grant, Gregg Mitman's team moved into the second year of their 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](#), focusing 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, presented at numerous conferences in 2022. Postdoctoral research fellow Emmanuelle Roth presented on "[When Epidemic Anticipation Becomes a Job: Understanding, Planning, and Hoping for Ebola's Return in Post-Outbreak Guinea](#)" at the University of Oslo's Afterlives of Epidemics Conference in June, and Mitman presented on "[From the City to the Jungle: The Remaking of Yellow Fever in West Africa](#)" at the Rural and Agrarian Disease Knowledge workshop at Cambridge University on 4 November.

Led by Principal Investigator Francesca Mezzenzana, the project [Learning "Nature": A Cross-Cultural Ethnography of Children's Relationships to the Nonhuman World](#), funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, also entered its second year of research. Utilizing anthropological and psychological methods in tandem, the project insists that we need to rethink our relationship with nature, and that by comparing 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, they will make groundbreaking



advances in understandings of how humans learn to attend to the natural world. Funded until 2027, the project still finds itself in the developmental phase, but they started planning several events and seminars, such as the [Childhoods/Natures Seminar Series](#).

[OFFSHORE: Energy Cultures of the North Sea](#) received funding from the DFG to carry out research through 2024. Organized behind Principal Investigator [Katie Ritson](#), OFFSHORE focuses on the cultural imagination of energy and energy production around the North Sea through the analysis of literary texts and visual media from the UK and Scandinavia. The project will make use of the literary technique of close reading, extended also to the interpretation of visual texts. By applying specialist knowledge of British and Scandinavian culture and languages, it pays attention to the contexts in which texts are produced and received, selecting texts from both sides of the North Sea for comparative analysis.

UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded [Cool Infrastructures](#), an investigation of heat and cooling infrastructure in cities around the globe, led by RCC geographer Elspeth Oppermann, built upon their significant field research carried out in Karachi (Pakistan), Hyderabad (India), Yaoundé (Cameroon), and Jakarta (Indonesia) in 2021. In 2022, Cool Infrastructures published a series of city profiles on their focus cities ([Hyderabad](#), [Jakarta](#), and [Karachi](#)). Their continuing investigation 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.

The RCC continued its collaboration with the Volkswagen Foundation funded [Munich Science Communication Lab](#), which began in 2021 with the expressed intention of “Communicating Planetary Health.” 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.

Through projects like [Strengthening the Environmental Humanities](#) and the establishment of the Augsburg–Munich International Doctorate Program [Rethinking Environment: The Environmental Humanities and the Ecological Transformation of Society](#), the RCC maintained its endeavor to strengthen the environmental humanities in practice in 2022. During its current and final phase, the RCC-hosted Kolleg-Project, funded by the Federal Ministry of Research and Education (Käte Hamburger Kolleg), with a thematic focus on “Transformations in Environment and Society,” worked tirelessly to make its findings available, including through the RCC’s newest publication, [Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review](#). In addition to this new publication, the RCC continued its work of publishing open-access, peer-reviewed research from RCC fellows and the broader scholarly community in the journal [Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History](#) as well as of curating material that speaks to the environmental humanities on the [Environment & Society Portal](#), discoverable by an interactive map, timeline, and keyword explorer. The result of this diligence is a scholarly gateway to human–environment knowledge that has reached well over two million users from every country on earth.

## 4. Collaborations

### The RCC's collaborative partners include:

- [Ca'Foscari University of Venice, Italy](#)
- [The Center for Culture, History, and Environment, Nelson Institute, University of Wisconsin–Madison, US](#)
- The Center for Ecological History, Renmin University, China
- [The Center for Environmental History, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences \(BOKU\), Austria](#)
- [The Environmental Humanities Lab, KTH Stockholm, Sweden](#)
- [The Environmental Humanities Switzerland \(EH-CH\), University of Zurich, Switzerland](#)
- [The Estonian Center for Environmental History \(KAJAK\), Tallinn University, Estonia](#)
- [KU Department of History, University of Kansas, US](#)
- [New York University, US](#)
- [University of Naples Federico II, Italy](#)
- [University of Pécs, Hungary](#)
- [University of Stavanger, Norway](#)

### Other partners include:

- [Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, University of Georgia, US](#)
- [Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies \(FRIAS\), Germany](#)
- [Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany](#)
- [Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities \(KWI\), Essen, Germany](#)
- [Interdisciplinary Environmental History: Natural Environment and Societal Behaviour in Central Europe, Göttingen, Germany](#)
- [Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media, George Mason University, US](#)

## 5. 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. With the consent of the presenters, all Lunchtime Colloquia are recorded (audio and video) and uploaded to the [RCC'S YouTube channel](#). After having taken place online during previous years as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, these events resumed in person in the winter of 2022. Events prior to the end of the 2021 winter semester (in February of 2022), took place at Kaulbachstraße 37, subject to 3G or 2G rules. Beginning in the summer semester of 2022, the location of the Colloquia changed to the Katholische Hochschulgemeinde Saal at Leopoldstraße 11, but remained subject to 3G or 2G rules.

The following Lunchtime Colloquia took place in 2022:

13.01.2022 (in-person)

**Jared Margulies** (University of Alabama, US) on "A Political Ecology of Desire and Illicit Trade"

20.01.2022 (online)

**Flora Mary Bartlett** (Stockholm University, Sweden) on "The Moose and the Motor: Climate Skepticism and Landscape in Rural Northern Sweden"

27.01.2022 (in-person)

**Céline Pessis** (Institute for Research and Innovation in Society, France) on "The Fall and Rise of 'Living Soils' in France: Agricultural Modernism, Soil Knowledge, and the Birth of French Organic Farming (1930–1980)"

03.02.2022 (in-person)

**Bright Nkrumah** (Global Change Institute, South Africa) on "South Africa's Youth: Collective Action in Times of Climate Change"

10.02.2022 (in-person)

**Subarna De** (Ideate Design Studio, India) on "Becoming Bioregional: Coffee, Ecology, Indigeneity"

28.04.2022 (in-person)

**Thibault Fontanari** (UCLouvain University, Belgium) on "The Social Life of Pathways: Walking, Giving, and Building in the Karakoram Mountains, Pakistan"

05.05.2022 (in-person)

**Diego Molina** (Rachel Carson Center, Germany) on "The Creation of Urban Nature: Colombian Cities as Disciplined Floristic Islands"

12.05.2022 (in-person)

**Petra Dolata** (University of Calgary, Canada) on “Reframing Deindustrialization as an Energy Transition: *Strukturwandel* in the Ruhr Region”

15.05.2022 (in-person)

**Péter Makai** (Rachel Carson Center, Germany) on “Playing with Blue Marbles: How Computer and Board Games Mediate Climate Change”

02.06.2022 (in-person)

**Eiko Honda** (University of Oxford, UK) on “Minakata Kumagusu and the Emergence of Queer Nature: Civilization Theory, Buddhist Science, and Microbes, 1887–1892”

09.06.2022 (in-person)

**Iva Peša** (University of Groningen, The Netherlands) on “Understanding Copperbelt Environmentalism: Mining and Environmental Values in Central Africa 1950–2000”

23.06.2022 (in-person)

**Zimu Zhang** (City University of Hong Kong, PRC) on “Configuring the (Chinese) Anthropocene Visuality and Counter-Visuality: The Case of China’s East River”

30.06.2022 (in-person)

**Angeliki Balayannis** (University of Exeter, UK, and LMU Munich, Germany) on “Re-Making Environmental Regulation: A Chemical Geography”

07.07.2022 (in-person)

**Fiona Kinniburgh** (Technical University of Munich, Germany) on “Unearthing European Agriculture(s): The Politics of Reducing Pesticide Use”

14.07.2022 (in-person)

**Lise Sedrez** (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) on “Making Do with the Flood: Extreme Events and Survival Strategies in Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires in the Twentieth Century”

21.07.2022 (in-person)

**Faisal Husain** (Penn State University, US) on “An Environmental History of the Ottoman Arid Frontier, 1500–1700”

28.07.2022 (in-person)

**Bart Elmore** (The Ohio State University, US) on “Monsanto’s Past and Our Food Future”

20.10.2022 (in-person)

**Akinpelu A. Oyekunle** (University of South Africa) on “Complementary Epistemology: A Viable Framework for Environmental Philosophy”

27.10.2022 (in-person)

**Anwasha Borthakur** (KU Leuven, Belgium) on “Electronic Waste in the Global South: An Overview with a Special Focus on India”

03.11.2022 (in-person)

**Tamara Fernando** (Institute for Historical Research (IHR), UK) on “Of Mollusks and Men: Pearl Diving Labor and Environments in the Indian Ocean 1850–1925”

10.11.2022 (in-person)

**Michael Hewson** (CQ University, Australia) on “Ceding Control: River Running Rights in Australian Environmental Policy”

17.11.2022 (in-person)

**Steve Mentz** (St John’s University (New York), US) on “What Are the Blue Humanities?”

24.22.2022 (in-person)

**Katie Ritson** (Rachel Carson Center, Germany) on “Fueling Fairy Tales? The Quest for an Offshore Happy End”

01.12.2022 (in-person)

**Aaron Katzeman** (University of California, Irvine, US) on “Āina, Art, and Sovereignty in Post-Statehood Hawai’i”

08.12.2022 (in-person)

**Aneurin Merill-Glover** (University of Bristol, UK) on “The Marling Festival: Environmental Metaphor in Eighteenth-Century England”

15.12.2022 (in-person)

**Christina Gerhardt** (University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, US) on “Atlas of Islands in a Rising Ocean”

## 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 cohosted the following conferences, workshops, and seminars in 2022:

15.02.2022 (in-person)

**Eugenio Luciano** on “**The Anthropocene Hypothesis: Birth and Epistemology**”

Doctoral thesis defense

07.04.2022 (hybrid)

**Christof Mauch** on “**What are the Environmental Humanities Good For? Research, Education, and New Perspectives for the Twenty-First Century**”

Workshop organized by the Environmental Humanities Research Group, University of Pécs; the Rachel Carson Center; the Department of European Ethnology—Cultural Anthropology, University of Pécs; Green University Program, University of Pécs & PAB II. Filozófia-, Történettudomány- és Néprajztudományok Szakbizottsága, PTE Fenntartható Fejlődésért Szakkollégium

11.04.2022 (in-person)

**Deep Mapping the Vistula in Warsaw: The River's Disturbed Memory after 1939**

Workshop convened by Anna Barcz (Institute of Literary Research, Polish Academy of Sciences)

21.04.2022 (in-person)

**RCC Research Forum**

Public event convened by Christof Mauch and Arielle Helmick

22.04.2022 (online)

**Silent Spring: A Woman, a History, a Future**

International conference organized by the University of Foggia and the Rachel Carson Center

26.04.2022 (online)

**Activating Environmental Awareness: From Aesthetic Experience to an Ecological Mindset**

Online artist talk with Artist Collective Acting for Climate

07.05.2022 (in-person)

**After Glasgow: Looking Back at the COP and Future Collaborations**

Workshop convened by Gerald Taylor Aiken and Dominic Hinde

18.05.2022 (in-person)

**Multiple Diversities: A Day at the Rachel Carson Center Landhaus**

Excursion

27.05.2022–29.05.2022 (in person)

**Uniting Ecology and Civilization: Histories, Theories, Futures**

Workshop convened by Christof Mauch, Sophia Kalantzakos, Mingfang Xia, Shen Hou, Donald Worster and sponsored by NYU Athens, eARTHumanities NYU Abu Dhabi, the Rachel Carson Center, Munich, and the Center for Ecological History, Renmin University

03.06.2022–05.06.2022 (in-person)

**Environmental Humanities: Perspectives for Research and Teaching**

Workshop convened by Anna Antonova, Hanna Straß-Senol, and Christof Mauch

06.06.2022–11.06.2022 (in-person)

**Defining the Human in Environmental Humanities**

Seminar led by Boston College (USA), Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy) and Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität (Germany), and cosponsored by the Rachel Carson Center

24.06.2022–26.06.2022 (in-person)

**Ambivalences of Ecological Transformation: Perspectives from the Environmental Humanities**

Conference organized by the International Doctoral Program (IDK) [Rethinking Environment: The Environmental Humanities and the Ecological Transformation of Society](#), a joint graduate program of Augsburg University and the Rachel Carson Center, funded by the Elite Network of Bavaria

27.06.2022 (in-person)

**Lake Starnberg: Explorations in History, Environment, and Culture**

Excursion convened by Christof Mauch

11.07.2022 (in-person)

**Christof Mauch on *Paradise Blues: Reisen in die Natur und die Geschichte der USA***

Convened by the Amerikahaus and dtv Verlagsgesellschaft

12.07.2022 (in-person)

**Claudio de Majo on “Woodland Civilization: An Environmental History of the Sila Plateau from Essentiality to Neglect”**

Doctoral thesis defense

14.07.2022–18.07.2022 (in-person)

**RECOMS Final Project Meeting**

Workshop

15.07.2022 (in-person)

**Alpine Research in Practice**

Field seminar

21.07.2022 (in-person)

**New Orleans, A Sense of Place: Environmental and Cultural Resilience**

Conference convened by the Amerika-Institut and the Rachel Carson Center, LMU

22.07.2022 (in-person)

**After the Crisis? Rethinking Processes and Potentials of Change in Environment and Society**

Methodological workshop in cooperation with the University of Heidelberg

28.07.2022 (in-person)

**Environmental Studies Forum**

Workshop

02.10.2022 (in-person)

**Music, Sound, and Nature: Podium and Performance**

Event as part of the Biotopia Sense Festival

06.10.2022 (in-person)

**Noosphere—Ecosphere—Semiosphere: Explorations into Environmental Thoughts**

Workshop convened by Julia Lajus and Julia Herzberg

10.10.2022–12.10.2022 (in-person)

**Creating the “Good Life” in the City: Urban Spaces in Times of Change, Challenge, and Crisis**

Conference convened by Christof Mauch, Friederike Reents, Matthias Schumann

13.10.2022–14.10.2022 (in-person)

**Petra Kelly at 75: Histories, Legacies, and Contemporary Meanings of Transnational Ecological Politics**

Evening event

14.10.2022–15.10.2022 (in-person)

**Petra Kelly at 75: Histories, Legacies, and Contemporary Meanings of Transnational Ecological Politics**

Workshop convened by Andreas Jünger and Stephen Milder and sponsored by the Rachel Carson Center, [Project House Europe](#) (LMU), [Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft](#) (DFG, project no. 509069430), the [Stiftung für Transatlantische Kultur und Politik](#) (LMU), and the [Elisabeth Schwarzhaupt Stiftung](#)

16.10.2022–19.10.2022 (in-person)

***Silent Springs: Global Histories of Pesticides and Our Toxic World***

Conference convened by Marin Coudreau, Christof Mauch, and Céline Pessis with Eve Bureau-Point, Malcom Ferdinand, and Simone Müller

17.10.2022–30.11.2022 (in-person)

**Ecopolis Exhibition**

19.10.2022 (hybrid)

**Relaunch and Exhibition Opening of *Ecopolis Munich: Environmental Stories of Discovery***

Student exhibition on Munich's environments at SHAERE Munich

27.10.2022 (in-person)

**Academic and Non-Academic Life after the PhD**

Workshop

28.10.2022–30.10.2022 (in-person)

**MA Environment and Society: Introductory Field Excursion**

Weekend at Stiftung Kunst und Natur, Nantesbuch

10.11.2022 (in-person)

**Capacity Building and Networking I**

Workshop

25.11.2022–27.11.2022 (in-person)

**Writing Environmental History: The Pleasures and Challenges of Communicating Ideas through Text**

Workshop convened by Melanie Arndt, Christof Mauch, Christian Rohr with guest tutor Kerri Arsenault

01.12.2022 (in-person)

**Capacity Building and Networking II**

Workshop



02.12.2022 (in-person)

**PhD Student Visit to the Landhaus**

Workshop

05.12.2022–06.12.2022 (in-person)

**Chernobyl as a Historical Caesura: Environment, Politics, and Science**

Workshop convened by the University of Naples Federico II (RCC alumna Elisabetta Plini), the Rachel Carson Center, and Harvard Ukrainian Institute

17.12.2022–18.12.2022 (in-person)

**Writing Seminar with Kerri Arsenault**

Short writing seminar

### Green Visions Film Series Screenings

The RCC hosts the film series Green Visions in cooperation with the Deutsches Museum and the Münchner Volkshochschule. Each 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 2022:

17.01.2022 (in-person)

***NOW***

Discussion with Mariana Arjona Soberón (Rachel Carson Center)

14.02.2022 (in-person)

***Taste of Hope***

Discussion with Quentin Orain (FoodHub München)

15.03.2022 (in-person)

***Aquarela***

Discussion with Wolfram Mauser (Geography department, LMU)

12.04.2022 (in-person)

***Silence of the Tides***

Discussion with Franziska Torma (Rachel Carson Center)

09.05.2022 (in-person)

***Pleistocene Park***

Discussion with Martin Saxer (Rachel Carson Center), Gertrud Rößner (Staatliche Naturwissenschaftliche Sammlungen Bayerns), and Bernd Zehentbauer (Pleistocene and Permafrost Foundation)

25.05.2022 (in-person)

***The Whale and the Raven***

Discussion with Mirjam Leuze (Director)

25.10.2022 (in-person)

***Bikes vs. Cars***

Discussion with Hanna Langfelder (Green City e.V.)

22.11.2022 (in-person)

***Wild Plants***

Discussion with Nicolas Humbert (Director)

## Lectures

In 2022, the ERA.NET-funded research project CONTOURS: Conservation, Tourism, Remoteness, led by Alessandro Rippa, started the mini-lecture series, [ContoursTalks](#), with presentations by CONTOURS team members and invited speakers. The RCC further coorganized the series Montagskolloquium, together with the Deutsches Museum and the Münchner Zentrum für Wissenschafts- und Technikgeschichte (MZWTG).

The RCC hosted or cohosted the following lectures in 2022:

29.03.2022 (in-person)

**Helen Vaaks on “The Struggles of Saving a Mussel: Unglamorous Conservation”**

ContoursTalks series

02.05.2022 (online)

**Simone Müller on “Ist das Müll oder kann das weg? Zur globalen Wahrnehmung giftiger Abfallstoffe seit den 1970er Jahren”**

Montagskolloquium series

23.05.2022 (online)

**Elke Hertig on “Klimawandel und gesundheitliche Auswirkungen in Europa”**

Montagskolloquium series

13.06.2022 (online)

**Kate Rigby on “Reckoning with Disaster: Sciences, Histories, and Imaginaries for Pyrophytic Times”**

Montagskolloquium series

20.06.2022 (online)

**Ute Hasenöhr on “Zwischen Lichtverschmutzung und Energiearmut–Schattenseiten des Lichts in der Moderne”**

Montagskolloquium series

23.06.2022 (in-person)

**Naomi Oreskes on “The Magic of the Marketplace: The True History of a False Idea”**

Talk hosted as a part of the DFG-funded workshop “Ökonomisierung der Wissenschaft” and organized by the Rachel Carson Center and the [Cooperation and Competition in the Sciences](#) project

27.06.2022 (online)

**John R. McNeill on “African Elephants and Connecticut Keyboards: An Ecological Teleconnection of the Industrial Revolution”**

Montagskolloquium series

30.06.2022 (hybrid)

**Tobias Marschall on “From Trade Corridor to Dead End? Walking Paths of Conflict and Integration in Eastern Afghanistan”**

ContoursTalks series

25.07.2022 (online)

**David Biggs on “Mangrove and Megacity: War and the Building of Saigon’s Urban Archipelago”**

Montagskolloquium series

24.10.2022 (in-person)

**Julia Lajus “Nature Tourism on the White Sea Coast: Construction and Consumption of Historical Narratives and Material Objects”**

ContoursTalks series

21.11.2022 (in-person)

**Jutta Kister on “Sustainability as Strategy to Govern Alpine Club Mountain Huts”**

ContoursTalks series

## Tuesday Discussions

The RCC’s Tuesday Discussions bring environmental practitioners such as politicians, NGO leaders, and activists to the RCC to discuss topical environmental issues. Each guest offers unique insights into the application of environmental qualifications and knowledge in practice. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some Tuesday Discussions were held online, whereas others took place in person, either at Leopoldstraße 11 or Leopoldstraße 13, subject to relevant 3G or 2G rules to maintain public health.

The following Tuesday Discussions took place in 2022:

11.01.2022 (online)

**Alexander Schulan and Jan-Christopher Heilinger** (Adaptation Finance and Climate Justice, LMU and Witten/Herdecke University)

18.01.2022 (online)

**Dirk Reinhard** (Munich Re Foundation)

25.01.2022 (in-person)

**Hannah Henker** (Munich's Sustainability Initiative—MIN)

01.02.2022 (online)

**Annette Menzel** (Ecoclimatology, TUM)

08.02.2022 (online)

**Steffen Reich and Ludwig Kuchinke** (German Alpine Association—DAV)

26.04.2022 (in-person)

**Tobias Müller** (The New Institute, Hamburg)

03.05.2022 (in-person)

**Susanne Unger** (Radio LORA Munich)

10.05.2022 (in-person)

**Felicitas Sommer** (Sustainable Finance, TUM)

17.05.2022 (in-person)

**Sebastian Seibold** (National Park Berchtesgaden, TUM)

24.05.2022 (in-person)

**bauchplan** (Sustainable Urban Planning, Munich)

31.05.2022 (in-person)

**Carol Upadhy** (National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore)

07.06.2022 (in-person)

**Matthias Drösler** (University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan-Triesdorf)

14.06.2022 (in-person)

**Thomas Krefeld and Stephan Lücke** (VerbaAlpina, LMU)

21.06.2022 (in-person)

**Miranda Schreurs** (Environment and Climate Policy, TU Munich)

28.06.2022 (in-person)

**Katharina Hirschbrunn** (Protestant Academy of Tutzing)

05.07.2022 (in-person)

**Joella Korczak and Charlotte Prelorentzos** (Holy Tisch, Munich)

12.07.2022 (in-person)

**Peter Naumann** (Bergwaldprojekt e.V., Würzburg)

19.07.2022 (in-person)

**Julia Pongratz** (Department of Geography, LMU)

26.07.2022 (in-person)

**Nick Loth and Snata Chakraborty** (Environmental Studies Certificate Program, RCC) **in Conversation with Bart Elmore** (Ohio State University, US)

18.10.2022 (in-person)

**Maya Ahnen and Daniel Tapia Montejo** (G7 Karawane)

25.10.2022 (in-person)

**Dorit Lehrack** (Environmental activism in China)

08.11.2022 (in-person)

**Andreas Rothenhäusler** (Climate Partner, Munich)

15.11.2022 (in-person)

**Lisa Geres** (Berchtesgaden National Park)

22.11.2022 (in-person)

**Jörg Ewald** (Weihenstephan-Triesdorf University of Applied Sciences)

29.11.2022 (in-person)

**Christian Schulz** (Deutsche Allianz für Klimawandel und Gesundheit e.V., KLUG, Berlin)

06.12.2022 (in-person)

**Ludwig Kuchinke & Alina Utz** (B.A.U.M. Consult GmbH, Munich)

13.12.2022 (in-person)

**Kerri Arsenault** (Environmental writer)

20.12.2022 (in-person)

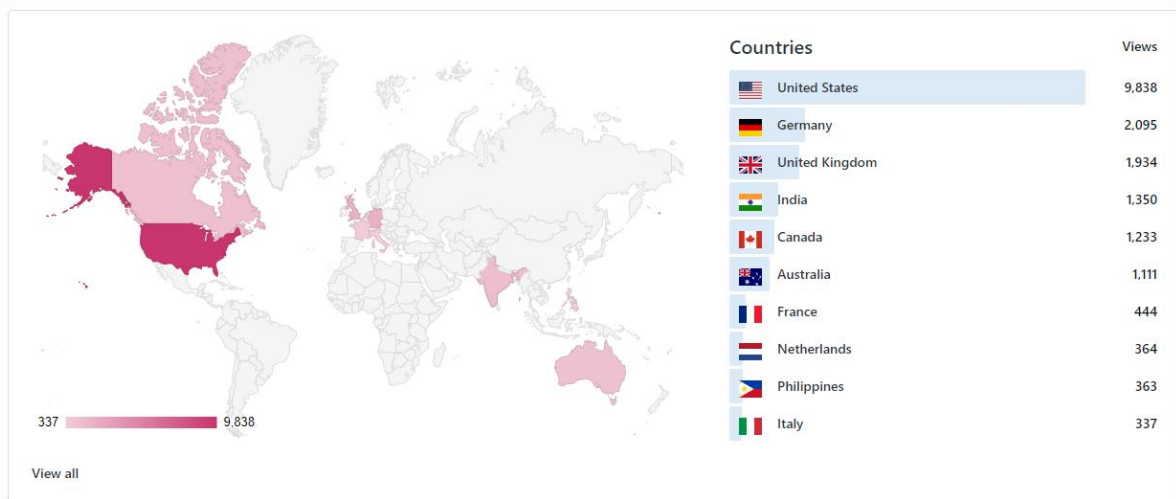
**Malte Larsen** (mikroBIOMIK, Herrsching)

## 6. Publications

This year saw the launch of the RCC's new open-access online publication, *Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review*. The RCC editorial and communications team managed to successfully establish the new publication and attract a large number of readers. Other publication projects included the journal *Global Environment* and the series [The Environment in History: International Perspectives](#), published by Berghahn Books. The team further continued to publish the open-access online journal [Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History](#) and [Virtual Exhibitions](#).

### *Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review*

The RCC's new open-access online publication, [Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review](#) (ISSN 2751-9317), launched this year as part of a Kolleg-Project funded by the Federal Ministry of Research and Education (Käte Hamburger Kolleg). Published biannually, *Springs* features a range of content, from text and photography to audio and video, aiming to reach out to scholarly and non-scholarly audiences. To attract a large number of readers and make sure the publication stands out from other websites, the team put extra effort into curating the visual material that accompanies articles. By the end of the year, the page had around 25,000 views, with most visitors accessing the site from the US, followed by Germany, the UK, and India. The editorial team made a continuous effort to promote the publication and expanding its outreach. The publication is archived via LMU Munich's university library Open Journal Systems.



Number of visits to Springs by country (top eight countries displayed here) in 2022.

*Springs* was officially announced at the first RCC Research Forum in April, and the [inaugural issue](#) came out in July 2022, with a feature article by Kate Brown titled “The World as a Wardian Case.” Brown considers the connections between plants, biospheres, and the politics of breathing. Other contributors were Antonia Alampi, Cameron Muir, Sophia Kalantzakos, Thomas M. Lekan, Samantha Walton, Sule Emmanuel Egya, Franz-Josef Brüggemeier, and María Valeria Berros and Rita Brara. From a peer-reviewed article on the role of coal in twentieth-century Europe to a creative piece on wood

logging in Nigeria over an essay on the life of environmental humanities scholars at the RCC Landhaus, the authors of this first issue write from places all across the world and speak to a diversity of themes.

[The second issue](#) of *Springs* was published in December 2022, with contributions by Tom Griffiths, Sara M. Gregg, Sumana Roy, J. R. McNeill, Jane Carruthers, Miles Powell, Donald Worster, Elin Kelsey, and Shen Hou. In the feature article, Tom Griffiths reckons with the social and environmental impacts of forest fires in Australia, reflecting on the country's 2019/20 Black Summer. The issue also includes peer-reviewed essays on shark fishing and Monarch butterflies, a photo essay on Chicago's iron and steel industry, and a poem about an earthworm that reminds us to look more closely.

### [Springs Audio Project](#)

To improve on accessibility, the RCC editorial and communications team started adding audio recordings to *Springs* articles. A poem titled "Earthworm" by Sumana Roy, published in the second issue, was the first contribution to be accompanied by a recording. Recordings are read by the authors and professional voice actors and include a short introduction by the editorial team.

### [Springs Archive Project](#)

*Springs* also brings together writing from other RCC publications. Its archive curates articles that were published in the open-access online and print journal *RCC Perspectives* (2010–2020), on the blog *Seeing the Woods* (2012–2021), and in the peer-reviewed online journal *Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History*.

## [Global Environment](#)

The journal *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 2022:** Jawad Daheur, ed. "Extractive Peripheries in Europe: Quest for Resources and Changing Environments (Fifteenth-Twentieth Centuries)." Special issue, *Global Environment* 15, no. 1 (2022).

## [The Environment in History: International Perspectives](#)

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

**Volume 23:** Martin Kalb, ed.

*Envirning Empire: Nature, Infrastructure and the Making of German Southwest Africa*

## 7. 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 an interactive map, a timeline, and a keyword explorer. The result is a scholarly gateway to human–environment knowledge that has reached well over one million users from every country on earth. Here are some highlights from 2022:

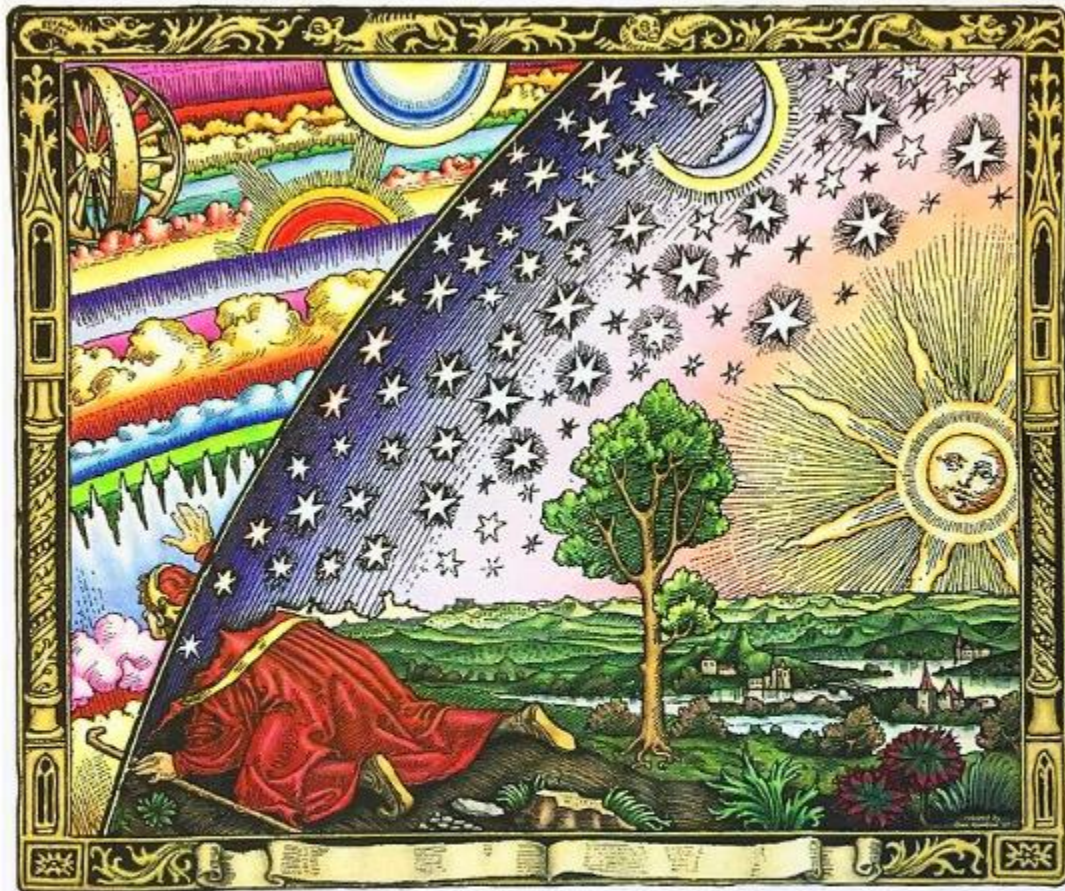
### *Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History*

Articles published in *Arcadia* tell short, focused, engaging, and illustrated environmental stories embedded in time and place. In 2022, *Arcadia* was working to expand its thematic and geographical diversity. It published 18 articles, from an exploration of the role of the environmental humanities in Ukraine since the beginning of the Russian War to a look at the sociopolitical and environmental threats facing the Hadzabe hunter–gatherers in Tanzania over an article on the first chinchilla-breeding farm in Southern California and the fur-trade industry. The journal 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.

This [new Arcadia collection](#), Notions and Nature, focuses on the history of ideas about nature. To make sure that the realm of ideas does not obscure the material conditions in which it exists, and to comply with the guidelines of *Arcadia*, submissions must be tied to an event in environmental history—i.e., a specific place at a specific time. Contributors are encouraged to reflect upon the two-way interaction between ideas and the material environment. Notions and Nature collects *Arcadia* entries that speak to questions such as, did a specific notion or belief change the way humans acted upon a specific place? And, were human ideas affected or created by the discovery of a new environment? The collection is curated by RCC Editor Jonatan Palmblad.



## About this collection



The Flammarion engraving.

Environmental history emerged as a corrective measure against the historiographical tendency to emphasize human ideas at the expense of material and nonhuman factors. Nevertheless, early environmental history, such as the works by Donald Worster and Carolyn Merchant, stressed how attitudes towards nature not only affect our way of treating the environment but also have a history of their own. J. Donald Hughes therefore classed the history of ideas as one of the main themes in environmental history.

*Screenshot of the Notions and Nature collection. Image: The Flammarion engraving. Unknown engraver, nineteenth century. Colorized by Houston Physicist, 2017. Accessed via [Wikimedia Commons](#). [CC BY-SA 4.0](#).*

## Virtual Exhibitions

The editorial and communications team started working on former Carson Fellow Ricardo Rozzi and his team's virtual exhibition, *From Hand Lenses to Telescopes: Exploring the Microcosm and Macrocosm in Chile's Biocultural Laboratories*. The exhibition will concentrate on the world beyond the reach of our everyday sense impressions. Thanks to an innovative layout, visitors can explore themes, such as Diversity and Beauty, Carbon and Climate, and Tourism and Education, at the levels of both the microcosm and the macrocosm. The exhibition will present both the history of and work conducted at the Cape Horn International Center (CHIC) and the European Southern Observatory

(ESO). To make it available to a wider audience, *From Hand Lenses to Telescopes* will be published in Spanish and in English.

## The Multimedia Library

The Portal's Multimedia Library grew and, by the end of 2022, featured many more excerpts from new and exciting books in the environmental humanities. Publishers like Routledge, Oxford University Press, and Cambridge University Press gave the Portal permission to republish parts of their works, and the Rachel Carson Center's long-standing partnership with the White Horse Press continued with a series of open-access books. While many additions were externally sourced, several books from former fellows were profiled. Among the new profiles from RCC affiliates, fellows, and alumni are Antonio Allegretti, [\*Policy and Practice in Rural Tanzania: Grazing, Fishing and Farming at the Local–Global Interface\*](#) (The White Horse Press, 2022), Yan Gao, [\*Yangzi Waters: Transforming the Water Regime of the Jiangnan Plain in Late Imperial China\*](#) (Brill, 2022), Robert A. Jacobs, [\*Nuclear Bodies: The Global Hibakusha\*](#) (Yale University Press, 2022), Peter Heywood's, [\*The Life, Extinction, and Rebreeding of Quagga Zebras: Significance for Conservation\*](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2022), Margaret Cook, Lionel Frost, Andrea Gaynor, Jenny Gregory, Ruth A. Morgan, Martin Shanahan, and Peter Spearritt, [\*Cities in a Sunburnt Country: Water and the Making of Urban Australia\*](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2022), and Graeme Wynn, Jane Carruthers, and Nancy J. Jacobs, [\*Environment, Power, and Justice: Southern African Histories\*](#) (Ohio University Press, 2022). The Multimedia Library furthermore saw an increase in open-access journal articles, videos, and podcasts.

## 8. International Doctorate Program “Rethinking Environment” (IDK)

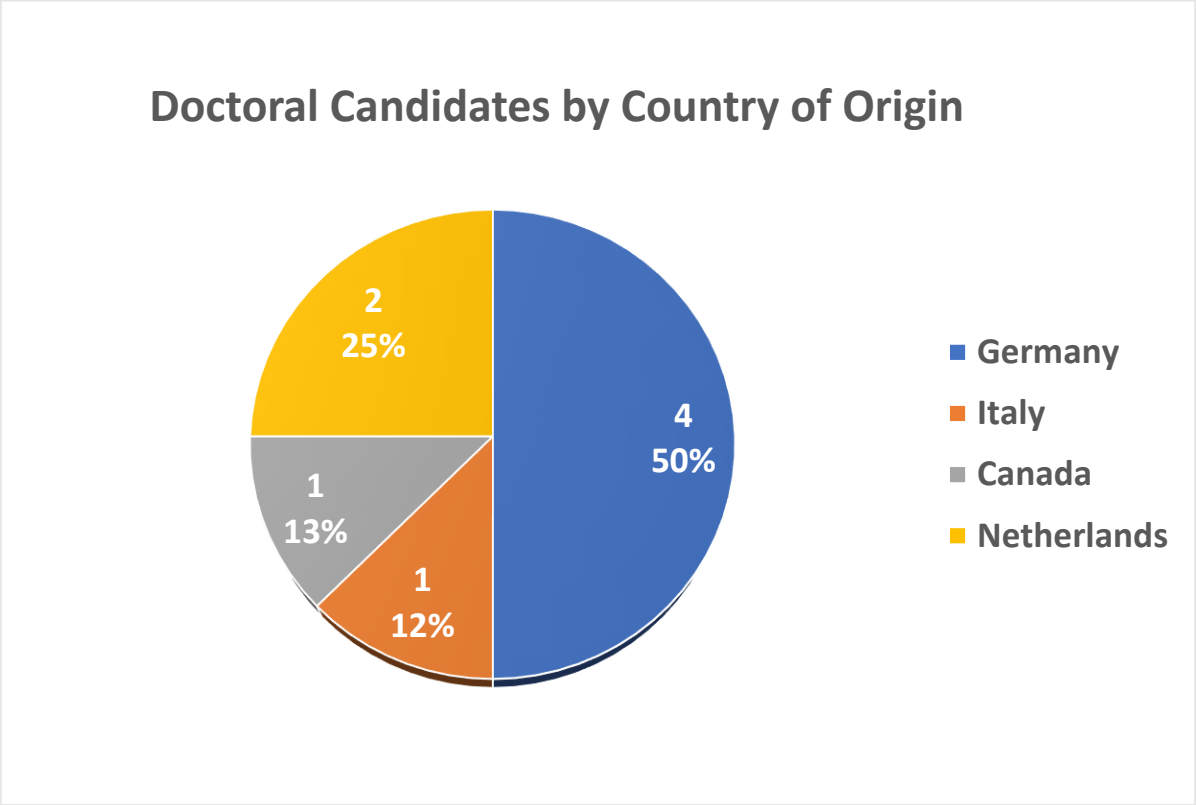
The mission of the International Doctorate Program (*Internationales Doktorand:innenkolleg*—IDK) “Rethinking Environment” is to bring together emerging scholars and experts from various fields to explore new ways of approaching the ecological transformation of society.

The [IDK](#) is a partnership between the Rachel Carson Center and the Environmental Science Center (*Wissenschaftszentrum Umwelt*—WZU) at Augsburg University. Working in Augsburg and Munich 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.

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. The program’s [aims](#) are threefold: to “transform disciplines,” “transform science,” and to “transform practice.”

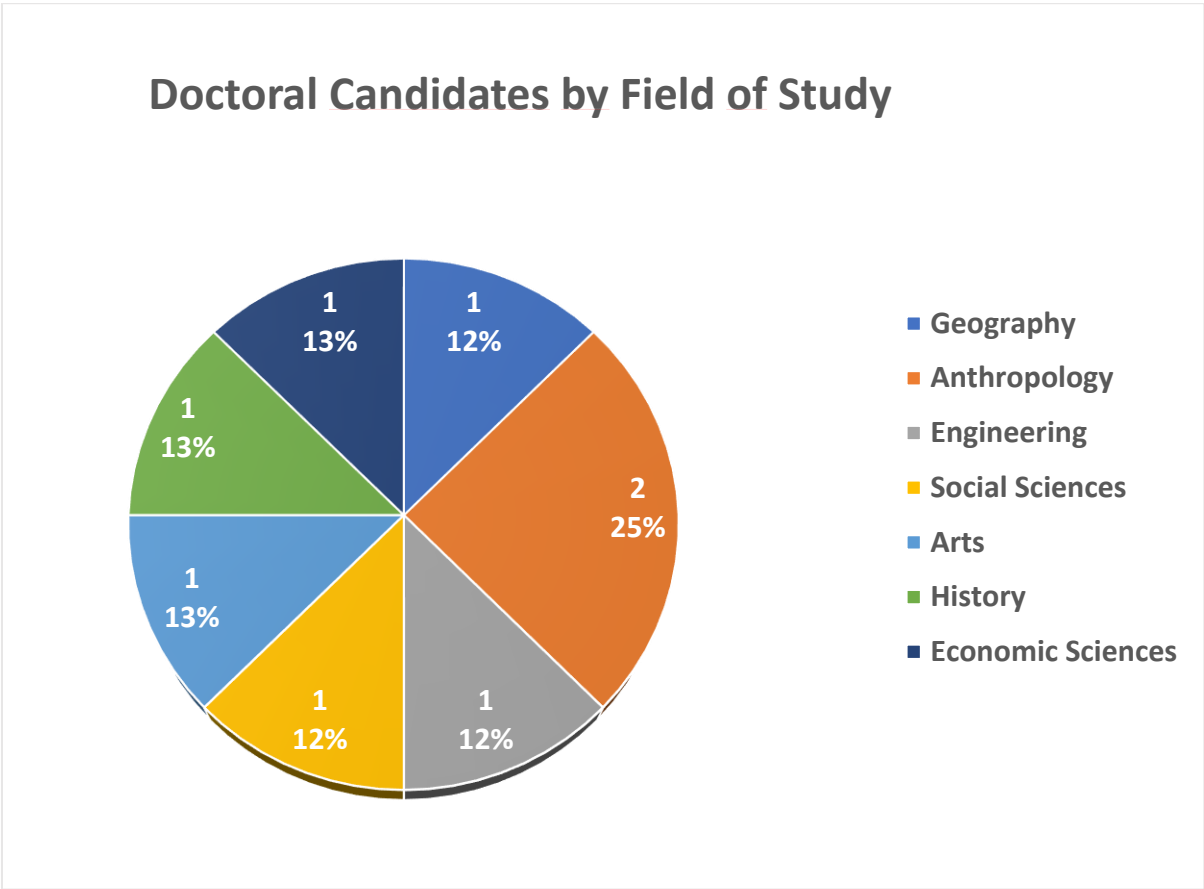
### Students & Advisors

In 2022, eight RCC-based PhD students were a part of IDK, representing a variety of backgrounds. Each student in this diverse group is supported by an advisory team that consists of three experts from both universities, which allows students to profit from the distinct academic environments and their respective networks.



Doctoral candidates by their country of origin.

The IDK doctoral candidates come from a unique and broad array of previous fields of study:



*Doctoral candidates by their academic fields.*

The IDK’s advisory team prides itself on a similarly broad array of background disciplines, from economics and business administration, environmental ethics, ethnology, environmental history, history of technology, human geography, literary and cultural studies, philosophy, biology, and chemistry, to environmental health sciences.

**Events & Activities**

Divided into eight semesters, the IDK program offers a variety of teaching formats (mandatory, elective, and optional). Beginning in the winter of 2022, the program’s main academic activities—Oberseminars, masterclasses, colloquia, and conferences—once again began to take place in-person. The following is a brief overview of the program’s main academic activities in 2022:

**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.

Oberseminars held in 2022 were:

19.01.2022

**“Environmental Ethics in the Anthropocene”**

02.02.2022

**“Political Ecology and Human Geography”**

11.05.2022

**“Ambivalent Ecological Transformations: A View from the Global South”**

25.05.2022

**“Transformational Aesthetics”**

15.06.2022

**“An Economic View on Natural Capital and Resource Scarcity”**

06.06.202–06.07.2022

**“Transformative Learning: A Worthwhile and Challenging Contribution to the Socio-ecological Transformation of Society”**

20.07.2022

**“Climate Resilience from an Ethical Perspective”**

27.07.2022

**“The Anthropocene and the Great Transformation: Challenges and Opportunities for the Environmental Humanities”**

### Colloquia

The IDK colloquia offer the PhD students a genuine opportunity to present and discuss individual projects with an interdisciplinary audience of scholars. The supervisors are on-site to support and inspire 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. The [2022 IDK colloquium](#) was held from 30 March to 1 April.

### Masterclasses

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

Masterclasses held in 2022 were:

21.04.2022–10.05.2022

**“The Philosophical and Theological Origins of the Modern Concept of Nature” with Sean McGrath**

20.06.2022–11.07.2022

**“Restoration, Repair, Resilience: Forging Environmental Futures” with Anne Rademacher**

### Conferences

2022 saw the [inaugural conference](#) of the IDK. The conference, [“Ambivalences of Ecological Transformation,”](#) took place in Augsburg from 24 to 26 June and worked to answer questions such as: What forms of ambivalences exist toward needed ecological transformations and how are they articulated? Which (communication) models, new approaches, or ethics may help to move beyond? The conference’s keynote speakers were Debra Davidson, from the University of Alberta, and Frank Uekötter, from the University of Birmingham.



## 9. Doctoral Program Environment and Society (ProEnviron)

The [Doctoral Program Environment and Society](#) (ProEnviron Doctoral Program) at the RCC continued in 2022 with an array of projects that chart a clear transnational shift in their research. Up from 30 participants in 2021, the program included 32 participants by the end of 2022.

The RCC community celebrated the following candidate who completed the Doctoral Program Environment and Society program in 2022 with the following dissertation:

Eugenio Luciano, “The Anthropocene Hypothesis: Birth and Epistemology”

Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of visiting doctoral students continued to increase from previous years. Partnership between the ProEnviron doctoral students and the International Doctorate Program “Rethinking Environment” (IDK) doctoral students and also remained strong in 2022. Events, workshops, and conferences took place in-person once again, with members of the program engaging in a wide array of activities.

The 2022 RCC’s Oberseminars, which took place at the [Studienhaus Schönwag](#), were:

10.06.2022–12.06.2022

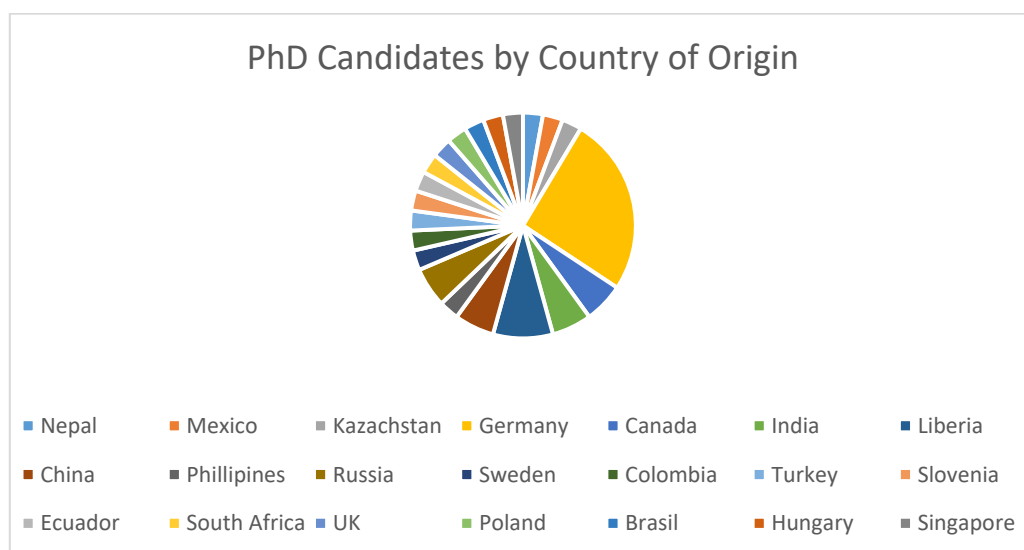
**“History—Culture—Environment”**

25.11.2022–27.11.2022

**“Writing Environmental History: The Pleasures and Challenges of Communicating Ideas through Text”**

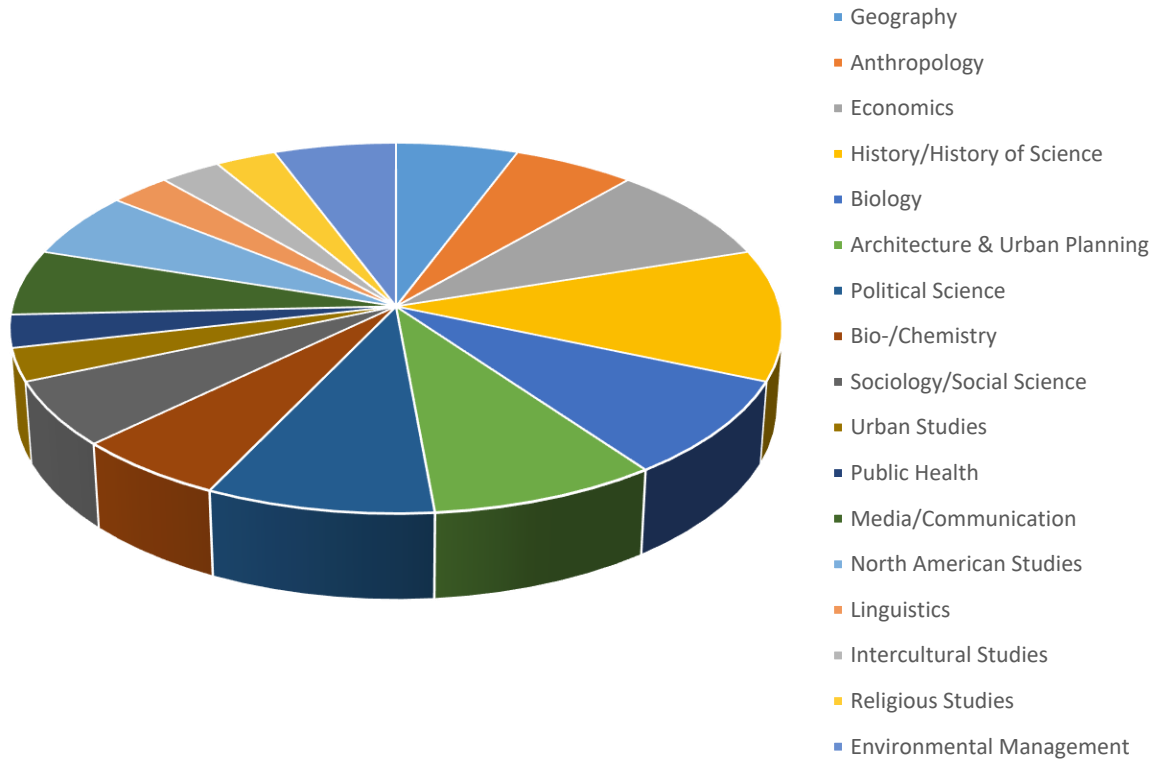
Additional departmental activities, such as a field trip to the Schneefernerhaus Environmental Research Station on Zugspitze in October, were met with great anticipation and high attendance.

The following charts demonstrate the diverse backgrounds and qualifications of all doctoral candidates enrolled in the program in 2022:



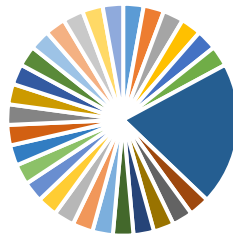
*ProEnviron PhD candidates by country of origin.*

### PhD Candidates by Field of Study



PhD candidates by field of study.

### PhD Candidates by Previous University



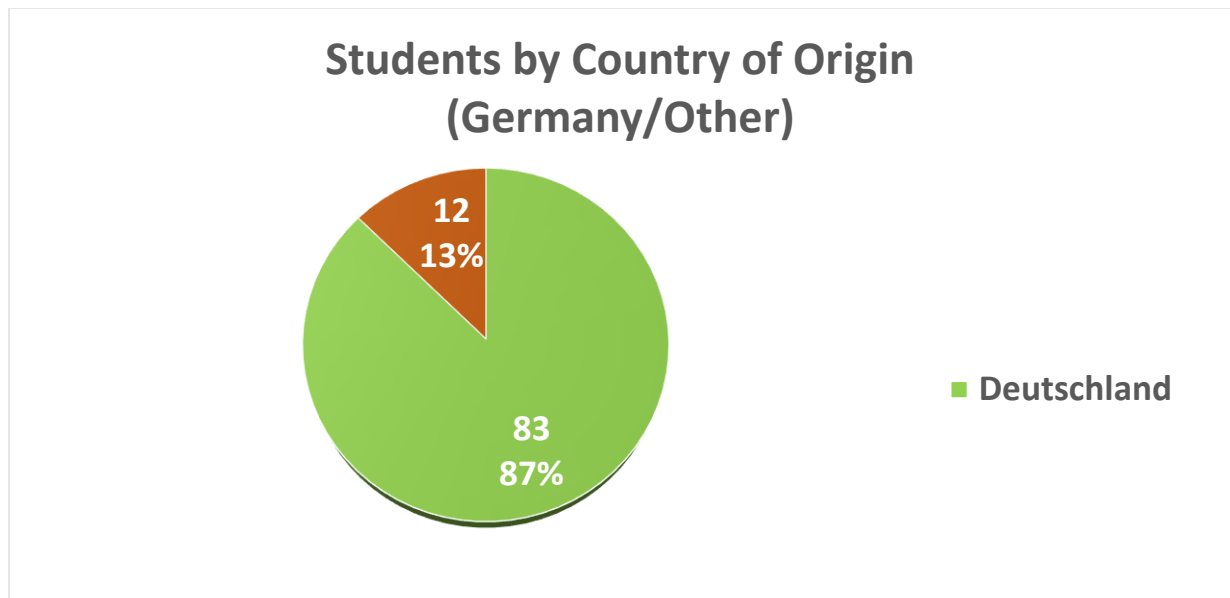
- Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Brunel University in London
- Humboldt Universität zu Berlin
- LMU Munich
- Moscow State University
- North American Studies at the University of Göttingen
- Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania
- Tongji University
- Universidad del Valle in Cali
- University of Cambridge
- University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- University of Münster
- University of Southern California, Los Angeles
- University of Uppsala
- Bayreuth University
- Charles University in Prague
- Kazan Federal University
- Madrid University
- National University of Singapore
- Pokhara University in Nepal
- The University of Arts and Design Karlsruhe
- UIC Barcelona International University of Catalonia
- University College London
- University of Cologne
- University of Leiden
- University of Ottawa
- University of Tübingen
- City University Business School, London

PhD candidates by previous university.



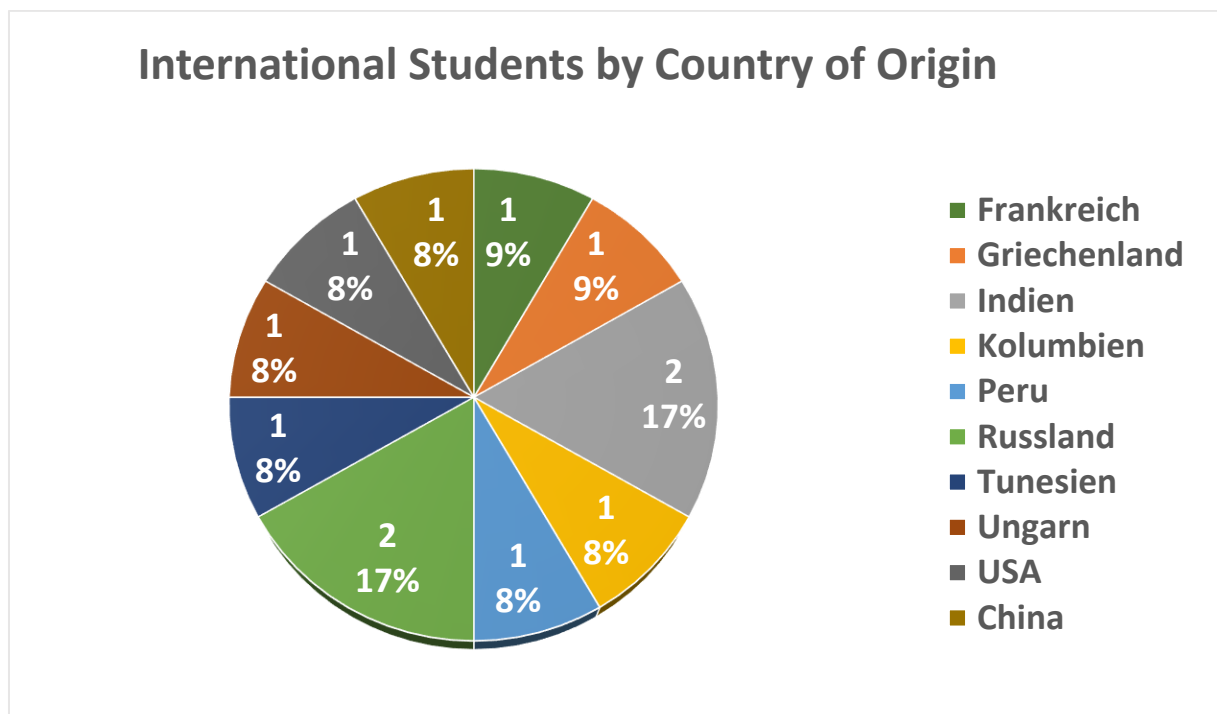
## 10. Certificate Program in Environmental Studies (ESCP)

At the outset of the 2022–2023 academic year, a total of 95 students were enrolled in the interdisciplinary Environmental Studies Certificate Program (ESCP). Of those students, 83 came from Germany, and 12 were international.



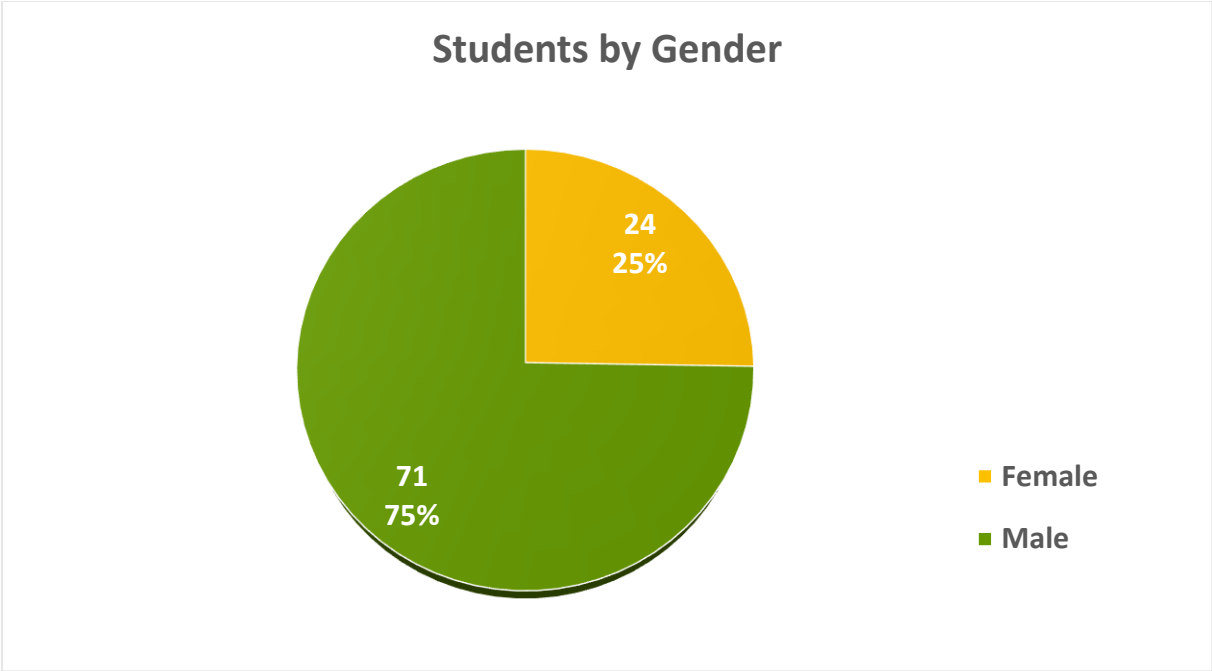
*ESCP students by their country of origin.*

Of the 12 international students, nearly all of them came from different countries around the world, their diversified countries of origin representing five different continents, from North and South America to Europe, Asia, and Africa.



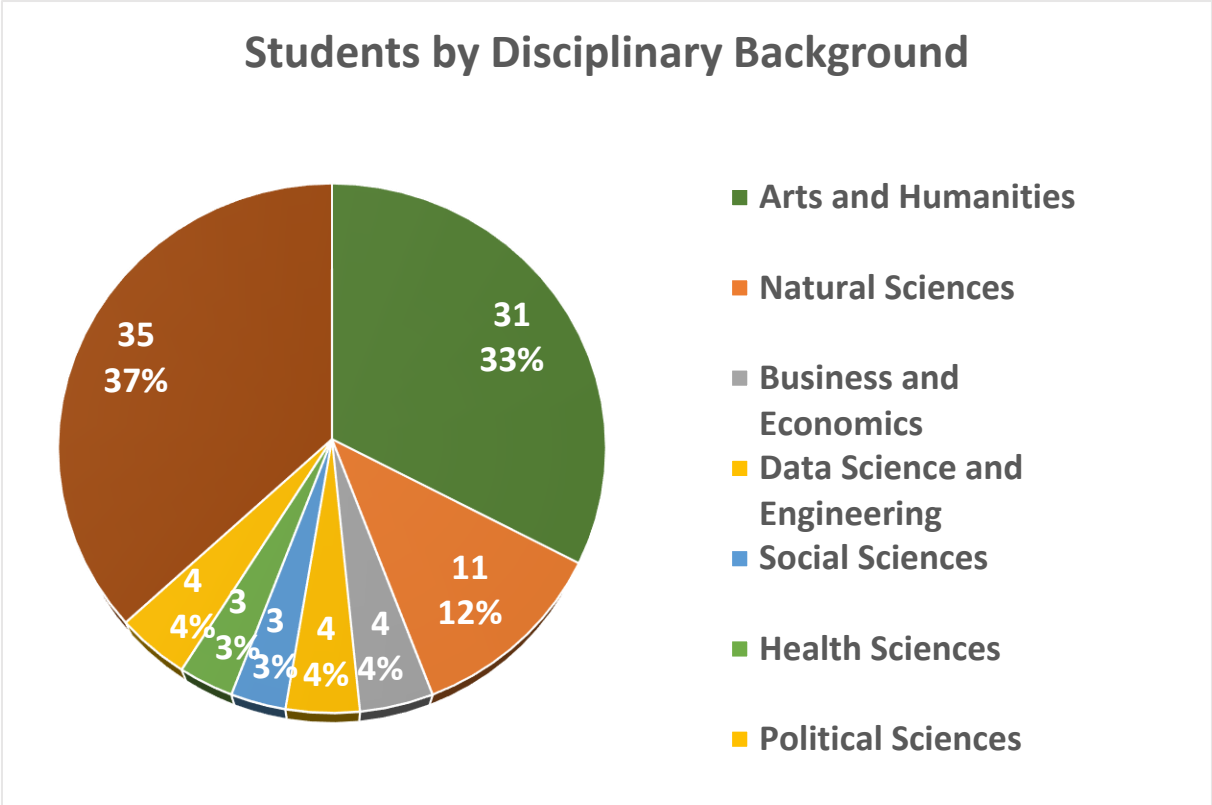
*ESCP international students by their countries of origin.*

Of all students enrolled in the program for the 2022–2023 academic year, 75 percent were male and 25 percent were female.



*ESCP students by gender.*

But, regardless of gender or country of origin, all of the students enrolled in the ESCP program continue to demonstrate a keen desire to further their environmental knowledge and practical applications from across the academic spectrum.



*ESCP students by disciplinary background.*

Semester	Total Enrollment
WS 2014/15	45
SoSe 2015	46
WS 2015/16	64
SoSe 2016	63
WS 2016/17	82
SoSe 2017	75
WS 2017/18	81
SoSe 2018	95
WS 2018/19	92
SoSe 2019	88
WS 19/20	131
SoSe 2020	110
WS 20/21	131
SoSe 2021	120
WS 21/22	141
SoSe 2022	127
WS 22/23	95

*ESCP enrollment statistics.*

Coming from over 50 different master's programs at both LMU and TUM, in addition to other universities in- and outside Germany, with degrees ranging from archaeology, biology, economics, and geography, to health sciences, international and comparative politics, physics, molecular biology, and socioeconomics, the number of students coming from technical, engineering, and natural science backgrounds has continued to increase, in line with the trend observed in 2021.

2022 saw the return of in-person teaching as certain university restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic were eased. Perhaps, as a result of the reduction in courses offered either in a hybrid or online setting, 2022 also saw an overall reduction in the number of students enrolled in the program. It remains to be seen whether this trend will continue into 2023 and beyond.

## Coursework

The weekly Lunchtime Colloquium and the associated Reading Course Introduction to Environmental Studies, continued to form the core of the program and remained a mandatory two-semester module for all students. In addition, students were able to 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.

In the weekly Tuesday Discussion, which is 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 Colloquium were well-received among the students and widely discussed in the Reading Course.

## Events & Activities

2022 also saw the return of in-person events and activities for the certificate program. Some of the fun, extracurricular activities undertaken by the certificate students were:

06.04.2022

**Alumni Speaker Event**

02.05.2022

**Annual General Meeting + Beer Garden Visit**

03.05.2022–22.05.2022

**Public Climate School**

25.05.2022–29.05.2022

**“Waterlogged: Venice, the Future, and the World”**

01.07.2022–03.07.2022

**Science & Art Festival Nantesbuch**

28.07.2022

**Eco Slam**

19.11.2022–20.11.2022

**Winter Workshop: An Introduction to Environmental Humanities 2022**

Of these numerous events, there were some unique highlights. After a three-year hiatus during the pandemic, the annual workshop held at Studienhaus Schönwag again opened its doors to ESCP students. From 19 to 20 November, the new cohort was introduced to the rapidly growing field of the environmental humanities and took the chance to explore their research interests.

In May, students also launched a final project website titled “Queer, Sentient, and Visionary Ecologies,” created during the pandemic. Eco Slam, a large in-person event and social gathering organized for the certificate students to present their final projects, after having been postponed, took place on 28 July, to great success and fanfare.

**Program Structure**

The restructured ESCP took effect in the fall of 2022.

effective as of October 2022

Content Areas	Module Titles							
International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Environment and Society 6 ECTS	P 1.1 Current Perspectives on Environment and Society [1] 3 ECTS	P 2.1 New Fields of Research on Environment and Society [1] 3 ECTS					P 2.2 Reading Course: Interdisciplinary Perspectives [2] 3 ECTS	Mandatory 6 ECTS
	P 1.2 Reading Course: International Perspectives [2] 2 ECTS							
Content Area 1: 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 7: Environment and Comparative Literature	WP 8: Environmental Anthropology I	WP 16: Environmental Anthropology II	WP 31: Sociology and Society				
Content Area 2: Environmental Practice 6 ECTS	WP 5: Academic Practice in Environmental Studies	WP 18: Professional Practice in Environmental Studies	WP 32: Exploring Local Environmental Practices					18 ECTS
	WP 6: Environmental Practice	WP 19: International Collaboration in the Environmental Humanities						
Content Area 3: Environment and Responsibility 6 ECTS	WP 7: Climate Change and Society	WP 20: Transformations in the Anthropocene	WP 22: Public Policy	WP 24: Methods in Communication Sciences	WP 33: Environments, Planning and Policy			18 ECTS
	WP 8: Foundation Course: Communication Science	WP 21: Environmental Ethics	WP 23: Environmental Law and Governance	WP 25: Sociology and Social Inequity				
Content Area 4: Sustainability and Environmental Sciences 6 ECTS	WP 9: Geographical Sustainability	WP 11: Foundation Course: Organic Biology	WP 13: Environmental Geobiology	WP 26: Geographical Perspectives on Sustainability and Resources	WP 28: Field Exercise in Geology	WP 34: Sustainability, Infrastructure and Technology	WP 36: Natural Hazards	18 ECTS
	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-Atmosphere-Continuum	WP 35: Theoretical and Applied Hydrology	WP 37: Evolutionary Ecology	
Final Project 9 ECTS	WP 20: Thesis						WP 39: Creative Project	Mandatory Choose 1 out of 2 9 ECTS

New ESCP module structure (effective as of 1 October 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, and to meet the growing trend of students coming from technical backgrounds.

The new recommended course of study for the ESCP, as of October 2022, also changed to the following:

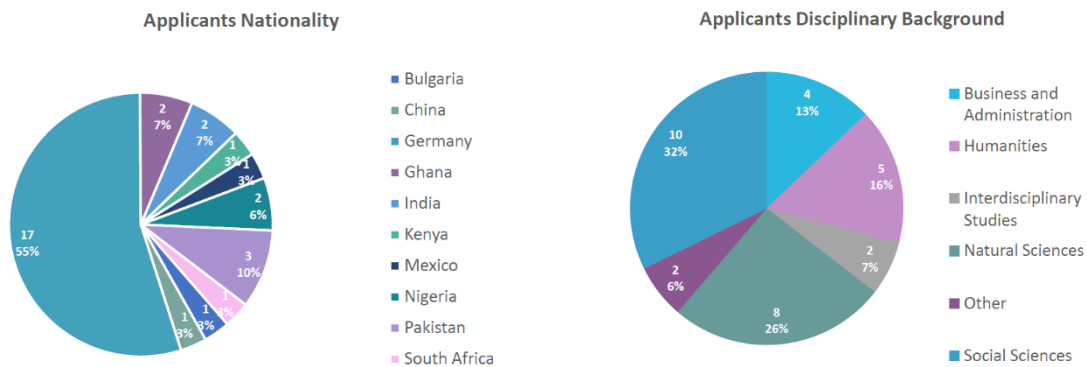


Recommended course of study.

## 11. Master of Arts Environment and Society

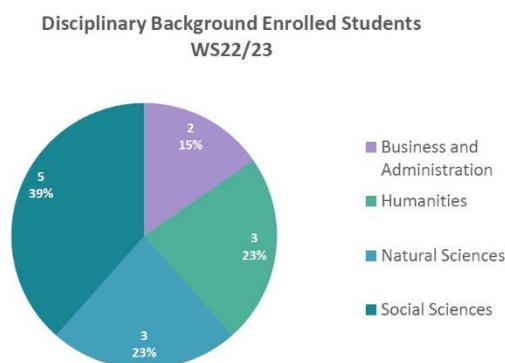
After final approval by the LMU's senate and the Bavarian ministry for education earlier in the year, the new, interdisciplinary MA program [Environment and Society](#) started in October 2022. The program brings together representatives of 20 different disciplines from across 8 LMU faculties to offer 48 individual elective modules in addition to the core content to be taught at the RCC—this makes it a program with no equivalent in Germany. The Volkswagen Foundation-sponsored program stands at the forefront of interdisciplinary education.

Out of 39 complete applications, 17 prospective students with different disciplinary and geographical backgrounds were selected.



Applicants by nationality (left) and by disciplinary background (right).

In the end, 13 students successfully enrolled in the program and started mid-October 2022.

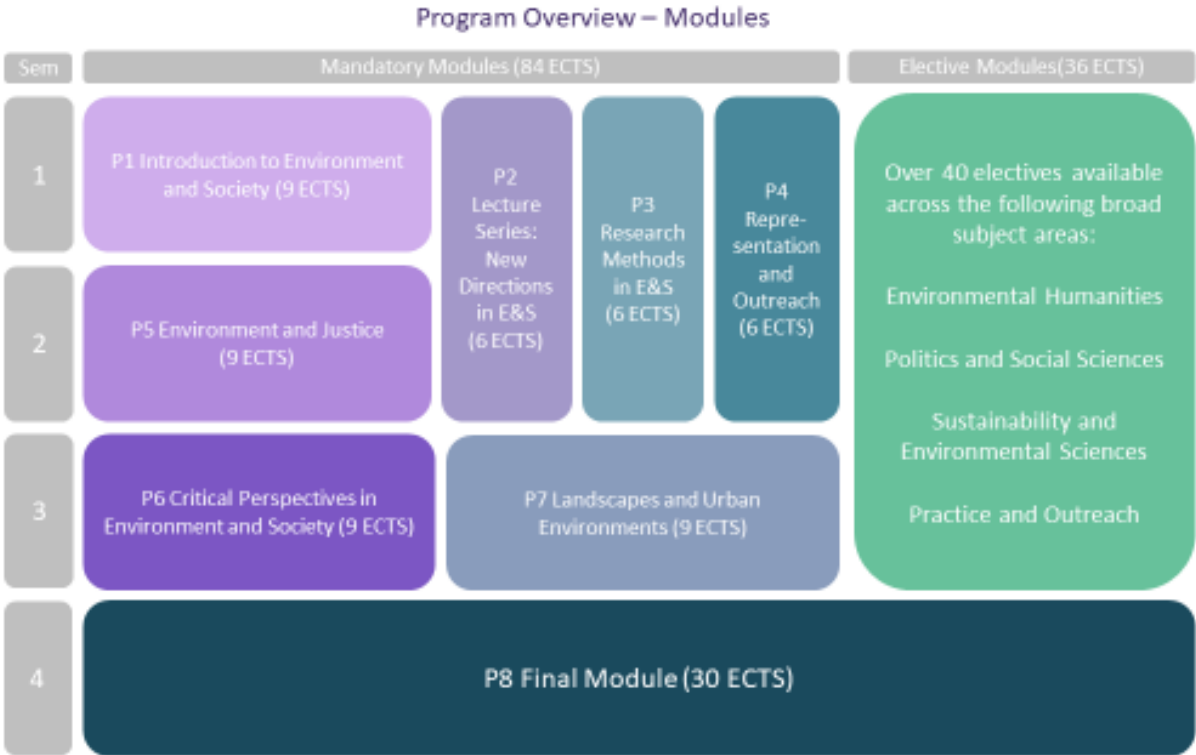


First cohort of the MA Environment and Society by disciplinary background.

In its inaugural winter 2022–2023 semester, the program's compulsory introductory seminar (cotaught by Hanna Straß-Senol, Christof Mauch, and Andreas Jünger) linked theory and practice by allowing students to engage with peatlands, questions of conservation and sustainable agricultural practices, and artistic and sensual approaches to the environment. The seminar helped the master's program establish cooperations with several new practice partners, including among others the Stiftung Kunst und Natur in Nantesbuch (in collaboration with artists, performers, and practical philosophers), the Umweltinstitut München e.V., brewers and ecology experts at Haderner Bräu Munich, an eco-farm in

Dietlhofen, and the Water Research Station of the Bavarian Agency for Environmental Protection and its head Julia Schwaiger. The expertise of these partners was integrated into the seminar through several excursions. The module was nominated for LMU’s Teaching Innovation Prize 2023.

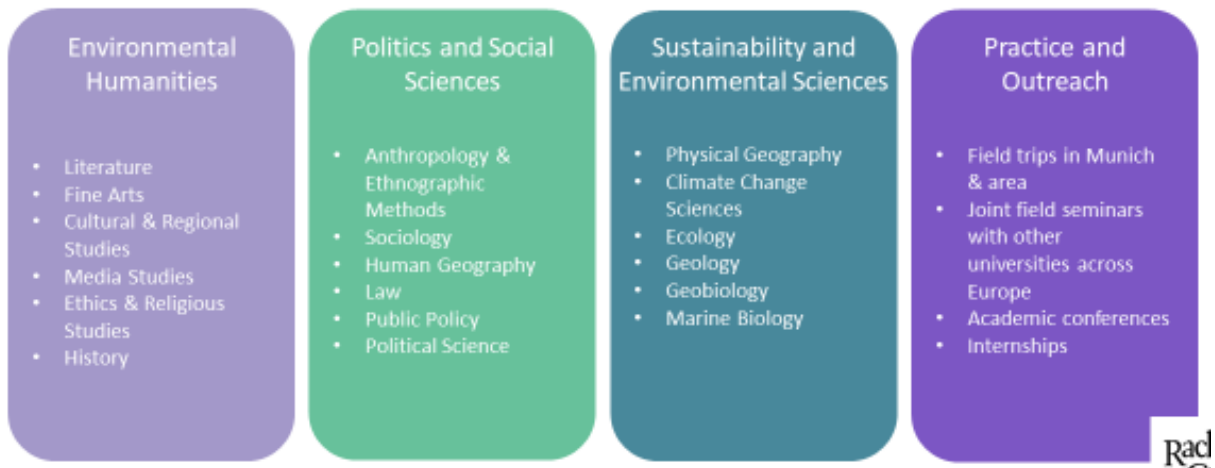
In parallel, students also attended mandatory courses on interdisciplinary methods (taught Anna Antonova), writing skills (taught by Tabea Hawkins, an instructor from the LMU Writing Center), and new research perspectives from across the broad field of environment and society (taught by Christof Mauch).



MA Environment and Society program overview.

In addition to the compulsory modules, in their first semester, students were able to select from 21 electives, ranging from literary and cultural studies, over ethnology and political science to geobiology. The course catalogue can be found [here](#) on the program’s website.

## Elective profiles (organizational grouping)



*Elective profiles MA Environment and Society students could choose from.*

Articles on the newly established program were published in the LMU's campus magazine *MünchnerUni Magazin (MUM)* ("[Wissenschaft auch mit Wandertiefeln](#)") and on EUresearcher.com ("[A Firmer Footing for the Environmental Humanities](#)").

Toward the end of the year, the team started preparing the formal accreditation process as the program was set to go through accreditation in 2023.

The Environmental Humanities Development team (Anna Antonova, Hanna Straß-Senol, and Stefania Sandu) organized an international conference in Seon, Bavaria, on "Environmental Perspectives for Research and Teaching"; collaborated with partners in Texas and Belfast on a MOOC on "Radical Hope"; and attended a number of events individually.

In her capacity as a member to the association's advisory board, Hanna Straß-Senol attended EASLCE's 9<sup>th</sup> biennial conference in Granada in September 2022.



## 12. Fellows, Researchers-in-Residence, and Visiting Scholars

In 2022, the RCC hosted an extraordinarily international cohort of fellows and visiting scholars, ranging from the United States and the United Kingdom, to India, Belgium, Italy, France, Hungary, Colombia, Ghana, Nigeria, the Netherlands, Brazil, China, Japan, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Turkey, Spain, Australia, the Philippines and Germany. With backgrounds in anthropology, geography, history, ecology, political science, and feminist science studies among many more, their projects were multi- and interdisciplinary. The projects they engaged in during their stays varied from poetry to youth activism, and from interdisciplinary research focusing on electronic waste to bioregionalism.

We continued to be fortunate to have visiting scholars and fellows who contribute to the intellectual culture of the RCC during their tenure.

### Landhaus Fellows

#### Flora Bartlett

01.01.2022–31.03.2022

“The Moose and the Motor: Climate Scepticism and Landscape in Rural Northern Sweden”

Flora Mary Bartlett is a visual anthropologist working with landscape, climate change, and climate skepticism in the rural north of Sweden / Swedish Sápmi using experimental visual practices. Her doctoral research, which used a range of alternative photographic processes, consisted of ethnographic work examining climate skepticism in this region, while considering environmental history, north–south urban–rural relations, and contemporary understandings of sustainability and stewardship. She has subsequently worked on interdisciplinary collaborations and visual climate perspectives through both a pilot study at Tarfala Research Station in the Swedish Arctic and an ongoing collaboration with the Nordic Museum in Stockholm, including their acclaimed exhibition *The Arctic—While the Ice is Melting*, the accompanying edited volume, and their upcoming permanent exhibitions. She received her PhD from Goldsmiths, University of London, in 2020, and now lives in the Swedish countryside.

#### Jared Margulies

01.01.2022–31.03.2022

“The Succulent Subject: A Political Ecology of Plants, Desire, and Illicit Trade”

Jared Margulies is assistant professor of political ecology in the Department of Geography at the University of Alabama. Previously, he was a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Sheffield, UK. Margulies’s research explores the politics of biodiversity conservation and illegal wildlife trade. His past research in southern India focused on how certain governmental strategies aiming to reduce forms of conflict between humans and animals

often exacerbate them, and why this is so. At the Rachel Carson Center, he will be working to complete his first book, *The Succulent Subject: A Political Ecology of Plants, Desire, and Illicit Trade* (University of Minnesota Press). Margulies's research has been supported by the Fulbright-Nehru program, and he has published in journals including *World Development*, *Political Geography*, *The Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, *Environmental Humanities*, and *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*. He received his PhD in geography and environmental systems from the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) in 2017.

### **Céline Pessis**

01.01.2022–31.03.2022

#### "From Soil to Earth: Environmental Knowledge, 'Living Soils' and the Rise of European Organic Farming Networks"

Céline Pessis's research proposes a reassessment of the modernization of post-World War II French society that places environmental knowledge, reflexivity, and conflict at the center of the narrative. Her first book dealt with the emergence of political ecology as it related to the challenge of "big science" in France in 1968. Céline's postdoctoral work (IFRIS, Paris, 2019–2021) calls for resituating the genesis of French organic farming in complex though marginalized soil-life maintenance practices as well as in postwar agricultural debates around motorization. Her current project explores the connections of these alternative agricultural worlds with the networks of natural food and medicine and their transnational circulations. Pessis coordinates the research project *Politics of the Agricultural Machine: Lock-Ins, Incentives and Socio-Ecological Consequences of Agricultural Mechanization in France (1945–2021)*. She teaches environmental history and sociology at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (master's program in ecological transition), the University Paris Dauphine, and the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS).

### **Samantha Walton**

01.01.2022–31.03.2022

#### "Life Without Soil"

Samantha Walton is reader in modern literature at Bath Spa University (BSU), and currently acting director of BSU's Research Centre for Environmental Humanities. Her research interests address environmental and psychological themes in modern literature, with particular interest in nature writing, Scottish literature, crime fiction, and ecopoetics. She is the author of three books as well as a poet, whose publications include *Bad Moon* (Spam Press, 2020) and *Self Heal* (Boiler House Press, 2018). As an editor, Walton coleads the poetry publisher Sad Press, and the ASLE-UKI journal *Green Letters: Studies in Ecocriticism*. She returned to the Rachel Carson Center, having previously held a Carson Writing Fellowship in 2018–2019 for the project *Cultures of Nature and Wellbeing: Connecting Health and the Environment through Literature*.

## **Subarna De**

01.01.2022–30.06.2022

### “Reinhabiting Kodagu: Coffee, Ecology, and Indigenous Knowledge”

Subarna De predominantly conducts research on the transformations of the environment and society, focusing on bioregionalism and Indigeneity. Her research is situated at the interface of cultural anthropology, human geography, environmental history, and the environmental humanities. At Ideate Design Studio, where she is a research associate, she applies bioregional research to work on field-based environmental, architectural, and conservation practices. She has taught Indian and English literature, bioregional studies, green studies, and academic writing at Mazoon College, Oman (affiliated to Purdue University Northwest, US), and Madras Christian College, India. Her doctoral thesis, funded by a Central University Doctoral Fellowship (India), focused on the environmental history and ecological practices of Indian coffee plantations and was supported with a research stay at Queen’s University, UK. In her current project, De focuses on postcolonial environmental discourses of Indigenous communities in India using mixed methods, including archival research, fieldwork, interviews, literary texts, and qualitative ethnographic data for bioregional analysis.

## **Diego Molina**

01.01.2022–30.06.2022

### “Transatlantic Gardens and the Nineteenth-Century Botanical Exchange”

Diego Molina has recently completed his PhD in human geography at the University of Reading, UK. Prior to his PhD, he worked for several years as a botanist in Colombia where he participated in scientific explorations, species discovery, and the design of public policies for plant conservation. Currently, Molina is interested in the cocreation of environments between humans and nonhumans, with a particular focus on the historical transformations of human–plant relationships in tropical cities. Molina is the author of *Los árboles se toman la ciudad: el proceso de modernización y la transformación del paisaje en Medellín, 1890-1950* (Trees arriving in the city, the modernization process and the landscape transformation in Medellín, 1890–1950), which was listed among the 90 must-reads on cities in 2016 by [The Nature of Cities](#) platform.

## **Thibault Fontanari**

01.01.2022–30.09.2022

### “Walking and Poetry as Ways of Dwelling: A Study with the Herders of the Karakoram Mountains, Pakistan”

Thibault Fontanari is a lecturer at UCLouvain University, Belgium, where he teaches anthropology. In his research, he develops an ethnography of pathways at the crossroads of environmental

anthropology, the anthropology of infrastructure, and oral literature. Fontanari received his PhD from UCLouvain University. His PhD studies were funded by the National Fund for Scientific Research in Belgium (2013–2017). Fontanari pursued his research at Harvard University as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar and BAEF Fellow in 2019 and 2020. At the Rachel Carson Center, completed a manuscript, which explores the relationship that herders and farmers of Karakoram have developed on their roads and describes the sensitive and symbolic relations they have formed with the pathways they have built.

### **Péter Makai**

01.01.2022–30.09.2022

#### “Playing to Survive: Communicating Climate Change in Computer and Board Games”

Péter Kristóf Makai began his Landhaus Fellowship at the Rachel Carson Center in January 2022, researching how board and video games portray anthropogenic climate change and biodiversity. He worked as a KWI International Fellow at the Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen (KWI), focusing on how computer games mediate the physical pleasures of theme parks and how board games use themes to convey meaning. Péter was the Crafoord Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Intermedial and Multimodal Studies at Linnaeus University in Växjö, Sweden. He obtained his PhD from the University of Szeged in literary studies, writing his dissertation on the depiction of autism in contemporary Anglophone literature and literary theory. In addition, he regularly publishes on Tolkien and games and in science fiction studies. He is a member of Mensa HungarIQa, an avid hiker and biker, and holds a Level 3 Award in Wines from the Wine and Spirits Education Trust.

### **Bright Nrkumah**

01.01.2022–30.09.2022

#### “Youth Activists and Sustainable Food Systems in a Globalizing World”

Bright Nkrumah is a scholar activist at the Global Change Institute, University of the Witwatersrand, and the author of *Seeking the Right to Food: Food Activism in South Africa* (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

### **Teresa Spezio**

01.04.2022-03.06.2022

#### “Containment: A Solution to Environmental Pollution”

Teresa Sabol Spezio’s research interests include the historical relationship between humans and human-created industrial pollution. Her research project while she was at the RCC created a historical narrative that reveals the interconnections between humans, industrial pollution, and human desire

to “contain” pollution so that it no longer encounters human bodies or their environments. Using the process of identifying, categorizing, and controlling uncontrolled hazardous waste sites that emerged in the United States beginning in 1980 as a frame, she followed the social network of actors as they moved from removing or destroying contaminants to containing pollution on site as the preferred method for remediation. As the impacts of climate change are getting more and more severe, and fires, floods, and droughts are occurring with increased frequency, human attempts to control and/or contain the effects of global climate change reveal that containment has failed. With every flood, hurricane, or extreme weather event, the pollution escapes from hazardous waste sites and threatens communities. Containment has been seen as a panacea for pollution control, but climate change uncovers its limitations.

### **Eiko Honda**

01.04.2022–30.06.2022

#### “The Emergence of Queer Nature: Minakata Kumagusu and the Making of Microbial Paradigm, 1887–1912”

Eiko Honda specializes in intellectual history of modern Japan, with a focus on scientist–polymaths whose transdisciplinary paradigm emerged out of nature–culture entanglements. At the Rachel Carson Center, she completed her monograph *The Emergence of Queer Nature: Minakata Kumagusu and the Making of Microbial Paradigm, 1887–1912*. Prior to her position as a research and teaching associate in history at the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, she was the 2021 Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellow at the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures. She completed her PhD in history at the University of Oxford (2021) following a curatorial fellowship awarded by Japan’s Agency for Cultural Affairs (2013–2016).

### **Iva Peša**

01.04.2022–30.06.2022

#### “Copperbelt Environmentalism: Mining and Environmental Values on the Central African Copperbelt, 1950–2000”

Iva Peša is an assistant professor in contemporary history at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands where she teaches African and environmental history and coordinates the master’s program Un/sustainable Societies. Her research has focused on the social and environmental history of Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Her previous research project explored the environmental history of the Copperbelt, a highly industrialized copper mining area. This project examined narratives about pollution and environmental transformation through archives and oral history. At the RCC, she worked on developing a new research project that looks at environmental change on the South African Witwatersrand, the Zambian Copperbelt, and the Nigerian Niger Delta comparatively, using literary and musical sources in addition to oral history and ethnographic methods.

## **Zimu Zhang**

01.04.2022–30.06.2022

### “Configuring the Anthropocene Visually and Counter-Visuality of the East River in China”

Zimu Zhang a researcher, curator, and moving image practitioner. She completed her PhD research on Anthropocene visibility and counter-visibility in contemporary Chinese visual culture in 2022 at the School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong. She is a member of the Wanwu Practice Group, which focuses on ecology and art research in east Asia. She is also an alumna of DocNomads Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD) in documentary filmmaking (2012–2014), SoundImageCulture (SIC, 2016), and Berlinale Talents (2016). Her films and art projects have been featured at international festivals and events, such as the European Media Art Festival, Visible Evidence, Video Vortex, and China Independent Film Festival. Zimu has curated screening programs for Singapore International Film Festival, Inner Mongolian Film Week, and Beijing International Short Film Festival. She cofounded Moonshine Screening Project (2017–2019, Guangzhou SJT co-governance space) and Black Tent Theatre (2021, Guangdong Times Museum), which focus on the ecology and sociality of moving image and moving-image activities.

## **Paolo Gruppuso**

01.04.2022–07.07.2022

### “Claiming Marshlands Back: Novel Economies Beyond Agrarian and Conservation Perspectives”

Paolo Gruppuso is an anthropologist with research interests in nature conservation, urban ecologies, the Anthropocene, environmental justice, and the environmental and social history of wetlands and land reclamation. He obtained his doctorate in social anthropology from the University of Aberdeen in 2016 with a dissertation on environmental contestations between farming and nature conservation in protected wetlands of Agro Pontino, Italy. From 2013 to 2018, he was affiliated with the ERC project Knowing from the Inside: Anthropology, Art, Architecture and Design, based at the University of Aberdeen and led by Tim Ingold. In 2018, he was a visiting research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, where he focused on the history of wetland conservation within the wider fields of conservation science and environmentalism. From 2018 to 2021, he was a research fellow at the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Pollenzo, Italy.

## **Fiona Kinniburgh**

01.04.2022–30.09.2022

### “Unearthing European Agriculture(s): The Politics of Pesticide Reduction in France and Germany”

Fiona Kinniburgh is a research associate in the Chair of Environmental and Climate Policy at the Technical University of Munich (TUM). Combining perspectives from political science and science and

technology studies, her work broadly examines the roles of science and public policies in enabling deep societal transformations toward sustainability. Her ongoing doctoral research analyzes multilevel governance of transitions to sustainable agri-food systems and the role of expertise in policy processes, focusing on efforts to reduce or discontinue pesticide use at the international level and in the EU. Prior to joining TUM, she worked on agricultural and biodiversity policy at the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) in Paris, where she investigated the achievements and limitations of domestic measures to sustain biological diversity in five countries to inform the preparation of the post-2020 framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity. She received her bachelor's degree in sustainable development from Columbia University and her master's in environmental policy from Science Po's Paris School of International Affairs.

### **Petra Dolata**

01.05.2022–31.07.2022

#### “Energy Transitions as Lived Experience: A Transnational Study of Deindustrializing Coal Regions in Europe Since 1945”

Petra Dolata is associate professor and former Canada research chair in the history of energy at the University of Calgary, Canada. She is the Scholar in Residence (2018–2023) at the interdisciplinary Calgary Institute for the Humanities, where she also co-convenes the Energy In Society (EIS) research group. She holds a master's degree in American studies from Ruhr University Bochum, where she also received her PhD in international relations with a project on US–German energy relations in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Her research during her time at the RCC focused on European and North American energy history after 1945 as well as the history and politics of energy transitions. She is part of a seven-year partnership project, funded by the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, on deindustrialization and the politics of our time (2020–2027). The project is based at the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling at Concordia University and examines the historical roots and lived experience of deindustrialization as well as the political responses to it.

### **Franziska Strack**

01.06.2022–30.09.2022

#### “Sound, Ecology, and Politics”

Franziska's dissertation uses sonic-musical figures (such as voice, song, rhythm, or silence) to provide a differentiated vocabulary for the ecological, affective, and corporeal elements of politics. Specifically, it examines how linguistic, musical, and infra/ultrasonic sounds shape the experience and theoretical configuration of political communication and community-building and include nonhuman and environmental forces in communicative exchanges. At the Rachel Carson Center, Franziska drew upon her explorations of sound and political ecology to describe how climate change calls for new notions of communal action and living together. By conceptualizing the affective and material “atmospheres” of political engagement, she calls attention to the ecological dimensions of normative principles and

political activism, negating anthropocentrism yet not the importance of human influence and responsibility.

### **Bérénice Girard**

01.07.2022–30.09.2022

#### “From River Management to Solar Rollout: Environmental Policies and Their Actors in Contemporary India”

Bérénice Girard is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Stavanger, Norway. Her research focuses on environmental policies and their actors in contemporary India. She defended her PhD in sociology at EHESS Paris in July 2019. Her thesis, “The Engineers, the River and the State: The Role and Place of Engineers in the Management of the Ganges,” was awarded the 2020 French Academic Network on Asian Studies PhD Award. Her current research focuses on the role of small and medium enterprises in solar rollout. Girard is particularly interested in the discourses, perspectives, and work practices of solar entrepreneurs, and their role in shaping the transition to low-carbon energies at the local and regional levels. She conducts fieldwork in the state of Rajasthan in India and in the region Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes in France.

### **Astrid Schrader**

01.07.2022–30.09.2022

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

Astrid Schrader is a senior lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Philosophy and Anthropology, at the University of Exeter. She works at the intersections of feminist science studies, human–animal studies, new materialisms, and posthumanist theories. Her 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. Astrid has been particularly interested in scientific research on marine microbes. While she was at the RCC, she worked on her project Caring with Haunted Microbes, where she develops new theoretical approaches in science and technology studies (STS), combining “agential realism” and “biodeconstruction.” Working with artists and marine scientists, she also sought to establish new approaches to and methodologies in cross-disciplinarity.



### **Lise Sedrez**

01.07.2022–30.09.2022

#### “Cities under Water: A Comparative Environmental History of Floods in Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires”

Environmental historian Lise Sedrez teaches history of the Americas. She holds a PhD in Latin American history from Stanford University (2005) and is the coeditor of the book series Latin American Landscapes (University of Arizona Press). Lise is a founding member of SOLCHA (Sociedade Latino-Americana y Caribeña de Historia Ambiental); collaborates with the feminist collective Inaiá and the ASEH’s Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity; and was a fellow at the Rachel Carson Center in 2015–2016. Since 2017, she has been part of the interdisciplinary project Occupy Climate Change (OCC!) based at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Sweden. Her research interests include urban environmental history, history of disasters, and digital history.

### **Anwasha Borthakur**

01.07.2022–31.10.2022

#### “India’s Invisible Waste Streams”

Anwasha Borthakur is primarily engaged in interdisciplinary research focusing on electronic waste (e-waste) and textile waste governance in India, South Africa, and the European Union. She completed her PhD in science policy at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India, and was a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at KU Leuven, Belgium. She was affiliated with the same university in 2022. During her RCC Landhaus fellowship, built on her expertise in waste management and completed a book project on e-waste and textile waste in India—two relatively invisible, ignored, and understudied waste streams in the country. She addressed different traits and individualities of e-waste and textile waste in the country, including the production of textiles and electronics, their consumption, and, finally, their disposal, where the informal recycling sector is a major stakeholder. Her Landhaus fellowship will be followed by a Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers at the RCC.

### **Faisal Husain**

01.07.2022–31.12.2022

#### “An Environmental History of the Ottoman Arid Frontier, 1500–1700”

Faisal Husain is an assistant professor of history at the Pennsylvania State University. He specializes in the environmental history of the Ottoman Empire with a geographical focus on its eastern provinces in Anatolia and modern-day Iraq. His first book, *Rivers of the Sultan*, examined the role of the Tigris and Euphrates in the establishment of Ottoman state institutions within the drainage basin between

the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. At the Rachel Carson Center, he started a new book project, an environmental history of Ottoman frontier expansion into the arid zone. In 2022, he was a member of the editorial board of *Global Environment*.

### **Akinpelu Ayokunnu Oyekunle**

01.07.2022–31.12.2022

#### “Complementary Epistemology: A Viable Framework for Environmental Philosophy”

Akinpelu Ayokunnu Oyekunle is a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Philosophy, Practical and Systematic Theology, University of South Africa, and a lecturer at Adekunle Ajasin University, Nigeria. His research recognizes the interrelatedness of issues with the nonlinearity of conceptual thought. Akinpelu thus focuses on advancing Indigenous knowledge systems of the Global South, and of the African continent in particular, as a theoretical and pragmatic framework for addressing today’s environmental challenges. His area of research includes African environmental philosophy, decoloniality and development studies, and applied epistemology. Outside philosophical engagements, Akinpelu enjoys playing the piano.

### **Tamara Fernando**

01.10.2022–31.12.2022

#### “Of Mollusk and Men: Diving for Pearls in the Indian Ocean 1850–1925”

Tamara Fernando is an incoming assistant professor at Stony Brook University, New York, and a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for Historical Research, London. Her research focuses on the intersection of labor, science, and the environment in the area of the Indian Ocean at the turn of the twentieth century. Her archival work focuses on a close examination of the pearl trade. Rather than reconstructing a commodity history of pearls, she concerns herself with how pearl divers’ labor and the submarine oyster reef allow us access to historic oceans. She is interested in submarine histories, histories below the waterline, animal histories, and blending methods from the environmental humanities to find out how this might affect labor and the history of science.

### **Christina Gerhardt**

01.10.2022–31.12.2022

#### “Sea Change: An Atlas of Islands in a Rising Ocean”

Christina Gerhardt is an associate professor at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa. Before this, she worked as a Barron Professor in the Environment and the Humanities at the High Meadows Environmental Institute at Princeton University. She is a senior fellow at the University of California at

Berkeley, where she previously taught. Professor Gerhardt has been awarded fellowships by various institutions and commissions, including the Fulbright Commission, the DAAD, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Newberry Library, and the Rachel Carson Center. She has held visiting appointments at Harvard University, the Free University Berlin, and Columbia University. Besides her professorship at the University of Hawai'i, she is the editor-in-chief of *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment*, the quarterly journal of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE), published by Oxford University Press. She also serves on the editorial board of the PMLA: Publication of the Modern Languages Association, the advisory board of the *Journal of Environmental Media* (Intellect Press), and the editorial board of *Media and the Environment* (University of California Press).

### **Aaron Katzeman**

01.10.2022–31.12.2022

#### “Land, Art, Liberation: Groundings of Revolutionary Ecology”

Aaron Katzeman is a PhD candidate in visual studies with a focus on global studies at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). His research focuses on contemporary art, radical cinema, and decolonial land struggles. At the Rachel Carson Center, he worked on his dissertation project, “Land, Art, Liberation: Groundings of Revolutionary Ecology,” which rearticulates the historical tendency of 1960s and 1970s Land Art within the context of US settler colonialism and imperialism, analyzing visual culture produced alongside global resistance to military occupation, social movements for agrarian reform, and anticolonial national liberation struggles. In 2022, Katzemann was an advisory board member of the UCI Environmental Humanities Research Center, a coorganizer of the Climate Futures Collective, and a curatorial researcher with the Orange County Museum of Art for their participation in the 2024 *Getty Pacific Standard Time: Art x Science x L.A.* exhibition.

### **Steve Mentz**

01.10.2022–31.12.2022

#### “An Introduction to the Blue Humanities”

Steve Mentz is professor of English at St. John's University in New York City. His most recent book, *Ocean*, appeared in March 2020 in Bloomsbury's Object Lessons series. He is the author of four other books, *Break Up the Anthropocene* (2019); *Shipwreck Modernity: Ecologies of Globalization, 1550–1719* (2015); *At the Bottom of Shakespeare's Ocean* (2009); and *Romance for Sale in Early Modern England* (2006). He also edited or coedited six collections: *A Cultural History of the Sea in the Early Modern Age* (2021); *The Routledge Companion to Marine and Maritime Worlds, 1400–1800* (2020); *The Sea in Nineteenth-Century Anglophone Literary Culture* (2017); *Oceanic New York* (2015); *The Age of Thomas Nashe* (2013), and *Rogues and Early Modern English Culture* (2004). He wrote numerous articles and chapters on ecocriticism, Shakespeare, early modern literature, and the blue humanities. He curated an exhibition at the Folger Shakespeare Library, *Lost at Sea: The Ocean in*

*the English Imagination, 1550–1750* (2010). Mentz blogs at *The Bookfish*, [www.stevementz.com](http://www.stevementz.com), and tweets as [@stevermentz](https://twitter.com/stevermentz).

### **Aneurin Merrill-Glover**

01.10.2022–31.03.2023

#### “The Whole Body of the Fenne’: Bodily Metaphor and Seventeenth-Century Fen Drainage”

Aneurin Merrill-Glover is an early modernist. In 2022, Merrill-Glover was in his third year of an environmental history PhD at the University of Manchester, which takes place in partnership with the Lancashire Wildlife Trust. His thesis, “Mosslands in Early Modern Lancashire 1500–1800,” deals with the unique and neglected wetland landscapes of the northwest of England. He is interested in wetland landscapes and the problems that they pose to our understandings of land and water.

### **Nandita Badami**

01.10.2022–30.06.2023

#### “Shadows for Sunlight: Epistemic Experiments with Solar Energy”

Nandita Badami is a cultural anthropologist interested in analyzing the epistemic shifts that develop in the wake of contemporary acts of environmental policymaking. The book project she worked on during her time at the RCC examines the conceptual disruptions that accompany infrastructural ones as politicians and policymakers work to deploy solar energy alongside conventional coal-powered electricity in India. Her next project is a history of mitigation as a conceptual object. The project charts the development of mitigation from its etymological roots as “softening” through to its contemporary meaning as a mode of climate action. It will be informed by ethnographic and archival research amongst the spaces and texts of international climate conventions. Nandita earned her PhD in anthropology from the University of California, Irvine, and has previously been a postdoctoral scholar at the Penn Program in Environmental Humanities (PPEH) at the University of Pennsylvania. She holds two previous degrees in political theory from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Alongside the anthropology of energy, Nandita maintains a keen interest in the intellectual history of environmentalism, particularly when it relates to the histories of economic and political thought.

### **Mona Bieling**

01.10.2022–30.06.2023

“Landscape and Power in Mandate Palestine, 1917–1948”

Mona Bieling is a PhD student at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva. In 2022, she was working on her dissertation titled “Landscape and Power in Mandate Palestine, 1917–1948.” Previously, Bieling has worked as a teaching assistant at the Graduate Institute, Geneva, and as a research assistant for the project The Myth of Homogeneity: Minority Protection and Assimilation in Western Europe, 1919–1939, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation.

### **Visiting Scholars**

#### **Christiane Heisse**

01.01.2022–01.07.2023

“The Political Economy of Natural Capital Accounting Between Policy, Finance, and Economics Imperialism”

#### **Jacob Shell**

05.01.2022–01.09.2022

“The Quadruped and the Infinity Bridge”

#### **Can Boyacioglu**

17.01.2022–01.01.2023

“Re-Emerging Idea of Nature: In-Between Environmental Humanities and Architectural Theory”

#### **Patrick Flamm**

01.02.2022–01.05.2022

“‘Environmental Leadership’ and Power in Antarctic Geopolitics”

**Mike Zuber**

01.02.2022–01.02.2024

“Mining in the Little Ice Age: An Environmental History of Knowledge, 1550–1750”

**Angela Garcia-Lopez**

01.03.2022–01.06.2022

“Gender and Environment in North-American Science Fiction by Women”

**Andreas Nordlander**

01.03.2022–01.06.2022

“Ecological Ethics in a European Context: A Comparative Study of Bernard Charbonneau, Hans Jonas, and Erazim Kohák”

**Johanna Conterio**

01.04.2022–01.07.2022

“Controlling Ecologies, Controlling People: Urban Planning, Social Engineering, and the Politics of Green Space in the Soviet Union, 1931–1941”

**Anne Rademacher**

20.04.2022–01.09.2022

“Loved to Death, Loved to Life: Making and Unmaking Riparian Natures on the Isar”

**Zali Fung**

01.05.2022–01.01.2024

“Contests over Water and the Yuam River Water Diversion Project: Participation, Exclusion, and Resistance”

**Michele Sollai**

01.05.2022–01.05.2023

“The Global Battle of Wheat: Mobilizing Science for Agrarian Development in Fascist Italy, 1920s–1940s”

**Läyna Droz-dit-Busset**

01.06.2022–01.12.2022

“Can and Should We Go Beyond Anthropocentrism?”

**Nicole Fischer**

01.09.2022–01.01.2024

“Novalis and Materiality: Analyzing, Contextualizing, and Fructifying the Romantic Writer from an Ecocritical Perspective”

**Michael Hewson**

01.09.2022–01.03.2023

“Ceding Control: River Running Rights”

**Tiphaine Robert**

01.09.2022–01.09.2023

“The Autocratic Automobile? A Political History of the Car in Switzerland (1950–2000)”

## 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 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)

Adrienne Brown (IT & Research Assistant)

Maximilian Heumann (IT & Communications Associate)

Sophia Hörl (Research Assistant & Events Coordinator)

Charlotte Huber (Project Assistant)

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 the LMU Munich faculty networks and partnerships with universities abroad and are working on a new master's program in Environment and Society.

Gesa Lüdecke (Director of Graduate Programs)

Anna Antonova (Director of Environmental Humanities Development)

Hanna Straß-Senol (Director of Environmental Humanities Development)



Tatjana Klein (Program Associate)

Julia Leitert (Program Associate)

Stefania Sandu (Program Associate)

## Publications

The editorial team is responsible for editing various publications, including the new in-house publication *Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review* and the journal *Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History*. In addition, they maintain the RCC's website and social media platforms.

L. Sasha Gora (Editorial Director)

Amy Mohr (Editor)

Pauline Kargruber (Editor)

Jonatan Palmblad (Editor)

Teja Šosterič (Editor)

Annika Stanitzok (Editor)