Disasters Wet and Dry Conference

Preliminary Program

Thursday, 23 May

Welcome Address and Introduction

16:00 – 17:45  Welcome Speeches by the president of Remin University of China (RUC) and the Dean of the School of History
Appointment of Christof Mauch (Rachel Carson Center) as visiting professor at Remin University of China
Keynote Address by Donald Worster (University of Kansas/RUC)
Photographs

18:00 – 20:00  Welcome Banquet

Friday, 24 May

Session 1: The Yellow River in History

Chair: Christof Mauch; Translator: Yunwei Song

Ling Zhang (Boston College), with commentary by Tim Soens
Whose Water, Whose Sand, and Whose Land? The Yellow River and the Local Environmental History of Lankao County (12th - 20th centuries)

Ruth Mostern (University of California, Merced), with commentary by Mingfang Xia
The Yellow River in Big Historical Perspective: A New Assessment of Disaster Data

Yingze Hu (Shanxi University), with commentary by Jianmin Zhang
Flooding, Watercourse Shift and the Technical Strategy of the Farmland System of the Yellow River from the Qing Dynasty to the Republic of China

Kathryn Edgerton-Tapley (San Diego State University), with commentary by Andrea Janku
Water in Wartime: Local-level Experiences of the Yellow River Flood of 1938-1947
10:00 – 10:30  Break

10:30 – 12:15  Session 2: Droughts Around the Globe
Chair: Donald Worster; Translator: Shen Hou

Seth Garfield (University of Texas at Austin), with commentary by Andy Horowitz
Revisiting Drought in Northeastern Brazil: A Case Study from World War II

Ruth Morgan (Monash University), with commentary by Nicholas Breyfogle
On the Home Front: Australians and the 1914 Drought

Kundai Manamere (University of Zimbabwe), with commentary by Severin Hohensinner
Droughts, Floods, and Livelihoods in Zimbabwe’s South East Lowveld

Jingping Zhang (Tsinghua University), with commentary by Junya Ma
The Evolution of Ideas of Drought during the Modernization of Irrigation in the Hexi Corridor

12:15 – 13:30  Lunch

13:30 – 15:15  Session 3: Coping with Aridity
Chair and Translator: Xinyu Cao

Bo Xu (Xiamen University), with commentary by Jingping Zhang
The Flood Response and Irrigation in the Arid Region of China during the Qing Dynasty: The Formation of the “Dam-Lake” Area of the Lower Valley of the Shiyang River

Andrea Janku (University of London), with commentary by Ellen Arnold
Drought in Northwest China: A Long-Term Perspective

Bradley Skopyk (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), with commentary by Dale Stahl
Rivers of Empire or Rivers of God? The Problem of Synchronic Cataclysms in Colonial Central Mexico

Xiang Han and Mingfang Xia (Renmin University of China), with commentary by Wei Pan
The Death of River: The Flood and Drought of the Hutuo River and Its Ecological Transformation since the Ming Dynasty
15:15 – 15:45  Break

15:45 – 17:30  Session 4: Dealing with Droughts in the Prairie
Chair and translator: Hao Chen

Wei Pan (Shaanxi Normal University), with commentary by Qing Zhou
The Idea of Quotas and the Shift of the Rain Belt: The Flood Crisis of Eastern China, 1766-1823

Steven Serels (Harvard University), with commentary by Eric Strahorn
The Negative Consequences of Famine Prevention Policies on Pastoralist Drought Coping Strategies in Eastern Sudan

Svetlana Kovalskaya (Eurasian National University), with commentary by Emily O’Gorman
Jute in Kazakh Steppe

Jiayan Zhang (Kennesaw State University), with commentary by Kathryn Edgerton-Tapley
Water, Dike, and Temple: Water Deity Worship and Dike Management in the Jianghan Plain, 1788-2010

18:30  Dinner

Saturday, 25 May

8:00 – 9:45  Session 5: Flood Disasters—Legacies and Impacts
Chair and translator: Ling Zhang

Jiangle Wang (Fudan University), with commentary by Jiayan Zhang
The Relationship between the Conversion of the Wusong River into the Huangpu River and the Droughts in the Eastern Taihu Lake during the Middle and Late Ming Dynasty

Peter Coates (University of Bristol), with commentary by John Morgan
Il Mississippi Italiano: Italy’s Volatile Relationship with the Po

Dorothy Zeisler-Vralsted (Eastern Washington University), with commentary by Seth Garfield
Living on the Mississippi: African Americans and the Great Flood of 1927

Andy Horowitz (Yale University), with commentary by Kundai Manamere
Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans?: Katrina in Historical Perspective
9:45 – 10:15
Break

10:15 – 12:00
Session 6: Managing Rivers—Controlling Floods
Chair: Yunwei Song

Dale Stahl (Columbia University), with commentary by Ruth Morgan
Between the Two Rivers: Managing Disaster in British Mandate Baghdad

Eric Strahorn (Florida Gulf Coast University), with commentary by Ling Zhang
Flood Control in the Himalayas: A Preliminary History of Futility

Li Zhang (Shaanxi Normal University), with commentary by Yingze Hu
The Dispute over the Expansion of the Dahaizi Reservoir in Xijiang Province in the 1950s

Nicholas Breyfogle (Ohio State University), with commentary by Steven Serels
Drowning the Sacred Waters: The Hydroelectric Flooding of the Angara River and Lake Baikal in the 1950s

12:00 – 13:30
Lunch

13:30 – 15:15
Session 7: Risks and Floods since Medieval Times
Chair and translator: Kathryn Edgerto-Tapley

Ellen Arnold (Ohio Wesleyan University), with commentary by Svetlana Kovalskaya
Riverine Risk in the Environmental Imagination of Early Medieval Europe

Tim Soens (University of Antwerp), with commentary by Ruth Mostern
Flood Disasters and the Rise of Rural Capitalism in Pre-Modern Europe. Test-case: the River Estuaries of the North Sea Area (1300–1800 CE)

Severin Hohensinner (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna), with commentary by Peter Coates
The More Dikes the Higher the Floods: Vienna and its Danube Floods, 1700–1918

Qing Zhou (Southern China University of Agriculture), with commentary by Bo Xu
River Networks, Floods, and Local Knowledge System of the Pearl River Delta in the Middle and Late Qing Dynasty

15:15 – 15:45
Break
Session 8: Too Much or Too Little—Environmental Challenges and Crises around the Globe

Chair and translator: Jiayan Zhang

Emily O’Gorman (University of Wollongong), with commentary by Bradley Skopyk
Flood Country: Histories of Floods in the Murray-Darling Basin, Australia

Jianmin Zhang (Wuhan University, Wuhan), with commentary by Li Zhang
Too Much or Too Little: The Problems of Water of the Han River in the Ming and Qing Dynasties

Junya Ma (Nanjing University), with commentary by Jiange Wang
The Flood of the Huai River and the Food Crisis: The Social Fission and Interest Gaming in Huaibei Area

John Morgan (University of Warwick), with commentary by Dorothy Zeisler-Vralsted
The Great River Severn Flood of 1607: Responses and Legacies

Dinner & Concert

Sunday, May 26

Excursion

Concluding Dinner
Concluding Remarks by Christof Mauch and Mingfang Xia, followed by a free evening