

Global Deserts: Environmental History in Arid Lands

September 13-15, 2015

Tucson, Arizona

Monday September 14, 2015

All events at Arizona Inn (Safari Room) unless otherwise noted

Continental Breakfast 8 – 9:30

Welcome and Introduction 9:30– 10:00

1. Empires 10:00-12:30

Moderator: Christof Mauch

Diana Davis (University of California, Davis)

Deserts and Declension: The Surprising Case of the Middle East

Initial comments by Andrew Isenberg

Maya Peterson (University of California, Santa Cruz)

Bringing Dead Lands to Life: Russian and Soviet Encounters with Central Asian Deserts

Initial comments by Adam Guerin

Gary Reger (Trinity College)

Greeks and Romans in the Sahara Desert

Initial comments by Meredith McKittrick

Emily Yeh and Huatse Gyal (University of Colorado, Boulder)

Desertification on the eastern Tibetan Plateau: Contested causes and divergent understandings of the pastoral landscape

Initial comments by Ruth Morgan

Lunch 12:30- 1:30 p.m.

2. Water 1:30- 3:30

Moderator: Andrew Isenberg

Maurits Ertsen (Delft University of Technology)

Arid Arenas of the Mind: Exploring Deserts, Irrigation and Marginality

Initial comments by Anita Carrasco

Sterling Evans (University of Oklahoma)

Dams in the Desert: An Environmental and Agricultural History of Water in Sonora, Mexico

Initial comments by Katherine Morrissey and Marcus Burtner

Fernando Williams (National University of La Plata)

Infrastructure and Water Management in the Patagonian Desert: Five Moments in a Landscape History

Initial comments by Louis Warren

4:00 -6:30 Field trip to Tumamoc Hill (Desert Lab)

Led by Jeremy Vetter (University of Arizona)

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

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Continental Breakfast 8 - 9:30

3. Agriculture 9:30-12:00

Moderator: Louis Warren

Anita Carrasco (Luther College)

The Pipelines of Chuquicamata Mine: Their Impacts on the Atacama Desert and its Indigenous Inhabitants

Initial comments by Emily Yeh and Huatse Gyal

Adam Guerin (Eckerd College)

Land, Labor and Hunger on the Desert Frontier, Morocco, 1931-1937

Initial comments by Diana Davis

Meredith McKittrick (Georgetown University)

The Quest to Abolish the Desert: A History of Schemes on Three Continents

Initial comments by Maya Peterson

Ruth Morgan (Monash University)

An Indian History of Australian Deserts, 1788 to 1901

Initial comments by Gary Reger

Lunch 12 - 1:30 pm

4. Science and Other Forms of Magical Thinking 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Moderator: Diana Davis

Andrew Isenberg (Temple University)

Remaking the North American Desert, 1855-57: The Introduction of Camels to the 'American Palestine'

Initial comments by Sterling Evans

Katherine Morrissey and Marcus Burtner (University of Arizona)

Desert Transits and the Global Imaginary: U.S. Arid Lands Scientists at Home and Abroad

Initial comments by Fernando Williams

Louis Warren (University of California, Davis)

Aridity and Apocalypse: Science, Religion, and Magical Thinking in American Expansion

Initial comments by Maurits Ertsen

5. Concluding discussion

6. Water Schemes in Arid Lands: A Global Historical Perspective 5:30-7 p.m.

(S107, Haury Hall, ENR2 Building, University of Arizona campus)

Moderator: Katherine Morrissey

Panelists: Sterling Evans, Louis Warren, Meredith McKittrick

Conveners

Diana Davis, Andrew Isenberg, Christof Mauch, Katherine Morrissey, Jeremy Vetter, Louis Warren

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