

Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society Annual Report 2023

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1. The RCC at a Glance 2023

Chair of Environmental Humanities

Prof. Dr. Sonja Dümpelmann and her chair in environmental humanities joined the Rachel Carson Center (RCC). She brought with her a team of two postdoctoral researchers, a lecturer, and an office manager. The chair took over the MA program, which welcomed its second cohort, as well as the doctoral program. Sonja Dümpelmann became codirector of the RCC.

Fellows

The Landhaus Fellowship Program in collaboration with Herrmannsdorfer Landwerkstätten continued through 2023. The RCC was further able to host two alumni fellows and two fellows through the Rachel Carson-Simone Veil fellowship program with Project House Europe (also LMU).

Projects

Two new issues of the open-access online publication [Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review](#) came out in 2023.

2023 also saw the launch of the RCC Environmental Writing Studio, which offers seminars and workshops that give insights from authors, editors, and lecturers about the art and craft of writing, supporting the transition from research to publication.

In 2023, the Rachel Carson Center welcomed four new research projects. [Speak4Nature](#), an EU-funded staff-exchange initiative, explores ecological justice and the rights of nature. Additionally, two DFG-funded projects launched at the RCC: one investigating the lost city of Vanport and another examining the role of organic-farming practices and household resilience in rural Bangladesh and Thailand.

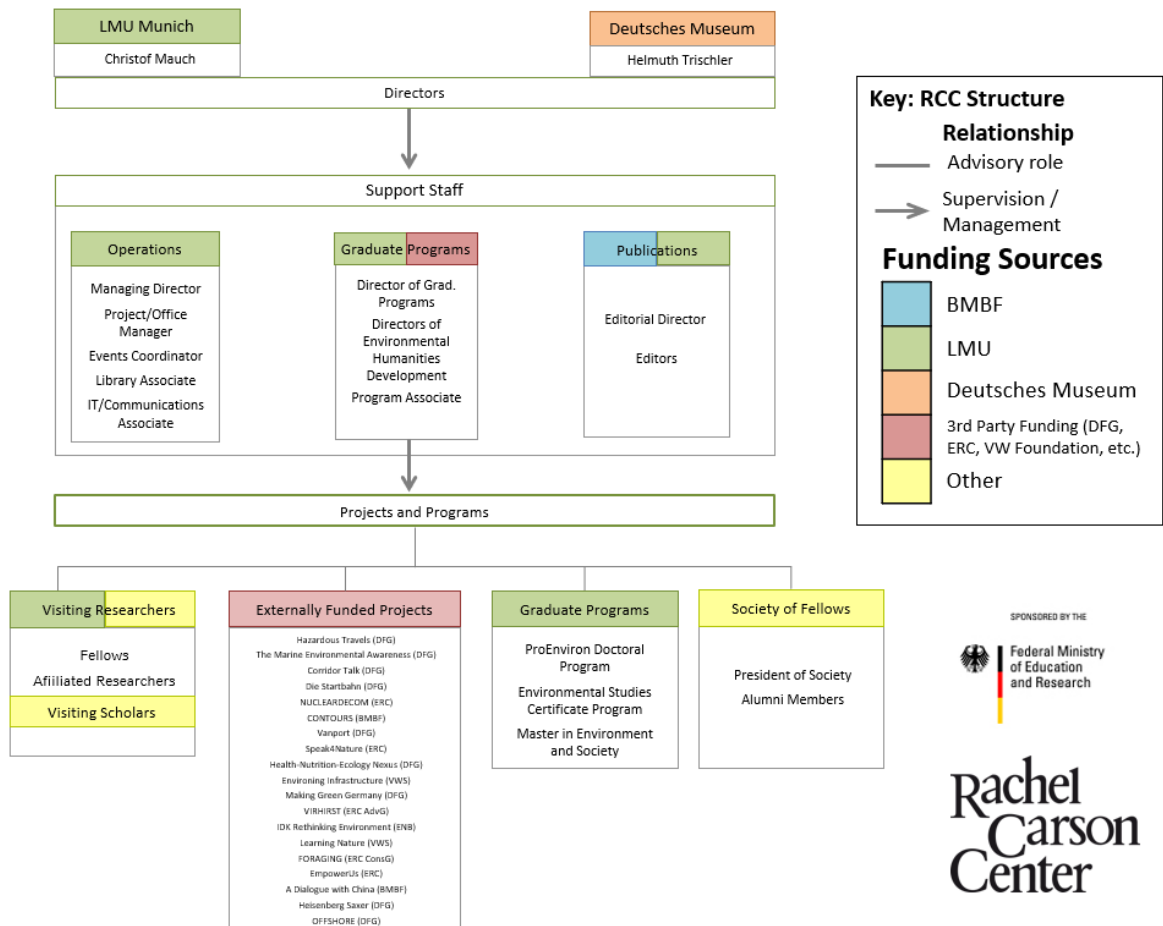
Events

The RCC hosted numerous lectures, talks, workshops, and conferences throughout 2023. Among them was the conference “[Black and Green? Towards and Environmental History of Oil](#)” (June). The RCC further supported and co-organized the first environmental-humanities conference in Africa, “[Making and Unmaking Africa](#),” organized by former Carson Fellow John Agbonifo.

2. Organizational Structure

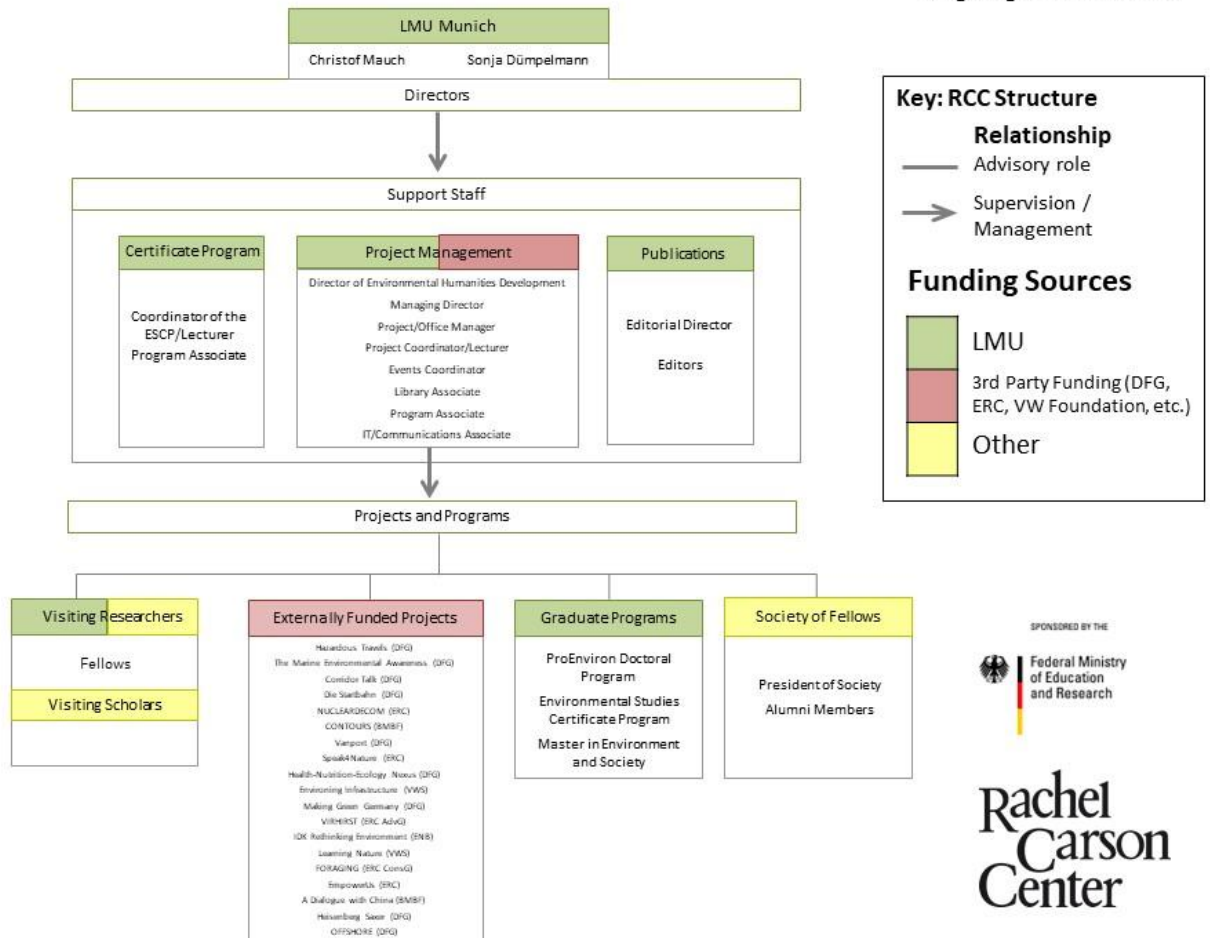
In the spring of 2023, the Rachel Carson Center was structured as such:

Organigram Spring 2023



In the fall of 2023, the Rachel Carson Center was structured as such:

Organigram Fall 2023



3. Research

In 2023, the RCC continued many of its externally funded research projects, several new projects began, and several were completed. 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

2023 saw the conclusion of some of the RCC's most celebrated projects. [Hazardous Travels: Ghost Acres and the Global Waste Economy](#), helmed by Principal Investigator Simone Müller, came to an end after nine years of intense research into industrialized countries' "garbage imperialism." Going out on a high note, one of the project's investigators, Jonas Stuck, successfully defended his doctoral dissertation, "A Hazardous Connection: The Waste Trade between East and West Germany, 1973–1990" before an audience of friends and colleagues in October.

Having begun its exploration of the idea that the marine-biological research of the twentieth-century German Empire created the fundamentals of our current environmental awareness in 2018, [Marine Environmental Awareness: Knowledge, Media, and the Politics of a Thriving Underwater World \(1870–1980\)](#), the DFG project led by RCC historian Franziska Torma, also concluded after six years of research.

[Corridor Talk: Conservation Humanities and the Future of Europe's National Parks](#), the DFG and the UK's Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) jointly funded project under Network Coordinator Pavla Šimková and Codirector Katie Ritson, held its final workshop in April. The "Corridor Talk Workshop at the World Heritage Centre Wadden Sea," took place at Waddenlands, the provisional location of the World Heritage Center Wadden Sea, from 27 to 28 April. The two-day event gave researchers a chance to review their project outcomes and focus on potential future applications of their work.

Just in time to mark the 40th anniversary of Frankfurt Airport's controversial runway project, [Die Startbahn](#), led by historian Michael Schüring and funded by the DFG, concluded its three-year research cycle in August of this year.

As one of six members of the larger Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) funded joint project [Worldmaking from a Global Perspective: A Dialogue with China](#), the RCC was proud to participate in various talks and lectures in collaboration with the University of Heidelberg as part of [Epochal Life Worlds: Humans, Nature, and Technology in Narratives of Crisis and Change](#) during the three-year partnership. 2023's annual conference, "[The Making of Epochal Events: Narrating Turning Points in Chinese History](#)," held in Heidelberg, sought to investigate how "epochal" events determine our understanding of Chinese history, and whether such events necessarily mark a break with the past.

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, spent the past two years proposing a holistic view of nuclear decommissioning through a dynamic and comprehensive analysis of expert strategies, workers' practices, and local communities' responses. As the project concluded, Davide's next project will look to apply this research to a comparative study of decommissioned nuclear sites in Italy, Germany, and Belgium.

The BMBF and ERA.Net RUS European Community funded project with researchers based in Finland, Estonia, Russia, and Germany, [Conservation, Tourism, Remoteness \(CONTOURS\)](#), completed their mini-lecture series, ContoursTalks—a joint lecture project of the Amerika-Institut and the RCC—in March. The final event of the project, “Environing Tourism: Multispecies Entanglements, Histories, Infrastructures,” a conference held on 15 June, provided a chance to discuss the outcomes of team members’ individual research projects, and to bring these into conversation with ongoing scholarship carried out at the Rachel Carson Center.

New Projects

While it is always sad to see projects end here at the RCC, several exciting new projects officially got underway in 2023. One such project, led by Uwe Lübken, is the DFG-funded “Vanport, Oregon: Environmental Justice, Displacement, and the Reconstruction of a ‘Lost City.’” It traces the history of Vanport, a wartime housing project built near Portland, Oregon, in 1942–43 to accommodate 40,000 defense-industry workers. Vanport quickly became Oregon’s second-largest city and the largest Black community in the region. On 30 May 1948, a levee failure led to a catastrophic flood that destroyed the city. Vanport was never rebuilt. Though its physical existence was brief, Vanport’s legacy endures as a symbol of resilience against racism, adversity, and environmental injustice. Today, it is recognized for its role in promoting diversity and highlighting systemic inequalities.

[Speak4Nature](#), a new multi-year, international, and interdisciplinary project that focuses on understanding ecological interdependence and the rights of nature, includes the LMU and the RCC as part of a consortium of nine international interdisciplinary forefront academic (universities and research centers) and nonacademic institutions in the EU and South America. With the goal of advancing ecological-justice efforts, the nine institutions, in Germany, Italy, Spain, Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, work together through staff exchanges and joint research projects to achieve project objectives by operating on [three interdisciplinary levels](#): the theoretical, the empirical, and the strategic. Having officially begun in March of 2023, events, such as the 29 April “Camp for Ecological Justice,” organized by the [National University of Littoral](#), sought to quantify data on socio-environmental problems and access to justice in small towns in the province of Santa Fe, Argentina.

As Principal Investigator Judith Bopp sets out to investigate how rural smallholder households improve their resilience to overlapping social-ecological crises through adopting organic-farming practices, her new project, [Fostering the Health-Nutrition-Ecology Nexus: Organic Farming Practices and Household Resilience in Rural Bangladesh and Thailand](#), centers Bangladesh and Thailand while studying threats to food-system stability, nutrition security, and health that continue to affect the regions, reinforced during the global COVID-19 pandemic. Approved for 36 months of funding from the DFG, this study draws on 12 months of fieldwork with qualitative interviews, mind maps, long-term (participant) observation, participatory stakeholder workshops, and focus-group discussions, to reveal the links between natural resource use and the human health and nutrition perspective. Ultimately, the project hopes to derive a conceptual model of the health–nutrition–ecology nexus applicable to research concerned with household resilience and rural transformation in other global regions.

Continuing Projects

Just as some projects began to establish their investigative footing, many others continued to build upon their past research to continue full steam ahead in 2023. [Environing Infrastructure: Communities, Ecologies, and China's "Green" Development in Contemporary Southeast Asia](#), the five-year research project having started in 2020, continued to engage 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. Among the numerous workshops, reading groups, and team presentations held throughout 2023, June's conference at the RCC, "[Environing Tourism: Multispecies Entanglements, Histories, Infrastructure](#)," marked the project's halfway point as its investigators continue to bring scholarship on nature tourism in Europe into discussion with related research carried out across the world.

As Stephen Milder's DFG-funded project, [Making Green Germany: The Emergence of Climate Politics amidst German Reunification and the Post-Cold War Transformation of Europe](#), entered its final full year of funding, he ramped up his study of efforts to mitigate anthropogenic climate change gained political currency in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) in the 1980s and 1990s. As he looked toward the culmination of his four-year project, Milder started to work on an article on his research for the RCC's biannual review: *Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review*.

While the project formerly known as [Bloodborne: Hot Zones, Disease Ecologies, and the Changing Landscape of Environment and Health in West Africa](#) may have changed its official name to [Fragments of the Forest: Hot Zones, Disease Ecologies, and the Changing Landscape of Environment and Health in West Africa](#), its mission remained the same. Never missing a beat, Gregg Mitman, Emmanuelle Roth, and the rest of the research team gave a combined total of 13 talks in 2023. From Roth's October presentation on "[The 'Truth About Ebola': Knowing and Doing Zoonosis in Post-outbreak Guinea](#)" at the University of Bergamo, Italy, to Mitman's June talk on "Caring for Chimps as Viral Kin" at Sciences Po, Paris, France, the Fragments of the Forest team continued to examine the ecological, economic, political, and social forces that have turned certain regions of the world into profitable enclaves for the exploitation of natural resources and their biodiversity into valuable reservoirs for biomedical research.

In "[Not Every Kid Is WEIRD](#)," one of the editors of *Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review*, sat down with anthropologist and principal investigator of the Volkswagen Freigeist Grant project, [LearningNatures](#), Francesca Mezzenzana, to discuss her continuing research into children's human–nonhuman relationships across cultures. As LearningNatures powered into its third year of research, the team maintained its efforts to integrate methods from anthropology and psychology in order to compare children's experiences of learning about nature in three communities committed to creating alternative relationships to the nonhuman world: an urban kindergarten in Germany, a utopian ecovillage in Italy, and an Indigenous village in the Ecuadorian Amazon. From the establishment of a [Childhoods/Natures Seminar Series](#) to the creation of an ethnographic documentary on children's perceptions and experiences of climate change, the LearningNatures team continued their creative approach to this unique project.

Organized behind Principal Investigator Katie Ritson, [OFFSHORE: Energy Cultures of the North Sea](#) continued to focus 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 as Ritson looks to

bring her knowledge in this field to future work as the co-coordinator of the DFG-funded [European Conservation Humanities Network](#).

Since Martin Saxer's ERC Consolidator Grant funded project, [Foraging at the Edge of Capitalism \(FORAGING\)](#), began in 2022, it continued to place expressed emphasis on a practice he regards only marginally considered in mainstream debates on conservation and development. Saxer continued his work toward a comprehensive political ecology of foraging in the Anthropocene.

Anna Antonova's [Socio-Economic Empowerment of Coastal Communities as Users of the Sea to Ensure Sustainable Coastal Development \(EmpowerUS\)](#), which also began in 2022, was, as a part of the European Union's [Horizon Europe](#) program, full steam ahead in 2023. Coordinated by the [Nordlands Research Institute](#) in Norway, LMU Munich and the RCC continued to serve as partner organizations, while Antonova took the reins as the academic lead for the Bulgarian Black Sea Transition Coastal Laboratory, one of six Transition Coastal Labs (TCLs) across all EU coastal regions intended to enable coastal communities to act for change and transition toward sustainable, inclusive, and resilient coastal developments.

Just as it did in 2022, in 2023 the RCC continued its collaboration with the Volkswagen Foundation funded [Munich Science Communication Lab](#), which began in 2021, on the project: "Communicating Planetary Health." The project's focus remained on the complex links between climate change and human health and the highlighting of options for action, and continued its efforts to develop science-communication approaches that are adequate for "wicked problems" like planetary health. Together with the RCC, the lab endeavors to try and convey the complexity and uncertainty of the scientific process while offering strong engagement and pathways for action.

Through broader cooperative projects like [Strengthening the Environmental Humanities](#)—funded by the Volkswagen Stiftung through 2026—and the establishment of the joint Augsburg–Munich International Doctorate Program [Rethinking Environment: The Environmental Humanities and the Ecological Transformation of Society \(IDK\)](#), the RCC maintained its endeavor to strengthen the environmental humanities in practice in 2023. 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," continued to make its final-stage findings available in the RCC'S premier publication: [Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review](#). In addition to *Springs*, 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](#). The colloquia are held in the Katholische Hochschulgemeinde Saal at Leopoldstraße 11.

The following Lunchtime Colloquia took place in 2023:

12.01.2023

Peter Cox (University of Chester, UK) on "Care, Commons, and Uncontrollability: Developing Habits for Anthropocene Citizenship"

19.01.2023

Craig Colten (Louisiana State University, US) on "Landscapes of Climate Migration: Abandonment or Relocation?"

26.01.2023

Alexandra Campbell (University of Glasgow, UK) and **Fred Carter** (University of Edinburgh) on "Follow the Teargas: Antiblack Weather, Settler Atmospheric, Insurrectionary Poetics"

02.02.2023

Loretta Ieng Tak Lou (Durham University, UK) on "The Art of Unnoticing: Risk Perception and Contrived Ignorance in China"

09.02.2023

Jean Marie Carey (University of Stavanger, Norway) on "The Banality of Good: Rejecting the Inversion of Evil in Animal Studies Through the Work of Franz Marc"

20.04.2023

Mona Bieling (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland) on "Land Use and Environmental Ideologies in British Mandate Palestine, 1917–1948"

27.04.2023

Nandita Badami (Independent Scholar) on "The Planet as Place: Notes from an Ethnography of Sunlight"

04.05.2023

Nicky Rehnberg (University of California, Santa Barbara, US) on "White Roots, Redwoods: Racializing German and US Conservation, 1920–1945"

11.05.2023

Étienne Dufour (Paris-1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University, France) on “A History of the Marginalization of Agricultural Recycling of Urban Organic Waste in the Area of Paris, France (1940s–1990s)”

25.05.2023

Karen Hudlet Vázquez (Clark University, US) on “Contested Underground Water Territories: Law, Knowledges, and Social Movements against Agribusiness in Yucatan, Mexico”

01.06.2023

Bowen Gu (Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain) on “Black Gold and Yellow River: Environmental Justice on the Coal Frontiers in China”

15.06.2023

Giuliano Garavini (Roma Tre University, Italy) on “The 1973 Oil Shock: A Missed Opportunity to Tackle the Environmental Crisis?”

22.06.2023

Aanuoluwapo Sunday (Adekunle Ajasin University, Nigeria) on “Cautious Moderation: A Paradigm for Environmental Anthropocentrism”

29.06.2023

Julian Neef (Institute of Development Studies Brighton, UK) on “Infrastructural Frontiers: Development and Contestation in North Kivu—A Fieldwork Report”

06.07.2023

Esteban Servat (Debt for Climate, Independent Climate Activist) on “Building Global Grassroots Power to Tackle the Climate Crisis from the Bottom-up: System Change from a Global South, Anticolonial Perspective”

13.07.2023

Paolo Gruppuso (University of Aberdeen, UK) on “Toward the Wetland Humanities: Rethinking Socioecological Relationships beyond the Principle of Authority”

20.07.2023

Jenny Wüstenberg (Nottingham Trent University, UK) on “Remembering Extinct Species: Slow and Fast Memory”

19.10.2023

Nicholas Earhart (University of Southern California, US) on “The Poetics of the Los Angeles River”

26.10.2023

Monika Szuba (University of Gdansk, Poland) on “Geologic Time, Materiality, and Textual Practice”

02.11.2023

Carolina Granado-Torres (Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain) on “Creating Scientific Assessments on Climate Change: The Advisory Group on Greenhouse Gases (1986–1990)”

09.11.2023

Christof Mauch (RCC), with panelists **Han Zhaoqing** (Fudan University, China), **Shen Hou** (Peking University, China), **Xiaohui Liu** (Shanghai Normal University, China), **Linjun Xie** (University of Nottingham Ningbo, UK) on “Being an Environmental Historian in China: Pleasures and Challenges”

16.11.2023

Reinaldo Funes Monzote (Hamburg Institute for Advanced Studies, Germany) on “From Slavery Plantations to Mass Tourism: A Project for a Synthesis of the Environmental History of the Greater Caribbean”

23.11.2023

Silke Oldenburg (University of Basel, Switzerland) on “Wetland Politics: Social Belonging, Racial Politics, and Urban Environmental Futures in Cartagena, Colombia”

30.11.2023

Abosede Babatunde (University of Ilorin, Nigeria) on “Dialectic of a Struggle for Justice: Women's Environmental Activism in Nigeria's Oil Delta”

07.12.2023

André Felipe Cândido de Silva (Oswaldo Cruz Foundation, Brazil) on “The Amazon as a Microcosm of the Anthropocene: Harald Sioli and the Ecological Globalization of the Tropical Rainforest”

14.12.2023

Melusine Martin (James Cook University, Australia) on “Being Nature in the Digital Age: Digital Technology, Nature, and Self-Identity”

Other Events

Each year, the RCC convenes and organizes conferences, workshops, seminars, symposia, reading groups, works-in-progress sessions, colloquia, and excursions. 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, seminars, symposia, reading groups, works-in-progress sessions, colloquia, and excursions in 2023:

19.01.2023

Career Opportunities in Environment and Society
International Graduate Colloquium (*Oberseminar*)

21.01.2023

History—Culture—Environment
International Graduate Colloquium (*Oberseminar*)

08.02.2023

RCC Research Forum

Public event convened by Christof Mauch and Lena Engel

02.03.2023

Mona Bieling (RCC) on “Land Use and Environmental Ideologies in British Mandate Palestine: Four Case Studies”

Online Minisymposium in cooperation with University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) and Centre for Environmental History (ZUG) and moderated by Simone Gingrich (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Austria)

24.03.2023

200 Years of the Monroe Doctrine: Visions of the Americas since the 1820s

Conference

25.03.2023

About (Ab-)Using Animals | Vom (Aus-)Nutzen der Tiere

Barcamp

28.03.2023

Exhibition in Progress: “Think Fermentation”

Workshop convened by Elena Palma, Nakul Heroor, and Sevgi Sirakova

28.03.2023

Of Humans and Animals | Von Menschen und Tieren

Science Slam

29.03.2023

Munich University Days: Come Play...!

Workshop

30.03.2023

Martin Saxer (RCC) on “Foraging at the Edge of Capitalism”

Second EnvHum Talk at the University of Pécs, coorganized by the RCC, LMU Munich, and the Environmental Humanities Research Group of the Department of European Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Pécs

27.04.2023

Asian Cultural Mobilities: Transitions, Encounters, Heritage

Workshop

28.04.2023 – 30.04.2023

History—Culture—Environment

International Graduate Colloquium (*Oberseminar*)

04.05.2023

New Research in Environment and Society
Career Workshop

10.05.2023

Multispecies and More-than-Human Ethics
Reading Group

12.05.2023

Research Design
Workshop

05.06.2023

Multispecies and More-than-Human Ethics
Reading Group

06.06.2023

Introduction to the Global Atlas of Environmental Justice (EJAtlas)
Works-in-Progress (WiP) Session

14.06.2023

Rob Dunn (North Carolina State University, US) on “The Role of Flavor in Our Relationships with Other Species”
Talk

15.06.2023 – 16.06.2023

Black and Green? Toward an Environmental History of the Oil Industry
Conference

15.06.2023

The CONTOURS Final Session: “Environing Tourism: Multispecies Entanglements, Histories, Infrastructures”
Conference

19.06.2023

Rights of Nature
Workshop organized by the RCC and the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM)

20.06.2023

Pelayo Benavides (Pontifical University of Chile) on “Articulating Nature: Reflections on Non-School Environmental Education Practices in a Protected Area Of La Araucanía Region, Southern Chile”
Workshop

21.06.2023

Multispecies and More-than-Human Ethics
Reading Group

22.06.2023

Andrew Zawacki (University of Georgia, US) on “ILL-LIGHT: The Georgia Landscape in Lyric and Lens”
Talk

26.06.2023–28.06.2023

Making and Unmaking Africa: Global Developments and Environmental Humanities, The International Sustainable Development Dialogue (ISDD-2023)
Conference

26.06.2023

Policy Labs to Improve the Integration of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Agricultural Management
Workshop

28.06.2023

Yolanda Kakabadse (President of the Charles Darwin Foundation) on “Sustainability Needs Us All: From Small Actions to Big Changes”
Talk and Discussion

03.07.2023

Multispecies and More-than-Human Ethics
Reading Group

06.07.2023

Jour Fixe July 2023
Doctoral Meeting

08.07.2023–09.07.2023

Environmental Narratives: Narrating Crisis—Imaging Disaster—Envisaging Future
Methodological Workshop in cooperation with the University of Heidelberg, Germany

10.07.2023

Excursion to the Munich Botanical Garden and the Weltwald in Freising
Excursion

12.07.2023

Global Climate Justice
Discussion as Part of the Series “Climate Futures” of the Center for Advanced Studies (CAS) at LMU

13.07.2023

Weihong Bao (University of California, Berkeley) on “Dwelling in Media Environment: Shanghai Film Studios in the 1930s”
Talk

21.07.2023

Celebrating Research at the Rachel Carson Center

Public Event

06.09.2023

Visionary Ecologies: Oracles for Past, Present, and Future More-than-Human Entanglements in the Urban Environment

Semester-Break Workshop

09.09.2023

Proenviron Student Foraging Excursion

Excursion led by Wild und Grün

18.09.2023 (online)

Joint Session of Environmental Humanities Reading Group and the Multispecies Reading Group with Juno Salazar Parreñas (Cornell University, US)

Reading Group

11.10.2023

Jan David Hauck (London School of Economics and Political Science, UK) on “Making and Losing Forests: Indigenous Aché Children’s Experiences of the Environment”

Childhoods/Natures seminar organized by the research group LearningNatures

13.10.2023

Introduction to the Semester, MA Environment and Society and the Environmental Studies Certificate Program

Welcome event

20.10.2023

First Networking-Event for Environmental Historians in the German-Speaking World [*Erstes Netzwerktreffen für UmwelthistorikerInnen im deutschsprachigen Raum*]

Conference

23.10.2023

Academics in Climate Activism: Experiences and Reflections

Talk

27.10.2023

History—Culture—Environment

International Graduate Colloquium (*Oberseminar*)

03.11.2023

Jonas Stuck (RCC) on “A Hazardous Connection: The Waste Trade between East and West Germany, 1973–1990”

Doctoral Defense

08.11.2023

Changes in Environment and Society: Perspectives from Europe and China (as part of the LMU-ChAN Scientific Forum)

Workshop

13.11.2023

The Land Beneath Our Feet

Film Screening and Discussion

14.11.2023

Migdalia Ignerí Padilla Colón (Institute for Research in Education IRICE, Argentina) presenting on “Maternal Attribution of Psychological Agency from a Cross-Cultural Perspective”

Childhoods/Natures seminar organized by the research group LearningNatures

14.11.2023

Sevgi Mutlu Sirakova (RCC) on “Culturing Sustainability” at the University of Pécs

Lecture

15.11.2023

Jonatan Palmblad (RCC) on “Prometheus Rebound: Lewis Mumford, the Ecological Crisis, and the Return to Reality”

Doctoral Defense

15.11.2023

Unearthing Multispecies: Intellectual History

Interdisciplinary Workshop

16.11.2023

Lena Köhn (RCC) on “Cloud Forests, Rivers, and Monkeys Before the Constitutional Court”

[Nebelwälder, Flüsse und Affen vor dem Verfassungsgericht]

Talk and Discussion

24.11.2023

Khaled Misbahuzzaman (Chittagong University, Bangladesh) on “The Impact of Industrialization on Coastal Ecosystems and Livelihoods in the Southeastern Coastal Area of Bangladesh”

Workshop

29.11.2023

Salla Vadén (Tampere University, Finland) on “School Track and Adolescents’ Climate Change Attitudes”

Miniseminar

01.12.2023

The Living Forest: A Voice from the Ecuadorian Amazon

Film screening and talk organized by the LearningNatures research group

08.12.2023

Catherine Ashcraf (University of New Hampshire, US) on “Pearl River, Negotiating the Future of Dams: A Science-Based Role-Play Simulation for Engaged Decision-Making”
Workshop

12.12.2023 (online)

Leberecht Funk (Independent Scholar) presenting on “How Indigenous Tao Children in Taiwan Learn to Perceive Their Environment”
Childhoods/Natures seminar organized by the research group LearningNatures

15.12.2023–17.12.2023

Environmental History: New Perspectives in Doctoral Research
International Graduate Colloquium (*Oberseminar*) convened by Melanie Arndt (University of Freiburg), Christof Mauch (RCC), and Christian Rohr (University of Bern)

Environmental Writing Studio

2023 saw the launch of the RCC Environmental Writing Studio, which offers seminars and workshops that give insights from authors, editors, and lecturers about the art and craft of writing, supporting the transition from research to publication.

The following writing-studio events took place in 2023:

29.03.2023

Let’s Talk About Titles!
with Amy Mohr (LMU), open to RCC doctoral candidates

29.03.2023

Drop-In Writing Consultations
with Amy Mohr (LMU), individual sessions open to RCC doctoral candidates

21.04.2023

Creative Writing Course
with Amy Mohr (LMU), open to environmental studies MA students

28.04.2023

Creative Writing Course, Part Two
with Amy Mohr (LMU), open to environmental studies MA students

05.05.2023

Thinking with Image and Text: A Comics Workshop
with Amey Yun Zhang (RCC)

08.05.2023

Creative Writing/Academic Analysis
with Amy Mohr (LMU), individual sessions open to doctoral candidates

14.09.2023

Creative Writing Workshop for the Environmental Humanities with Rowan Deer
with Rowan Deer (RCC)

31.10.2023

The Impossible: A Generative-Prose Workshop
with Cynthia Cruz, organized for the LearningNatures project, open to other RCC members

07.11.2023

The Art and Craft of the Sentence
with Mark Olival-Bartley

05.12.2023

The Art and Craft of the Sentence, Part Two
with Mark Olival-Bartley

Green Visions Film Series

The RCC continues to host the film series Green Visions in cooperation with the [Münchner Volkshochschule](#) and [DOK.fest München](#). Each semester, the series screens environmental documentaries from across the world. The screenings are followed by discussions with directors, environmental experts, activists, and film scholars.

The following films were screened as part of the Green Visions film series in 2023:

17.01.2023

Push

Discussion with Gülseren Demiral (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen, MdL)

14.02.2023

Natura Urbana

Discussion with Dorothee Rummel (Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Germany)

14.03.2023

Butenland

Discussion with Anna Ritzinger (Vegan.Bullerbyn e.V.)

25.04.2023

Cow

Discussion with Bernhard Haidn (Bayerische Landesanstalt für Landwirtschaft)

08.05.2023

The Visitors

Discussion with Zdenka Sokolickova (University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic), Flora Bartlett (Nordic Museum, Stockholm), Jan Sebening (Dokfest München)

23.05.2023

Die Wiese

Discussion with Manfred Siering (BUND Naturschutz in Bayern e.V.)

10.10.2023

Duty of Care: The Climate Trials

Discussion with Markus Raschke (Protect the Planet e.V.)

14.11.2023

I Am Greta

Discussion with Luc Ouali (Fridays for Future Munich)

11.12.2023

Murghab

Discussion with Martin Saxer (RCC) and Marlen Eckstein (RCC)

12.12.2023

The Norwegian Headache

Discussion with Katie Ritson (RCC)

Lectures

Early in 2023, the ERA.NET-funded research project CONTOURS: Conservation, Tourism, Remoteness, mini-lecture series, [ContoursTalks](#), led by Alessandro Rippa, concluded. ContoursTalks gave way to the “Crises—Wars—Environments,” a joint lecture series of the Amerika-Institut and the RCC and convened by RCC Director Christof Mauch.

The RCC hosted or cohosted the following lectures in 2023:

14.02.2023

Tim Burger (University of Cambridge, UK) on “Between Land and Landscape: Islandness and Tourism on the Azorean Archipelago, Portugal”

ContoursTalks Series

20.03.2023

Anna-Maria Walter (University of Oulu, Finland) on “A Struggle for Remoteness: Skitouring in the Bavarian Alps” and Jasmine Zhang (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences) on “Imaginations of Svalbard, Interdisciplinary Research, and Fieldwork: Where Emergent Knowledge Surges”

ContoursTalks Series

20.04.2023

Christof Mauch (RCC) on “Mississippi Blues: Ecology and Violence in the History of Memphis, Tennessee”

Crises—Wars—Environments Lecture Series

20.04.2023

Bethany Fox (University of Huddersfield, UK) on “Geoethics: Hammering Out an Interdisciplinary Conversation”

Interactive Talk

27.04.2023

Simone Müller (University of Augsburg, Germany) on “The Toxic Ship: US Waste and Global Environmental Justice”

Crises—Wars—Environments Lecture Series

04.05.2023

Ursula Prutsch (LMU) on “The Ammunition King Fritz Mandl: How an Emigrant of Jewish Origin Was Turned into a Nazi by the US in WWII”

Crises—Wars—Environments Lecture Series

11.05.2023

Melanie Arndt (University of Freiburg, Germany) on “Chernobyl Children in the United States: Traveling with a Nuclear Disaster as Luggage”

Crises—Wars—Environments Lecture Series

25.05.2023

Uwe Lübken (LMU) on “Race, Disaster and Displacement in Vanport, Oregon”

Crises—Wars—Environments Lecture Series

30.05.2023

Christof Mauch (RCC) on “UC Cincinnati Visit”

Lecture

01.06.2023

Daniel Dumas (RCC) and Alexandra Schenke (LMU) on “Cold War Crises”

Crises—Wars—Environments Lecture Series

15.06.2023

Andreas Etges (LMU) on “Mom Says, ‘All Soldiers Come Back Different...’—Veterans and Homecoming in Hollywood Films since WWII”

Crises—Wars—Environments Lecture Series

22.06.2023

Noemi Quagliati (LMU) and Talitta Reitz (RCC) on “Landscapes and Bikescares”

Crises—Wars—Environments Lecture Series

29.06.2023

Dorothee Brantz (Technical University Berlin, Germany) on “Unseasonal Design: Montreal’s Underground City as Urban Environment, 1960 to the Present”

Crises—Wars—Environments Lecture Series

06.07.2023

Gregg Mitman (University of Wisconsin-Madison, US) on “Empire of Rubber: Scenes from Firestone’s Scramble for Land and Power in Liberia”

Crises—Wars—Environments Lecture Series

13.07.2023

Eleonora Rohland (University of Bielefeld, Germany) on “Hurricanes in New Orleans: Environmental Knowledge between War, Crisis, and Political Change: Implications for the Present?”

Crises—Wars—Environments Lecture Series

17.07.2023

Rohan D’Souza (University of Augsburg, Germany) on “Silt, Fish, and Engineers: The Great Hydraulic Transition in British India”

Public Lecture

20.07.2023

Bernd Greiner (University of Hamburg, Germany) on “Silent Planet: The Impacts of Nuclear War-Planning”

Crises—Wars—Environments Lecture Series

14.11.2023

Sonja Dümpelmann (University of Pennsylvania, US) on “Sustainability Goals at Risk: How Can We Change Course?”

FokusLMU Lecture Series with Katja Radon and Ann-Katrin Kaufhold, moderated by Oliver Jahraus

Tuesday Discussion

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.

The following Tuesday Discussions took place in 2023:

10.01.2023

Amelia Fiske (TUM)

17.01.2023

Claire Lagier (Seqana/Carbon Sequestration)

24.01.2023

Tobias Gaugler (University of Augsburg/University of Nuremberg, Germany) and Amelie Michalke (University of Greifswald, Germany)

31.01.2023

Troy Vettese (European University Institute)

07.02.2023

Martín Fonck (Research Institute for Sustainability, Potsdam)

18.04.2023

Arshak Makichyan (Climate Activist)

25.04.2023

Oliver Szasz (Symbio(s)cene)

02.05.2023

Kai Zosseder (Klimarat München)

09.05.2023

Nadja Hempel and Barbara Lersch (Hans Sauer Stiftung)

16.05.2023

Leo Burtscher (Astronomers for Planet Earth)

23.05.2023

Anna Barcz (Polish Academy of Sciences) and Paolo Gruppuso (Landhaus Fellow at the RCC)

06.06.2023

Bénédicte Herbout (Climate Fresk: The Climate Puzzle)

13.06.2023

Liang Emlyn Yang (Department of Geography at LMU)

20.06.2023

Herbert Rudolf (WeltWald)

27.06.2023

An Environmental History of Munich with Christof Mauch (RCC)

04.07.2023

Jasmijn Visser (LMU, media art)

11.07.2023

Joshua Wodak (ARC Center of Excellence in Synthetic Biology, Western Sydney University, Australia)

18.07.2023

Monika Egerer (Urban Productive Ecosystems, TUM)

17.10.2023

Eyad Houssami (Bassatin Baanoub)

24.10.2023

Anke M. Friedrich (Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, LMU)

31.10.2023

Graeme Maxton (Club of Rome)

07.11.2023

Gesa Biermann (Pina Earth)

14.11.2023

Danielle Keller (Sustainable Jewelry)

21.11.2023

Christa Hasenkopf (Energy Policy Institute)

28.11.2023

Karen Pittel (German Advisory Council on Global Change)

05.12.2023 (postponed)

Richard Hölzl (Museum Fünf Kontinente)

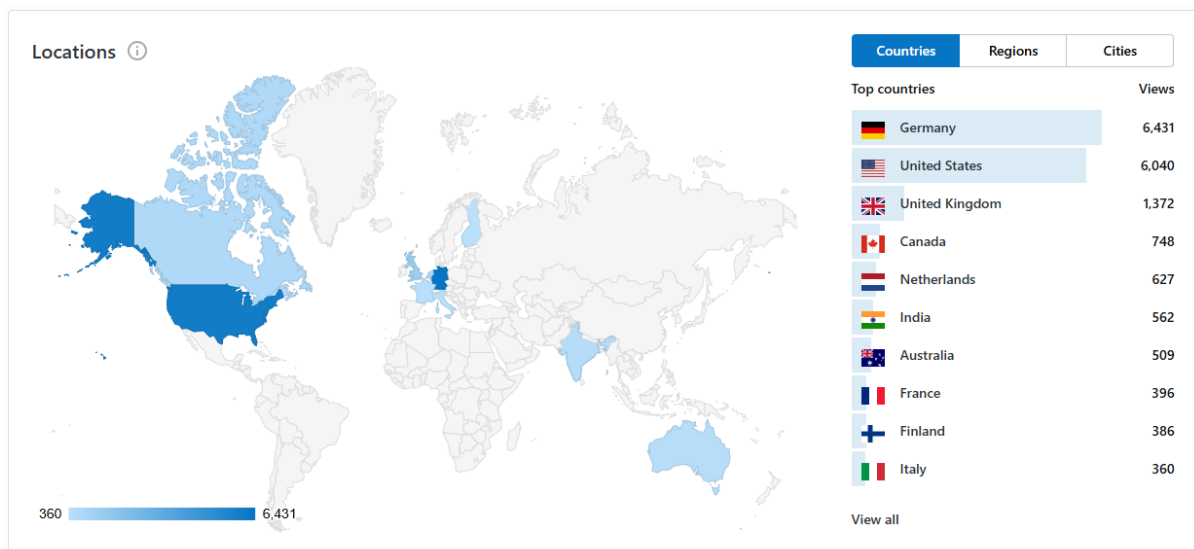
12.12.2023

Lena Köhn (Speak4Nature)

6. Publications

Since its launch in 2022, the RCC editorial and communications team has managed to successfully establish [Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review](#) as its premier publication. 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](#). In addition, the team worked on redesigning [Seeing the Woods](#), which had been discontinued in 2021, to establish a more open-ended submission platform for all RCC affiliates.

Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review



Number of visits to Springs by country (top eight countries displayed here) in 2023.

The RCC's open-access online publication *Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review* (ISSN 2751-9317) launched in 2022 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 both scholarly and non-scholarly audiences. To attract a large number of readers and make sure the publication stands out from other websites, the team puts extra effort into curating the visual material that accompanies articles. By the end of the year, the page had around 30,000 views, with visitors accessing the site from across the globe. The editorial team made a continuous effort to promote the publication and expanding its outreach. *Springs* is archived via LMU Munich's university library Open Journal Systems.



"We Have Always Known": On the Trails of People, Plants, and Humboldt

by Paula Ungar

12 MINUTES

I am trying to focus on my writing, I really am. But my phone buzzes again. This time, the message is difficult to ignore. I see a photograph of my be...



Weathered History: Galveston and Extreme Events

by Thomas Princen

17 MINUTES

Texas had seen rain before, plenty. It had flooded before, many times. But on 25 August 2017, Hurricane Harvey dumped a volume of water never before c...



I Still Do a Lot of Good

by Nina Wormbs

5 MINUTES

Economic thinking permeates our modern societies. It is so pervasive that we do not reflect on the fact that it rules much of what we do. But we might...

First three articles of the third issue of Springs.

[The third issue](#) of *Springs* came out in May 2023, with a feature article by Paula Ungar titled "[‘We Have Always Known’: On the Trails of People, Plants, and Humboldt.](#)" Inspired by the meeting between Indigenous representatives and the current Colombian government, Ungar's reflective essay considers Alexander von Humboldt's observations and a more deeply rooted wisdom. Other contributors were Thomas Princen, Nina Wormbs, Sonja Dümpelmann and Pauline Kargruber, Steve Mentz, Melanie Arndt, Helen Tiffin, Hayal Desta, and Paul Sutter. In this issue, authors and perspectives from Colombia, Ethiopia, Australia, Germany, Sweden, and the US contribute to a global discussion of the environmental crisis, providing fresh insights and food for thought. It includes peer-reviewed essays on heat and hurricanes, an interview on plants in urban environments, reflections on transactional thinking about the environment, and a creative piece that offers five ways to look at a jump in the lake.



In the Teeth of History: Dental Decay in the *Longue Durée*

by Frank Zelka

17 MINUTES

In recent years, I have been writing a book on the history of water fluoridation, a practice that is dental dogma in a handful of countries, particula...



Ecological Constitutionalism: A Necessity

by Jens Kersten

14 MINUTES

It is no longer a new idea to state that we are living in the Anthropocene—an era in which humanity has become a force of nature. But when we look mor...



Adventures in Mockstitutions

by Jenny Price

7 MINUTES

"If You Need to Use the Art" is an alt-institution public art project—or a mockstitution, to use artist Gregory Sholette's moniker. These projects main...

First three articles of the fourth issue of Springs.

[The fourth issue](#) of *Springs* was published in October 2023, with contributions by Frank Zelko, Jens Kersten, Jenny Price, Francesca Mezzenzana and Brady Fauth, Paul Josephson, Irus Braverman, Serenella Iovino, Joseph Adeniran Adedeji, and Amelia Fiske and Jonas Fischer. This issue leads us across four continents, from the streets of downtown Los Angeles to the Ecuadorian Amazon, into the woodlands of southwest Nigeria, and along Ukraine’s Dnipro River, and includes peer-reviewed essays, an interview on children’s human–nonhuman relationships, and a graphic essay on the ecological and psychological impacts of oil extraction in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Frank Zelko’s [“In the Teeth of History: Dental Decay in the *Longue Durée*”](#)—the feature article—yanks the root causes of tooth loss in industrial societies.

[Springs Audio Project](#)

To improve on accessibility, the RCC editorial and communications team began to add audio recordings to *Springs* articles. Recordings are read by the authors and professional voice actors and include a short introduction by the editorial team. By the end of the year, the team had published six recordings, among them Franz-Josef Brüggemeier’s [“Coal, War, and Peace in Twentieth-Century Europe,”](#) read by Elin Kelsey, and Jane Carruthers’ [“Power Poverty: Energy Injustice in South Africa,”](#) read by the author.

[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 *Seeing the Woods* (2012–2021), and in the peer-reviewed online journal *Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History*. In 2023, the editorial and communications team added several articles to the *Springs* archive.

[The Environment and Society Collection of The Rachel Carson Center and The White Horse Press](#)

In partnership with the UK-based publisher, The White Horse Press, 2023 also saw the establishment of a new online database, the [Environment and Society Collection](#). Hosted by [ScienceOpen](#)—a science-centric online discovery platform—the *Environment and Society Collection* houses articles from every RCC publication since the Center’s inception. Moving forward, all articles coming out of the RCC will be routinely added to the *Environment and Society Collection* in order to enable expanded access to the scholarly material RCC scholars and researchers have, for years, so diligently produced.

[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 2023:

Dürr, Eveline, Regine Keller, and Daniel Dumas, eds. "Irritations and Unforeseen Consequences of the Urban: Debating Natures, Politics, and Timescapes." Special issue, *Global Environment* 16, no. 2 (2023).

The Environment in History: International Perspectives

This English-language series, published by Berghahn Book, continued to showcase high-quality research in environmental history and related disciplines from around the world.

Volume 24:

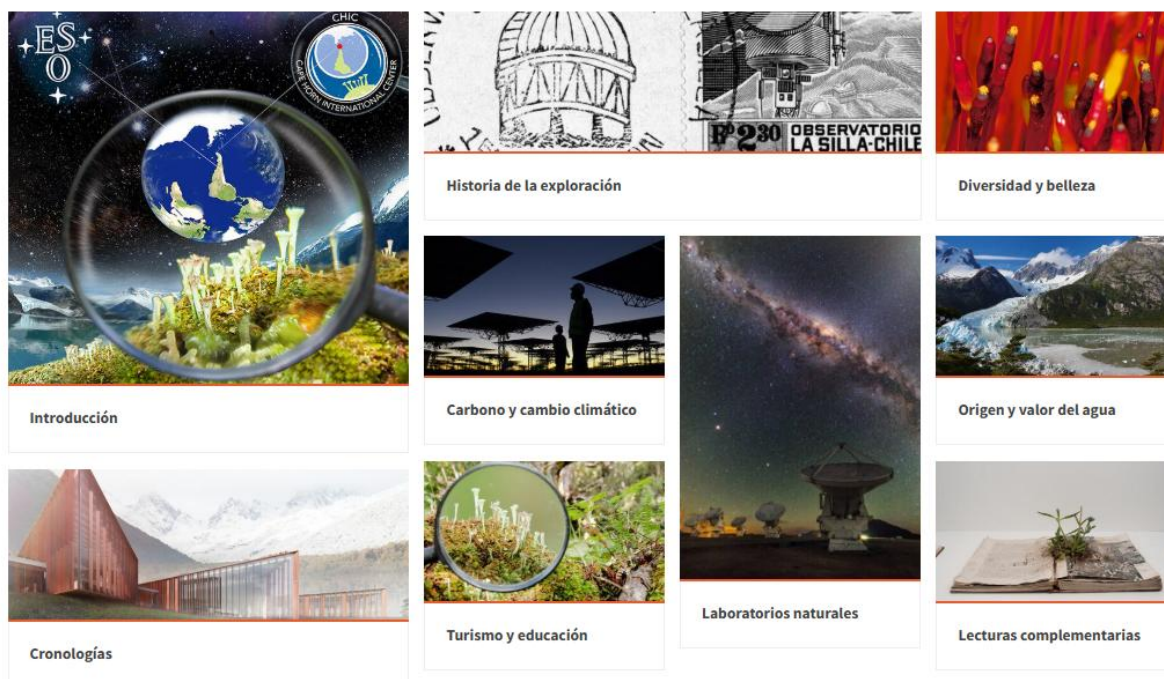
Heinrich Hartmann and Julia Tischler, eds. *Planting Seeds of Knowledge: Agriculture and Education in Rural Societies in the Twentieth Century*

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, and peer-reviewed publications—[Arcadia](#) (ISSN 2199-3408) and [Virtual Exhibitions](#) (ISSN 2198-7696)—the Portal makes the research of hundreds of RCC fellows and the broader scholarly community discoverable by interactive map, timeline, and keyword explorer. The result is a scholarly gateway to human–environment knowledge that has reached well over three million users from every country on Earth. Here are some highlights from 2023:

Virtual Exhibitions

In the ambitious virtual exhibition, [From Hand Lenses to Telescopes: Exploring the Microcosm and Macrocosm in Chile's Biocultural Laboratories](#), former Carson Fellow Ricardo Rozzi and his interdisciplinary team explore the world beyond the reach of our everyday sense impressions. Thanks to an innovative layout, visitors can browse through 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 presents both the history of and work conducted at the Cape Horn International Center (CHIC) and the European Southern Observatory (ESO). To make the exhibition available to a wider audience, a second version was also published in Spanish as [“De lupas a telescopios: Explorando el microcosmos y el macrocosmos en los laboratorios bioculturales de Chile.”](#)



Landing page of the exhibition “De lupas a telescopios: Explorando el microcosmos y el macrocosmos en los laboratorios bioculturales de Chile.”

Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History

The peer-reviewed online journal *Arcadia: Explorations in Environmental History* (ISSN 2199-3408) tells short environmental stories embedded in time and place, and has been working to further expand its geographical diversity. In 2023, *Arcadia* published 24 articles, from the story of how climate-friendly housing was developed in Australia in the 1950s to one on how the poisoning of dogs became a fierce debate in the late nineteenth-century Athens. *Arcadia* is archived via LMU Munich's university library Open Journal Systems, in the beta version of the Fachinformationsdienst historicum.net, and is included in the Directory of Open Access Journals.

The Multimedia Library

The Portal's [Multimedia Library](#) has grown and now features many more excerpts from new and exciting books in the environmental humanities. Publishers like Routledge, Brill, and Cambridge University Press have given the Portal permission to republish parts of their works, and the Rachel Carson Center's long-standing partnership with the White Horse Press continues with a series of open-access books. While many additions are externally sourced, several books from former fellows have been profiled. Among the new profiles from RCC affiliates, fellows, and alumni are Jared Margulies, [*The Cactus Hunters: Desire and Extinction in the Illicit Succulent Trade*](#) (University of Minnesota Press, 2023), Martín Fonck, [*Exploraciones subterráneas: Siguiendo la \(in\)visibilidad geotérmica de los Andes chilenos*](#) (transcript Verlag, 2023), Simone Müller, [*The Toxic Ship: The Voyage of the Khian Sea and the Global Waste Trade*](#) (University of Washington Press, 2023), Claiton Marcio da Silva, [*The Making of Modern Agriculture*](#) (The White Horse Press, 2023), Francesca Mezzenzana and Daniela Peluso (eds.) [*Conversations on Empathy: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Imagination and Radical Othering*](#) (Routledge, 2023), Katrin Kleemann, [*A Mist Connection: An Environmental History of the Laki Eruption of 1783 and Its Legacy*](#) (De Gruyter, 2023), and Mark Stoll, [*Profit: An Environmental History*](#) (Polity Press, 2023). The Multimedia Library has furthermore seen 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 and is funded by the Elite Network Bavaria (ENB). 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

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. In 2023, the PhD students part of IDK were representing a variety of backgrounds.

Events & Activities

Spread out across eight semesters, the IDK program offers a variety of teaching formats (mandatory, elective, and optional). The following is a brief overview of the program’s main academic activities in 2023.

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.

In 2023, the doctorate program held its second Colloquium at the University of Augsburg and the LMU Munich. The [2023 IDK colloquium](#) was held from 15 to 17 February.

Masterclasses

The IDK masterclasses allow joint in-depth learning and intensive discussion and exchanges between PhD students and visiting fellows with an environmental-humanities background. 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 2023 were:

07.06.2023–26.06.2023

“Decolonization: Natures in the Plural” with Sule Emmanuel Egya

24.07.2023–02.08.2023

“Will Nature Become Culture in the Anthropocene?” with Rohan D’Souza

Green Hour Lecture Series

2023 saw the inception of the new [Green Hour](#) lunchtime series in Augsburg as part of the IDK program. Similar in design to the RCC’s lunchtime colloquia, this series regularly invites scholars, academics, and advocates to present on topics relevant to their fields.

Green Hour lectures held in 2023 were:

27.04.2023

Kirsten Twelbeck on “A Contested Field: Agnes Denes Growing Wheat in Manhattan”

11.05.2023

Paolo Gruppuso on “Towards the Wetland Humanities”

25.05.2023

Katja Sarkowsky on “Displacement, Environmental Citizenship, and Literary Form”

22.06.2023

Sule Emmanuel Egya on “Book Chat with the Author”

06.07.2023

Wojciech Malecki on “Empirical Ecocriticism: Environmental Narratives for Social Change”

20.07.2023

Marita Krauss on “Franz Lawaczeck: Turbinenbauer, Nationalsozialist und früher Prediger für grünen Wasserstoff”

26.10.2023

L. Sasha Gora on “Old Salt and Fresh Fish: Introducing the Culinary Environmental Humanities”

09.11.2023

Muhammad Saleem Pomee on “Science for Practice and Policy: The Trigger Project About Climate–Health Relationships”

23.11.2023

Jessica Lee on “Plants, Place, and the Personal: Jessica Lee reads from her new book ‘Dispersals’”

07.12.2023 (postponed)

Gregg Mitman and Emmanuelle Roth on “Fragments of the Forest: Infrastructures of Extraction and Endangerment in the Making of a West African Hotspot”

21.12.2023

Sonja Dümpelmann on “Streets of Philadelphia: Window Gardening and Civil Rights in the Twentieth Century”

9. Doctoral Program Environment and Society (ProEnviron)

The [Doctoral Program Environment and Society](#) (ProEnviron Doctoral Program) at the RCC continued in 2023 with an array of projects that chart a clear transnational shift in their research. With two candidates set to defend their dissertations in 2023, the ProEnviron program began the year with 32 participants and ended with 30.

The RCC community celebrated the following candidates who completed the Doctoral Program Environment and Society program in 2023 with the following dissertations:

Jonas Stuck, “A Hazardous Connection: The Waste Trade Between East and West Germany, 1973–1990”

Jonatan Palmblad, “Prometheus Rebound: Lewis Mumford, the Ecological Crisis, and the Return to Reality”

Partnership between the ProEnviron doctoral students and the International Doctorate Program “Rethinking Environment” (IDK) doctoral students remained strong in 2023.

Events & Activities

Events, workshops, and conferences took place in both Augsburg and Munich with members of the program engaging in a wide array of activities.

Oberseminars:

19.01.2023

“Career Opportunities in Environment and Society”

21.01.2023–23.01.2023

“History—Culture—Environment”

28.04.2023–30.04.2023

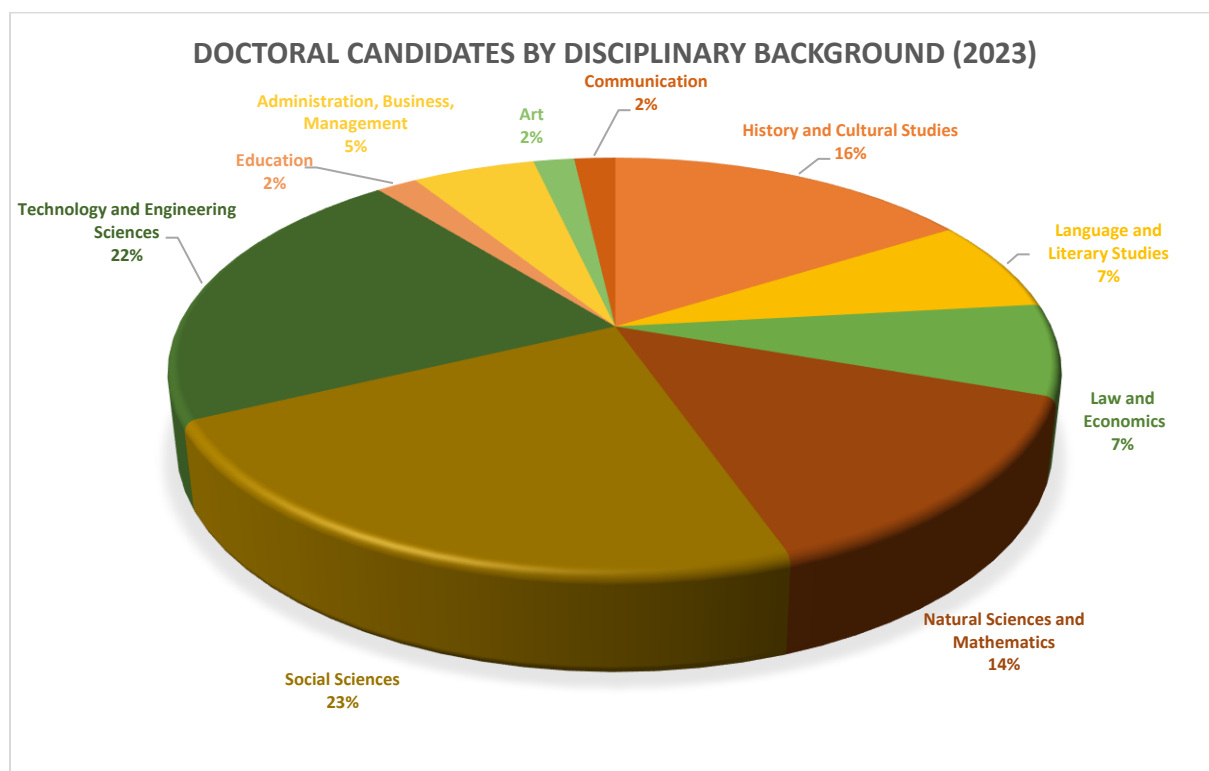
“History—Culture—Environment”

27.10.2023–29.10.2023

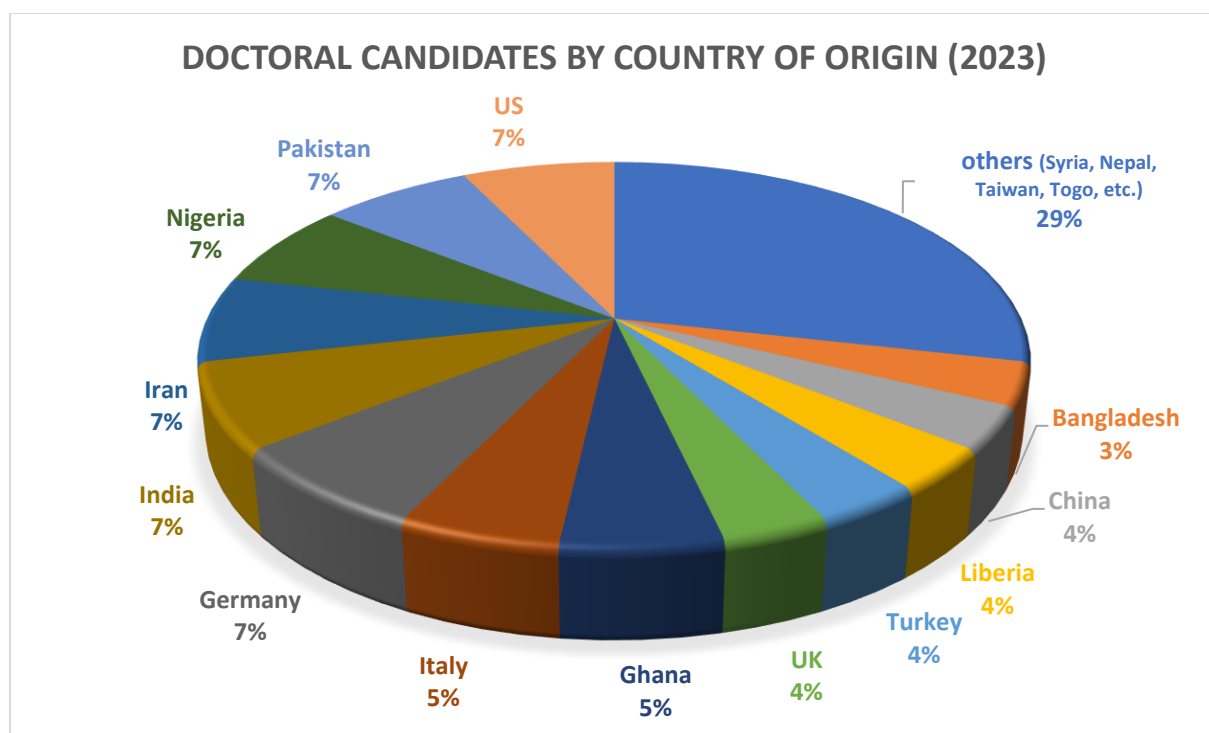
“History—Culture—Environment”

Additional departmental activities, such as a field trip to the Schneesfernerhaus 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 2023:



Doctoral candidates by disciplinary background.

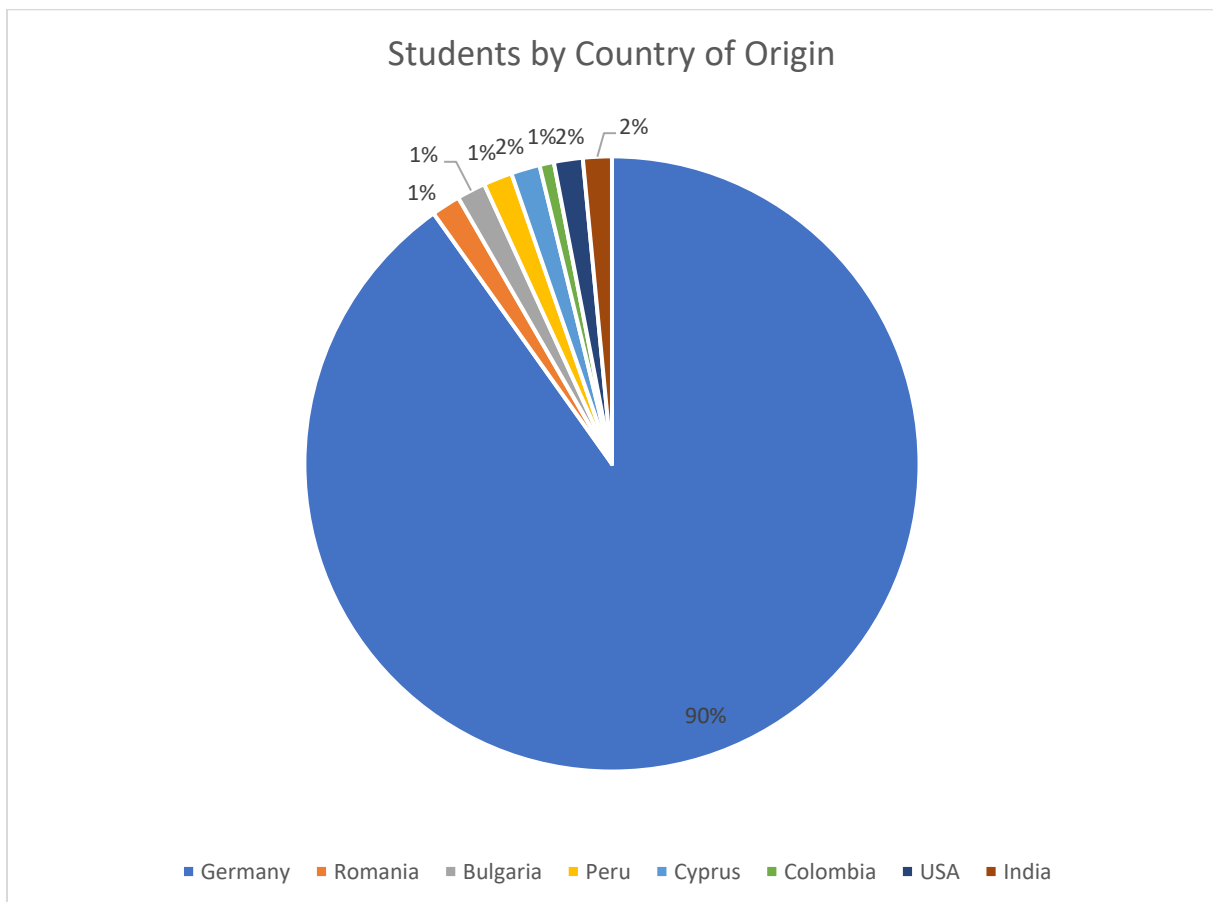


Doctoral candidates by country of origin.

10. Certificate Program in Environmental Studies (ESCP)

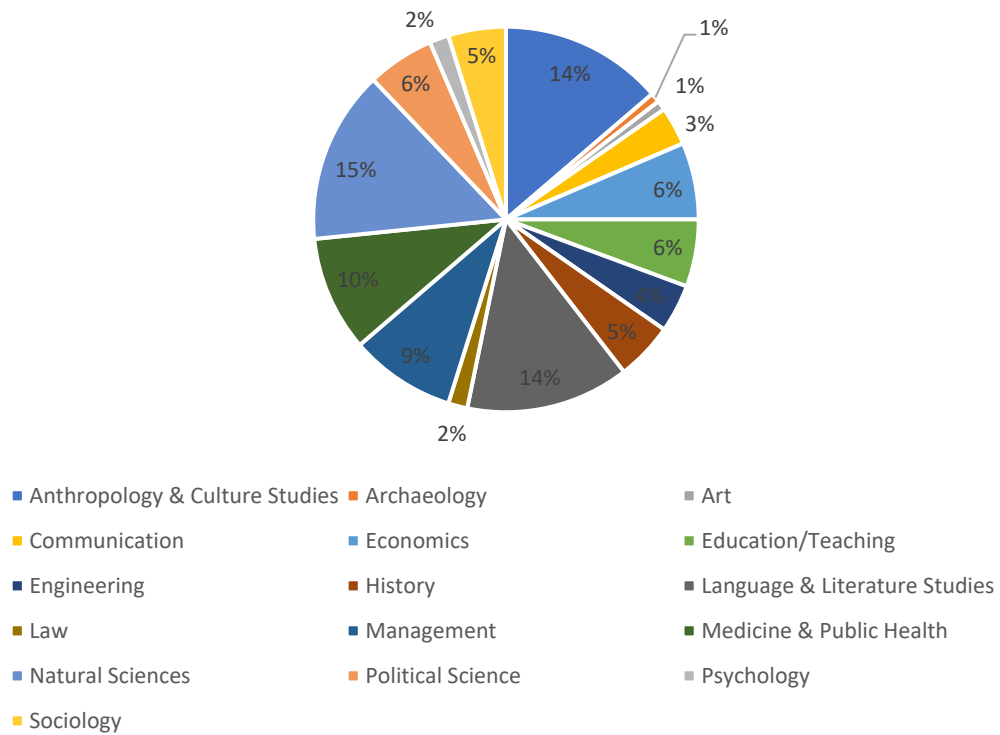
The Environmental Studies Certificate Program provides students who have an undergraduate degree and pursue either a master's or a second bachelor's degree with the opportunity to gain an additional interdisciplinary qualification in environmental studies. The program is both international and interdisciplinary, with workshops and lectures held by environmental researchers from all over the globe.

Students & Enrollment



ESCP students by country of origin.

Students by Disciplinary Background



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
SoSe 2023	55
WS 23/24	77

ESCP enrollment statistics.


Coursework & Program Structure

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), and representatives of the Ministry for the Environment. The RCC fellows' talks at the Lunchtime Colloquia are always well-received among the students and widely discussed in the Reading Course.

2023 was the first full year in which the restructured ESCP module design took effect:

effective as of October 2022

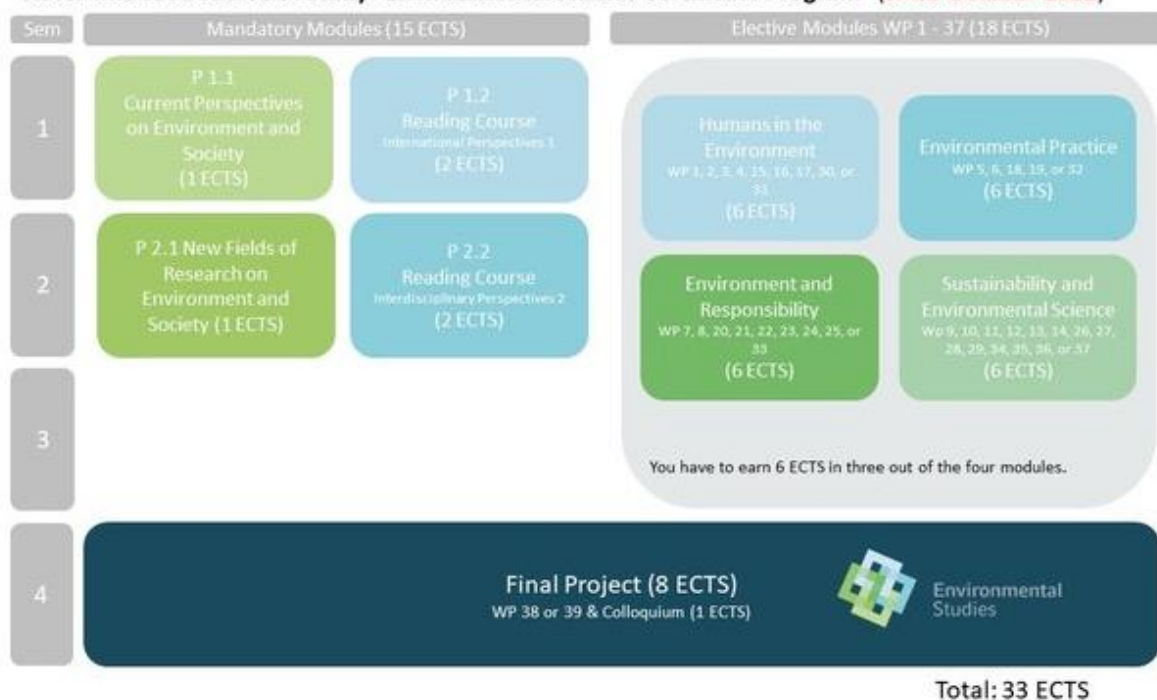
Content Areas	Module Titles												
International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Environment and Society 6 ECTS	P 1.1: Current Perspectives on Environment and Society (1) 1 ECTS		P 2.1: New Fields of Research on Environment and Society (1) 1 ECTS								Mandatory 6 ECTS		
	P 1.2: Reading Course: International Perspectives (2) 2 ECTS		P 2.2: Reading Course: Interdisciplinary Perspectives (2) 2 ECTS										
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 10: Foundation Course: Historiography		Elective Choose 3 out of 4 Get a total of 6 ECTS in each Content Area you elected 18 ECTS		
	WP 2: Environment and Comparative Literature		WP 4: 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								
	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				
	WP 8: Foundation Course: Communication Science		WP 21: Environmental Ethics		WP 23: Environmental Law and Governance		WP 25: Sociology and Social Inequality						
Content Area 4: Sustainability and Environmental Sciences 6 ECTS	WP 9: Geographical Sustainability		WP 11: Foundation Course: Organismic 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	
	WP 10: Marine Biology		WP 12: Foundations Course: Ecology, Behavioral and Evolutionary Biology		WP 14: Global Change and the Earth System		WP 17: 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 38: Thesis												Mandatory Choose 1 out of 2 9 ECTS
	WP 39: Creative Project												
 Environmental Studies													

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 “Environmental Studies Certificate Program” (since October 2022)



Recommended course of study.

Events & Activities

2023 also saw a variety of fun, engaging activities undertaken by the certificate students. Some of which were:

28.03.2023

Science Slam at the Munich Volkshochschule

21.07.2023

Celebrating 14 Years of Research at the RCC and the Käte Hamburger Kolleg

13.10.2023

Welcome and Introduction to the Semester

03.11.2023–05.11.2023

Winter Workshop: An Introduction to Environmental Humanities 2023

As is done every year, the newest cohort of ESCP students attended the 2023 annual workshop at [Studienhaus Stiftung Gut Schönwag](#). In a three-day workshop, the students were introduced to the rapidly growing field of the environmental humanities and given the chance to explore their own potential research interests.



Students from the current 2023 cohort with Environmental Studies Certificate Director Dr. Susanne Unger (middle). © RCC: All rights reserved.

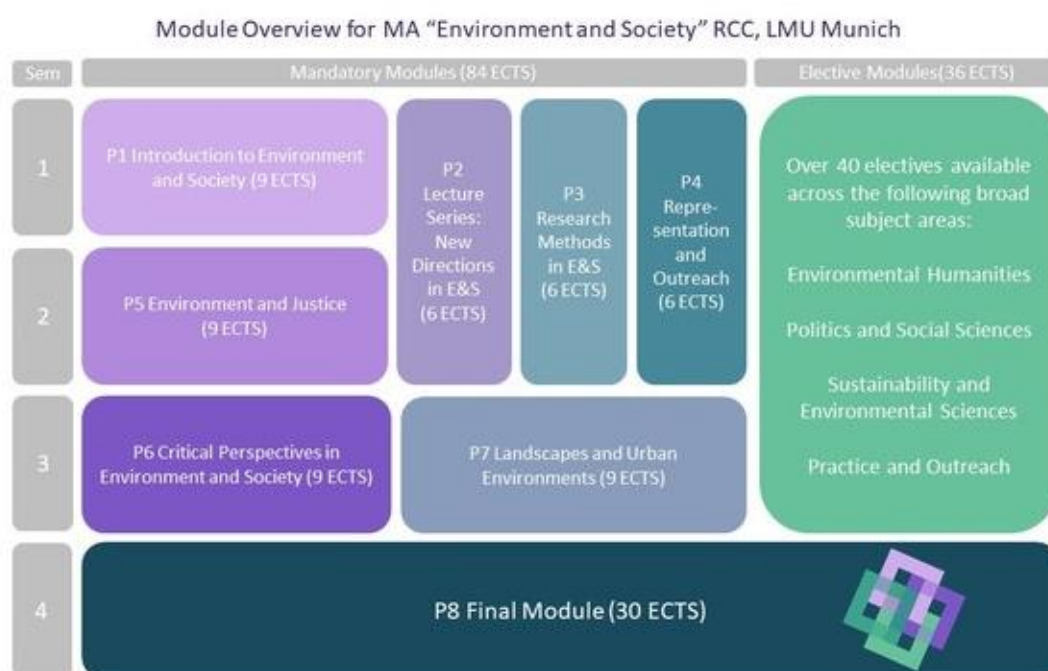
11. Master of Arts Environment and Society

The [Master in Environment and Society](#) is a two-year program, which started in October 2022. It brings together representatives of 20 different disciplines from across 8 LMU faculties to offer 47 individual elective modules in addition to the core content to be taught by staff at the Chair of Environmental Humanities. There is no equivalent to this Volkswagen Foundation-sponsored MA program in Germany, which stands at the forefront of interdisciplinary education.

2023 was yet another exciting year for the recently established MA program. On 1 July, the new Chair of Environmental Humanities, Prof. Dr. Sonja Dümpelmann (previously University of Pennsylvania), formally started her position, and with her came new scholars hired for the positions on her team, increasing the number of teaching staff in the MA program. As of October 2023, the program has been officially under the direction of Prof. Dr.-Ing. Sonja Dümpelmann, and it is coordinated by Prof. Dr. Uwe Lübken.

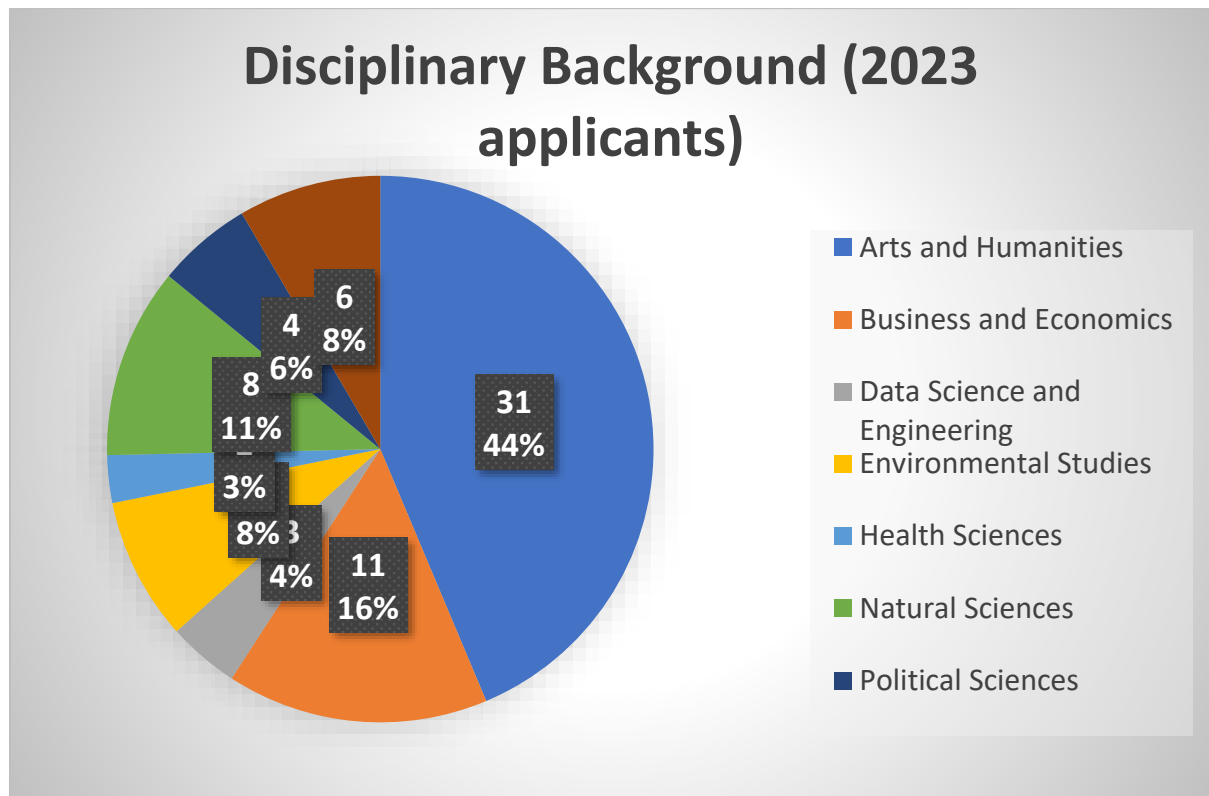
By the time the new intake of students for October arrived at the RCC, Prof. Dümpelmann had filled two postdoctoral positions, one lecturer/coordinator position, and an office-manager position. Dr. Antonova and Dr. Straß-Senol were both involved in the recruitment process for the postdoctoral fellows, as well as in training the incoming program coordinator, Prof. Dr. Uwe Lübken, and preparing the formal handover of the program.

In 2023, the students enjoyed a broad variety of courses on offer—they could pick from 19 elective modules in the summer semester and from 22 in the winter semester. The permanent staff responsible for the program finally joined LMU.



MA Environment and Society program overview. The program's course catalogues for the summer and winter semesters 2023 can be found [here](#) on the program's website.

The second cohort of students was selected from 63 international applicants (a 61-percent increase in terms of completed applications from the first application cycle), out of which 34 were accepted and 17 eventually started the program.



MA Environment and Society students by disciplinary background.

We were very pleased to learn that the interdisciplinary teaching module Introduction to Environment and Society, (mandatory module of the program) won the [2023 LMU Teaching Innovation Prize](#). The award includes a prize money of 10,000 euros and was presented to RCC Director Christof Mauch, Director of Environmental Humanities Development Hanna Straß-Senol, and ProEnviron Doctoral Candidate Andreas Jünger at a ceremony on 14 July 2023, during LMU's "Tag für gute Lehre."

In the fall of 2023, the MA program cleared another important hurdle: It was officially accredited by the Stiftung Akkreditierungsrat, just before the second cohort of students was admitted. After a couple of months of preparation and an inspection in April, the program received the good news of accreditation without additional program amendments in late September. The accreditation process, led by Dr. Straß-Senol, was the fastest accreditation of any program on record at LMU, and the program will remain accredited from 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2031.

Another "first" was the Blended Intensive Program (BIP) that the MA program coordinators and teaching staff, Dr. Anna Antonova and Dr. Hanna Straß-Senol, developed under the Erasmus+ framework. Together with the RCC's Erasmus+ partners at Tallinn University, Stavanger University, and colleagues at the University of Freiburg, they conducted a BIP project seminar on Craft Environmental Humanities. Students from all four partner universities met for a week of hands-on craft studies in Estonia. The program consisted of a couple of theoretically inclined online sessions, eighteenth-

century beer-brewing techniques, a variety of craft studies related excursions and museum visits as well as student presentations.

In 2023, the EHD team saw their research associate Stefania Sandu leave in August to pursue her own master's studies and employed Theresa Hilz as research associate from the same month onward. After the departure of Dr. Gesa Lüdecke from the Graduate Programs Team, the EHD project leaders coordinated the RCC's ESCP until the newly appointed coordinator, Dr. Susanne Unger, could start the position in October 2023.

RCC staff will work on promoting the program to maintain and further increase application numbers as well as diversify the applicant pool country of origin, gender, and disciplinary background.

12. Fellows and Visiting Scholars

In 2023, the RCC hosted an extraordinarily international cohort of fellows and visiting scholars, ranging from Portugal and Italy to the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as India, France, Mexico, Germany, Hungary, Nigeria, France, Poland, China, and Brazil. With backgrounds in history, literary studies, sociology, geology, philosophy, psychology, and marine science, 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

Roberta Biasillo

01.01.2023–31.03.2023

From Soil to Oil: Colonial Ecologies of Libya

Roberta Biasillo is assistant professor in contemporary political history at Utrecht University. She earned a PhD in modern European history from the University of Bari. She was a postdoctoral researcher at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich, and the European University Institute in Florence. Her research interests lie at the confluence of environmental history and political history. She has focused on the roles of marginal environments embedded in Italian nineteenth-century liberalism and African colonial environments in shaping Italian fascism. Her coauthored volume *Mussolini's Nature: An Environmental History of Fascism* is forthcoming with MIT Press. She is working on a research project on the global environmental history of colonial Libya.

Alexandra Campbell

01.01.2023–31.03.2023

Insurgent Ecologies

Alexandra Campbell is a lecturer in English literature at the University of Glasgow specializing in poetry and environment. Her current research interests revolve around issues of waste, energy, water, and marine justice in contemporary world literature. She is particularly interested in examining how poetic texts manifest asymmetries of power and conditions of unevenness that are shaped by contemporary water crises, oceanic and otherwise. She is increasingly fascinated by the emergent fields of infrastructure studies and critical future studies and the ways in which the poetics of infrastructure shape, condition, promise, or prohibit certain ideas of the future. Working with Dr. Fred Carter, their RCC project “Insurgent Ecologies” examines the relations between insurgency and ecology within the climate activist movement.

Fred Carter

01.01.2023–31.03.2023

Insurgent Ecologies

Fred Carter is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Glasgow funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). Since completing a doctoral thesis at the University of Edinburgh in 2022, he has held positions as research associate with Regenerative Energy Communities at Linnaeus University and Saltire Emerging Researcher Scheme at the University of Amsterdam, where he is codirector of the residency program FieldARTS. His current research is situated at the intersection of Marxist literary criticism and energy humanities, tracing the poetics of exhaustion and politics of refusal that emerge in the wake of intersecting crises of petroleum, productivity, and social reproduction in 1973. He is coeditor of a special issue of *Green Letters* on “Militant Ecologies” and is collaborating with Alexandra Campbell on a series of articles on sabotage, infrastructural dispossession, and the political ecology of policing. His first poetry chapbook, *Outages*, is forthcoming with Veer2.

Craig Colten

01.01.2023–31.03.2023

Coastal Landscape Change: Abandonment, Dereliction, Preservation, and Regeneration

Craig Colten is a historical geographer who is investigating the relationships among coastal societies, rising sea levels, and cultural landscapes, focusing on the challenges that communities face in relocating or reproducing valued fixtures that will be impacted by the processes driven by climate change. He seeks to answer some basic questions about how society has made decisions about what landscapes they value and what deserves their efforts to protect, preserve, or replicate. Craig earned his PhD in geography from Syracuse University in 1984 and recently retired from the Department of Geography and Anthropology at Louisiana State University as the Carl O. Sauer Professor. His career followed an unusual path from the Illinois State Museum to PHR Environmental Consultants before he returned to the academy in 1996. His interests have included the long-term management of hazardous wastes, urban environments, and community resilience.

Peter Cox

01.01.2023–31.03.2023

Care, Commons, and Uncontrollability: Cycling as Transformative Interaction

Peter Cox is professor of sociology at the University of Chester, UK, where he teaches sociology and politics. His research focuses on cycling mobilities, crossing disciplines from sociology to postdevelopment studies and connecting both cultural and political perspectives. He is particularly interested in the experiential dimensions of cycling and walking, and how these affect and inform decision-making from personal to policy levels. Peter’s PhD in philosophy from the University of Liverpool (2001) investigated Gandhian models of social change and their interaction with radical ecological perspectives. He was previously a visiting scholar at the RCC as a Leverhulme International Academic Fellow (2014/15), and conducted interdisciplinary research into bicycling and the environment using video and sensory ethnography. His current project explores how experiences of cycling and other active mobilities can build values and sensitivities required for rethinking citizenship in the Anthropocene.

Loretta Ieng Tak Lou

01.01.2023–31.03.2023

The Power of Example: Green Living and Social Transformations in Hong Kong

Loretta Ieng Tak Lou is an assistant professor in anthropology at Durham University in the UK. She specializes in the study of environment, health, activism, and self-development in East Asia. Her first project was an ethnographic study of “Green Living” in Hong Kong and its implications for self-development, relationality, everyday ethics, and social movements. Building on her interest in environmental activism in East Asia, her second research project, funded by the European Research Council, “Toxic Expertise: Environmental Justice and the Global Petrochemical Industry,” focuses on the ways Chinese people negotiate and make sense of toxic pollution, their perceptions of (environmental) injustice, and how they cope with contrived ignorance. In her research projects, she questions the interplay between freedom and (inter-)dependency, resistance, and resilience, noticing and unnoticing, and the production of knowledge and ignorance in the most mundane forms in everyday life.

Étienne Dufour

01.04.2023–30.09.2023

History of the Biogeochemical Policies of the Parisian Area from the 1940s to the 1990s

Étienne Dufour, doctoral candidate in geography and land planning at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne (laboratoire Géographie-cités) under the supervision of Sabine Barles, works in the fields of historical geography, territorial ecology, and environmental and urban history. His research project focuses on urban metabolism and on the disruption of biogeochemical cycles, mainly nitrogen and phosphorus cycles. In the Parisian context, he focuses on how old techniques of agricultural recycling of urban organic waste disappeared or were marginalized during the second half of the twentieth century. He benefitted from a research agreement with the city of Paris to start his doctorate. Étienne is an associate member of the OCAP research project and PIREN-Seine, which seek to understand and fight against the disruption of biogeochemical cycles by studying and transforming urban-rural relations and promoting the use of human excreta and organic waste in agriculture.

Paolo Gruppuso

01.04.2023–30.09.2023

The Invention of Wetlands: Environmental Anthropology of a Mediterranean Coast, Agro Pontino, Italy

Paolo Gruppuso is an anthropologist interested in nature conservation, water landscapes, and in the environmental and social history of wetlands and land reclamation. He obtained his PhD 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 the Pontine Marshes, Italy. This work, situated at the intersection of environmental history and social anthropology, critically examines how conservation efforts can create new forms of disempowerment. He has held positions as a visiting postdoctoral fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science and as a research fellow at the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Italy. He was a research fellow at the University of Catania, Italy, where he looked into socioecological relations along the Simeto River, Eastern Sicily.

Bowen Gu

01.04.2023–30.09.2023

Black Gold and Yellow River—Environmental Justice on the Coal Frontiers in China

Bowen Gu is a PhD researcher at the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Autonomous University of Barcelona (ICTA-UAB) and a member of the Global Atlas of Environmental Justice (EJAtlas.org) team. Her research focuses on coal and environmental justice in China and the Belt and Road Initiative, with a focus on Indonesia. As part of her PhD, Bowen conducted fieldwork at coal frontiers along the Yellow River in China in 2021, which inspired her project for the RCC Landhaus fellowship. Prior to starting her doctorate, Bowen worked in sustainable investment and corporate engagement on environmental, social, and global health topics. A recipient of the German Chancellor Fellowship, she conducted research on the European sustainable investment ecosystem. She received her undergraduate degree in mathematics and physics from Tsinghua University in China and her master's degree from the Erasmus Mundus Program in Environmental Sciences, Policy, and Management (MESPOM). Building on her research project, Bowen aims to contribute to the environmental and climate-justice debate with grounded perspectives from China and the Global South.

Julian Neef

01.04.2023–30.09.2023

Shaping Relationships with Nature: Local Resource Nexuses in the Context of Development Corridors in Virunga National Park

Julian Neef is a third-year PhD researcher at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) in Brighton, UK. His doctoral research project, "Shaping Relationships with Nature: Local Resource Nexuses in the Context of Development Corridors in Virunga National Park," focuses on infrastructure development and its impact on local resource nexuses in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Julian also worked as a research assistant for several projects at IDS. He holds an MSc in agricultural sciences in the tropics and subtropics from the University of Hohenheim.

Nicole Rehnberg

01.04.2023–30.09.2023

White Roots, Redwoods: Racializing Conservation in Germany and the US, 1920–1945

Nicole (Nicky) Rehnberg is a PhD candidate in history with an emphasis on environmental public history at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). Her research focuses on the transnational intersections of conservation and eugenics and the ways in which natural-history museums, botanical gardens, and regional parks have promulgated white supremacy. At the Rachel Carson Center, she will work on her dissertation "White Roots, Redwoods: Racializing Conservation in Germany and the US, 1920–1945," which examines how coast redwoods and giant sequoias became transnational objects of racial science and a tool of white supremacy in the early twentieth century. The project investigates how conservationists conflated forest and racial management through forestry displays in natural history museums and public parks in Germany and the US. As a member of the History and Relevancy Program through the University of California and California State Parks, she researches, writes, and creates programs on Californian environmental history for the public.

Aanuoluwapo Fifebo Sunday

01.04.2023–30.09.2023

Cautious Moderation: A Paradigm for Environmental Philosophy

Aanuoluwapo Fifebo Sunday is a lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, Nigeria. Her research focuses on a scrutiny of the inconsistencies and contradictions in environmental ethical contemplations. She is keenly interested in radical environmentalism ingrained in renewed definitions of the relationship between humans and nature. She contends that such radical environmentalist outlooks can be found in African worldviews, which seek for complementarity between human beings and nature to ameliorate the environmental crisis. Her areas of research include environmental ethics, bioethics, and gender studies.

Karen Hudlet Vázquez

01.04.2023–30.09.2023

Contested Underground Water Territories: Law, Knowledges, and Social Movements Against Agribusiness in Yucatan, Mexico

Karen Hudlet Vázquez is a PhD candidate in human geography at Clark University, US. Her research interests include feminist political ecology, extractives, agribusiness, justice, human rights, and legal geographies. At the Rachel Carson Center, she works on her dissertation project, “Contested Underground Water Territories: Law, Knowledges, and Social Movements Against Agribusiness in Yucatan, Mexico.” This project attempts to analyze underground water conflicts by understanding the different hydrosocial territories that are being coproduced by space, law, and science in these aquifers. The research centers on the different imaginaries of water crafted by stakeholders—companies, rural communities, scientists, authorities, and lawyers—in relation to justice, development, and risk. Her case study is on agribusiness and meat production. Previously, Karen worked on environmental justice with different Mexican and international human rights NGOs with a focus on the defense and promotion of economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights. Outside the academy, Karen enjoys scuba diving and swimming.

Jennifer Allen

15.05.2023–23.06.2023

Nourishing the Future: Gene Banking Against Catastrophe in the Global South

Jennifer Allen is an associate professor of modern European history at Yale University. Her research and teaching focus on the history of modern Germany with an emphasis on cultural history, the theories and practices of memory, counterculture and grassroots activism, and environmentalism. Her first book, *Sustainable Utopias: The Art and Politics of Hope in Germany* (Harvard University Press, 2022), charts Germany’s postwar efforts to revitalize the concept of utopia. She’s currently working on a new book project, “Insurance Against Total Destruction: A Postwar History of German Plans to Save the World,” that analyzes postwar German efforts to archive the raw materials needed to rebuild national and international cultures after total catastrophe. Allen’s other work has appeared in the *Journal of Modern History*, *Central European History*, *German History*, *Journal of Urban History*, and *H-Diplo*. Her research has been supported by, among others, the Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung, Volkswagen and Mellon Foundations, American Academy in Berlin, Institut für Zeitgeschichte, and DAAD. She received her PhD in 2015 from the University of California, Berkeley.

Anna Varga

01.07.2023–30.09.2023

Shepherding the Wild: Unmaking and Remaking Hungarian Wood Pastures

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

Anwesha Borthakur

01.07.2023–31.03.2024

India's Invisible Waste Streams

Anwesha 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 the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven), Belgium. She is currently affiliated with the same university. During her RCC Landhaus fellowship, she intends to build on her expertise in waste management and complete a book project on e-waste and textile waste in India—two relatively invisible, ignored, and understudied waste streams in the country. She will be addressing 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.

Jenny Wüstenberg

04.07.2023–04.08.2023

Remembering Extinct Species—Fast Memory for Slow Change?

Jenny Wüstenberg is professor of history and memory studies and the director of the Centre for Public History, Heritage and Memory at Nottingham Trent University. She is the cofounder and past copresident of the Memory Studies Association, as well as chair of the COST Action on “Slow Memory: Transformative Practices in Times of Uneven and Accelerating Change” (2021–2025). She is the author of *Civil Society and Memory in Postwar Germany* (Cambridge University Press, 2017) and the coeditor of *Agency in Transnational Memory Politics* (with Aline Sierp, Berghahn Books, 2020), *The Routledge Handbook of Memory Activism* (with Yifat Gutman, 2023), and *De-Commemoration: Making Sense of Contemporary Calls to Remove Statues and Rename Places* (with Sarah Gensburger, in English with Berghahn Books and in French with Editions Fayard in 2023). Her research interests concern the

contentious politics of memory, memory and democracy, slow-moving change such as biodiversity loss, and the memory of family separation policies.

Abosede Omowumi Babatunde

01.10.2023–31.03.2024

Transcending Gender Norms: Women and the Dynamics of Petro-Conflict in Nigeria's Niger Delta

Abosede Omowumi Babatunde is associate professor at the Center for Peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ilorin, Nigeria. She is a former member of the Governing Council of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA). Abosede has been awarded several distinguished academic fellowships, including an African Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship (2010), an American Council of Learned Societies fellowship (2010), and the Research Fellowship in Peace Studies (2013), a Carson fellowship (2017–2018), and a fellowship at Brown International Advanced Research Institute (2017). In 2019, she was a guest researcher at the Nordic Africa Institute, Sweden. Her work has been supported by research grants from the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), the African Peacebuilding Network of the Social Science Research Council (APN/SSRC), the APSA's Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs, and the International Peace Research Association Foundation (IPRAF).

André Felipe Cândido da Silva

01.10.2023–31.03.2024

The Amazon as an Anthropocene Hotspot: Harald Sioli and the German-Brazilian Scientific Cooperation on Amazonian Ecology (1952–2002)

André Felipe Cândido da Silva is a researcher in the history of science, medicine, and environment at Casa de Oswaldo Cruz in Rio de Janeiro, a center devoted to research, teaching, documentation, and communication in the history of health and science. He is also a professor for the graduate program in history of science and health at the same institution. André's research, published in articles and book chapters, comprises the history of the life sciences in twentieth-century Brazil, with a particular focus on the knowledge circulation involving Brazil, Germany, and the United States. He also focuses on the history of ecological knowledge derived from medical and agricultural investigations and the relations between health, ecology, and development projects in Brazil after World War II. Silva is currently coordinating a research project on the history of international scientific cooperation on the Amazonia ecology in the Great Acceleration, in which he focuses on a German-Brazilian network devoted to tropical ecology.

Nicholas Earhart

01.10.2023–31.03.2024

The Poetics of the Los Angeles River

Nick Earhart is a writer and researcher focusing on art, ecology, and urban space. He is a PhD candidate in English and visual studies at the University of Southern California, and his dissertation looks at the relationship between art and activism along the Los Angeles River since the 1970s. Nick's scholarly and creative work can be found in numerous publications, including *ISLE*, *GeoHumanities*, and *Puerto del Sol*. He lives in Pasadena, California.

Carolina Granado-Torres

01.10.2023–31.03.2024

The Politics of Expertise: The Advisory Group on Greenhouse Gases (1986–90)

Carolina Granado-Torres is a PhD student at the Institute of History of Science in Barcelona (iHC, UAB), where she started working on her thesis in 2021 under the supervision of Agustí Nieto-Galan. Before starting her PhD, Carolina obtained a master's degree in history and philosophy of science from the University of Paris and a bachelor's degree in physics and mathematics from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB). In her current research, Carolina studies how climate change was established as a scientific, political, and diplomatic issue throughout the 1980s. One fundamental question of her thesis is how experts, through international assessment, shaped scientific knowledge of climate change to make it more accessible to politicians, framing the type of questions and solutions that were later discussed in international political negotiations.

Melusine Martin

01.10.2023–31.03.2024

Digital Waters: Understanding the Impact of Virtual Blue Spaces on Environmental Identity and Wellbeing

Melusine Martin's research focuses on environmental sociology, ecopsychology, and the digital humanities. The main motivation behind her research is to understand humankind's place in nature, focusing especially on the interactions between self-identity, the nonhuman environment, and digital technology. She graduated with a PhD in environmental sociology from Sorbonne University, France, and James Cook University, Australia, and has worked as a research assistant on globally significant projects including the International Coral Reef Initiative and the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program (the largest single program of its kind worldwide). Melusine is currently an adjunct researcher at The Cairns Institute of Research in Tropical Societies and a member of the Blue Humanities Lab. As a postdoctoral researcher, she wants to investigate the impact of digital technology on human–nature relationships, and deconstruct the interactions between virtual nature exposure, the human psychophysiological experience, and environmental identity. Her aim is to develop human-nature theories that would promote proenvironmental behaviors and environmental identity in the context of virtual natural environments. Her first book, based on her PhD research, will be published with Larousse in March 2024.

Silke Oldenburg

01.10.2023–31.03.2024

Wetland Politics: Social Belonging, Racial Politics and Urban Environmental Futures Along the Colombian Caribbean

Silke Oldenburg is a social anthropologist interested in the intersections of the urban and the political, focusing particularly on the spatialization and materialization of power, urban environment, and sociality within cities of the Global South. Silke's current research revolves around issues of urban environmental futures in the coastal city of Cartagena, Colombia. She is particularly interested in the emergent fields of wetland politics, infrastructures, belonging, and displacement. She has been the PI of the research project "Space, Agency, and Climate Change in a Contested Urban Landscape: Exploring Environmental Futures in Cartagena, Colombia" (funded by The Leading House of the Latin American

Region, 2020–2022), and of the communication project “Urban Waterworlds: Dialogues on Urban Flooding, Climate Justice, and the Future of Water in the City” (funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation 2022–2023). Following her PhD in anthropology from the University of Bayreuth, Germany, Silke has held research and teaching appointments at the Universities of Basel, Cartagena, Boulder, and Columbia University.

Monika Szuba

01.10.2023–31.03.2024

Elemental Entanglements: A Study of Changing Environmental Landscapes in Scotland

Monika Szuba is a professor of literature at the Institute of English and American studies at the University of Gdańsk. Her PhD (2009) investigated strategies of contestation in contemporary Scottish women’s writing. She was previously a Bednarowski Trust Fellow at the University of Aberdeen and was awarded the Saltire Scholarship at the University of Edinburgh. In 2021–22 she conducted interdisciplinary research as part of a National Science Centre grant (2020/04/X/HS2/00929). Her research is concerned with twentieth-century and contemporary literature informed by environmental humanities, with particular interest in phenomenology. Her previous book, titled *Contemporary Scottish Poetry and the Natural World*, takes a theoretically informed approach to the reading of the nonhuman world in the work of four poets, merging phenomenology and literary criticism. Her current book project, *Landscape Poetics: Scottish Textual Practice, 1928–Present*, is an interdisciplinary study that seeks to situate Scottish authors in relation to their landscapes by investigating how the self is entwined in place.

Anja Wegner

01.10.2023–31.03.2024

Interspecies Pedagogy: Learning How to Coexist with the Ocean

Anja Wegner is a doctoral researcher and a marine-science educator at the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior, working on a project on the interface between art and science. With a background in biology and life sciences, she is interested in the social behavior of marine fish. In her dissertation, “The Interplay Between Physical Space and the Social Behavior of Coral Reef Fish,” she works with artists to investigate the idea of Fish Architecture from the perspective of biology, art, and environmental philosophy. Through those collaborations with artists and designers, she combines insights from quantitative biology with concepts related to interspecies coexistence and oceanic field practices.

Additional Fellows affiliated with the RCC through the Heidelberg University’s [Worldmaking from a Global Perspective: A Dialogue with China](#) in 2023 were:

Shen Hou: 15.06.2023–15.08.2023

Han Ziqiang: 01.07.2023–31.07.2023

Maxime Decaudin: 04.07.2023–15.07.2023

Zhen Wang: 04.07.2023–04.08.2023

Visiting Scholars

Tim Pöhlmann

01.01.2023–31.03.2023

“Cultivating ‘Lost’ Land: Livelihood and Depopulation in an Azorean Place”

Valerio Caruso

08.01.2023–28.02.2023

“Historical Reconfigurations of Large Basic Industries Facing Environmental Impact Management: The Neapolitan Case Study (1961–2006)”

Philippe Forêt

09.01.2023–09.07.2023

“How Geographers Stabilized Climate in Asia: An Internal Exploration of Theories and Processes in Climate Research”

Tomás Criado

16.01.2023–14.07.2023

“An Inquiry Into Boomer Landscapes”

Donatas Brandisauskas

30.01.2023–15.02.2023

“Multispecies Conviviality in Siberian Taiga: Indigenous Evenki, Reindeer and Predators”

Kateryna Karpenko

01.02.2023–28.02.2023

“The Place and Role of Rachel Carson’s Ideas in Modern Ecofeminism”

Anna Varga

02.02.2023–24.02.2023

“Childhood – Pastureland – Floodplain”

Erdenetuya Urtnast

15.02.2023–30.09.2024

“Some Issues on Environmental Ethics Among the Mongols”

Adam Kelly

01.03.2023–30.04.2023

“Resource Caps: A Pathway to Sustainable Resource Consumption?”

George Handley

31.03.2023–01.06.2023

“From Chaos to Cosmos: On the Postsecularity of the Environmental Humanities”

Nicholas Pritchard

01.04.2023–01.07.2023

“Time and the Deep Sea: Diffracted Temporalities and Ecological Artefacts”

Leonardo Kurihara

01.05.2023–30.09.2023

“The Multispecies Social Life of Pirarucu (*Arapaima gigas*) in the Amazon: Between Gift and Commodities on Times of Extinction”

Tomas Cole

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“Making Peace with Pests: From Conflict to Conviviality with Mosquitoes across Southeast Asia”

Thomas Lekan

15.05.2023–31.08.2023

“Green Germany: The Local Roots of Global Sustainability”

Sofia Simou

26.05.2023–30.06.2023

“A Legal Comparative Analysis on Climate Litigation”

Carolina Yacamán Ochoa

29.05.2023–29.06.2023

“Identifying Local Strategies and Policies in Munich for Keeping the Food System Within Environmental Limits”

Daniel Mains

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“Economic Growth, Urban Environment, and the Politics of Water Infrastructure in Norman, Oklahoma”

Iris Borowy

05.07.2023–26.07.2023

“Waste as Seen in Intergovernmental Organizations: Watching a Crisis Unfold”

Rohan D’Souza

11.07.2023–31.08.2023

Elisabetta Bini

17.07.2023–17.08.2023

“An Environmental History of Nuclear Energy During the 1970s and 1980s”

Miguel Mundstock Xavier de Carvalho

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“The Environmental History of the Chicken in Paraná, Brazil (1960–1980)”

Nadia Degregori

04.09.2023–30.09.2023

“Governing the Future: The Temporalities of Barrick’s ‘Pierina’ Mine Closure Process”

Daniel Lara de la Fuente

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“Ecocentrism Within Anthropocentrism: The Ecomodernist Conception of Nature”

Giulia Simeoni

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“Averting the Apocalypse: The Responsibility of Writers Facing the Climate Crisis (2000–2021)”

Ina Linge

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“The Politics of Sexual Nature: Sexology, Animals and the Arts (1862–1935)”

Goutam Karmakar

01.10.2023–31.12.2024

“Extraction and Environmental Injustice: Arguing for the Decolonial Turn”

Chiara Lanza

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“The Soilscales Beneath: Anglophone and Francophone Anthropocenic Narratives”

Krittika Uniyal

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“Contested Aerial Routes: Techno-Politics of Commercial Aviation Infrastructure in the Central Himalayan Region”

Adam Stone

01.10.2023–31.03.2024

“Women Citizen Activists and the End of the Cold War: Soviet and Western Transnational Connections, 1980–1989”

Mieke Roscher

01.10.2023–30.09.2024

“Zucht und Züchtung: Eine politische Tiergeschichte des ‘Dritten Reiches’”

Michael Boyden

04.10.2023–31.10.2023

Rolf Lidskog

04.10.2023–03.11.2023

“Environmental Expertise: Conditions and Challenges”

Franklin Ginn

05.10.2023–02.11.2023

“Vegetal Worlds: Ecologies Beyond the Plantationocene”

Ludovica Di Gregorio

05.10.2023–05.04.2024

“The Role of Monocratic Executives in the Development of Environmental Administrative Bodies: The Cases of the Italian President of the Council and the German Chancellor from 1972 to 1988”

Barbora Stehlikova

02.11.2023–30.11.2023

“E-waste between Morality and Ethics: Waste Practices in the Czech Republic”

Elijah Doro

01.12.2023–30.11.2025

13. Staff

Directors

Christof Mauch, LMU Munich
Sonja Dümpelmann, 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 mail and library loans.

Lena Engel (Managing Director)
Laura Mann (Office Manager & Librarian)
Adrienne Brown (IT/Research Assistant)
Sophia Hörl (Research Assistant/Events Coordinator)
Eva Krannich (Librarian)
Tanja Löbbecke (Research Assistant)
Harriet Turville (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 is working on a new master's program in Environment and Society.

Gesa Lüdecke (Director of Graduate Programs)
Susanne Unger (Coordinator of the Certificate Program and Lecturer)
Anna Antonova (Director of Environmental Humanities Development)
Hanna Strass-Senol (Director of Environmental Humanities Development)
Theresa Hilz (Program Associate)
Tatjana Klein (Program Associate)
Stefania Sandu (Program Associate)

Publications

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

Amy Mohr (Editor)
Pauline Kargruber (Editor)
Jonatan Palmblad (Editor)
Teja Šosterič (Editor)
Brady Fauth (Editor)
Christopher Steil (Editor)
Annika Stanitzok (Editor)

Interns

The success of our teams, our programs, and the fellows and visiting scholars who call the RCC home would not be possible without the help and support of the RCC's interns. From planning events to greeting visitors, interns at the RCC are considered valuable team members during their time with us.

Chiara Beneduce
Estelle Krewiss
Jacqueline Krenz