

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

8:00 – 10:00

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 Jiangnan 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

Jiange 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

15:45 – 17:30

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

18:00

Dinner & Concert

Sunday, May 26

9:00 – 16:00

Excursion

18:30

Concluding Dinner

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